PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 449 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2005–2006

COMPRISING PERIOD
17 July 2006—3 October 2006

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 17 July 2006

TREASURY

Tax and Benefit Reference Manual 2006-07

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): Copies of the 2006-07 edition of the Tax Benefit Reference Manual (TBRM) are today being deposited in the House of Commons Library.

HM Treasury publishes the TBRM annually. It is a technical manual detailing the tax and benefit system, describing both the current and historic regimes. There are also tables of time series covering tax and benefit rates, numbers of tax payers and benefit claimants, VAT and duty rates and the tax burden on specimen households.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Preventing Extremism Together

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Ruth Kelly): I would like to provide an update on the recommendations of the Preventing Extremism Together working groups.

The machinery of Government changes in May 2006 saw responsibility for working with Muslim communities to prevent extremism pass to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

I am clear that my new Department's remit offers the opportunity to make real progress on tackling extremist ideologies. Our central policy on cohesion and faith will continue to be a key contributor to national debates and engagement, but we will be able to combine this with an extended reach into local authorities and communities to make a real difference at the local level. We will continue to work to tackle disadvantage experienced by Muslim communities, but will combine this with a greater focus on enabling them (and other communities) to challenge extremism directly.

Part of this work will be delivered by close engagement and partnership working with representatives of a broad range of Muslim individuals and organisations. I am keen to add new voices to a vigorous debate about how Government can support Muslim communities more effectively, while building on the successful consultations over the past year.

One of the key strands of that past consultation was "Preventing Extremism Together", the working groups for which disbanded in November 2005, although we continue to work with a number of people involved in them. I would like to inform hon. Members of a progress update on that project, which will be available later today on the Department's website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500185.

The update shows that we have made clear progress on the recommendations from Preventing Extremism Together that were for Government to take forward and that much of it has been made by supporting Muslim communities to deliver change for themselves. We will update the website on a regular basis as progress develops.

The update posted on the website therefore gives an indication of the work going on in response to all of the themes raised in the report—with projects focused on Muslim women and young people, and work aimed at tackling alienation and strengthening civic structures.

The recommendations made to us by the Preventing Extremism Together are an important part of our work with Muslim communities. But they are not the only part. By continuing to support interfaith activity, by funding grassroots projects through our £5 million faith communities capacity building fund, and by continuing our local outreach, we will be able to empower communities to tackle these challenges head on. I will keep the House informed of progress in this area.

Tenancy Deposit Protection Commencement Date

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Angela E. Smith): The commencement date for tenancy deposit protection will be 6 April 2007.

The summary of responses to the consultation on the tenancy deposit protection secondary legislation was published on 23 June 2006. The consultation sought views on the information requirements to be placed on landlords and the handling of deposits at the beginning and end of the tenancy.

Alongside the publication of the summary of responses, the Government announced that the commencement date of 1 October 2006 was under review.

Responses to the consultation raised concerns about joint authorisation for deposit repayment where either landlord or tenant cannot contact the other party to obtain agreement. This includes situations where there are rent arrears and a tenancy has been abandoned.

Further consideration has now been given to stakeholders' concerns expressed in the consultative process and the Government recognise that it would be beneficial to both landlords and tenants to enable single claims to be made on the deposit in certain circumstances. We therefore intend to bring to the House proposals to achieve this.

To ensure all provisions are in place and stakeholders have had the opportunity to prepare for the introduction of tenancy deposit protection, the commencement date has been moved from 1 October 2006 to 6 April 2007, which is a common commencement date.

DEFENCE

Modernising Armed Forces and Veterans Personnel Administration

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Tom Watson): As foreshadowed by my predecessor in his statement in March 2005, I am announcing today the outcome of the study to explore whether there is scope for further service improvement through the greater integration of services delivered by the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency and the Veterans Agency. The study has included consultation of trade unions and veterans' groups and has recommended that the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency and the Veterans Agency are integrated on 1 April 2007.

I have decided that the integration of these two agencies should take place as it will enable improvements to the service received by both veterans and serving members of our armed forces. It is my intention that each of these two groups should be able to access the whole range of services and benefits currently provided by the two agencies, simply by going to their own single dedicated contact point where their different needs will be understood and valued. Bringing together these agencies will enable the creation of an organisation with separate front office customer contact for veterans and serving personnel supported by a single back office and unified corporate services and strategy, with one person accountable for overall service delivery. This chief executive will be supported by directors with responsibility respectively for services to veterans and services to those currently serving. The new structure will enable more joined up and hence more accurate assessments of total entitlements that currently span two agencies. It will also facilitate the development of integrated business processes and IT, leading in due course to further improvements in services for serving and retired members of the armed forces and their beneficiaries, thus providing excellent and efficient service from 'cradle to grave'.

Integrating these two agencies does not of itself imply an intention to collocate or further outsource services. These are separate issues to be considered on their merits as and when opportunities arise or existing contracts expire. Integration is designed to improve the administrative support we provide to the armed forces and veterans; and robust key targets will be set to ensure no erosion in the quality of service provided. Bringing together the agencies is consistent with the pan-Government initiative for more coherent, "joined up" approaches to service delivery. To retain a sharp focus on the quality of veterans services and to reassure elderly customers through a sense of continuity, the veterans agency name for the veterans contact point will be retained with a director dedicated to veterans services. As Minister for Veterans, I am committed to ensuring that the quality of service to veterans and their dependants as well as the serving population is continued and improved even further under the new arrangements.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

LSC Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06

The Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Bill Rammell): I would inform the House that the Learning and Skills Council for England has today published its annual report and accounts for the period to 31 March 2006. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Home Energy Conservation Act Data

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): Data reported by Energy Conservation Authorities in England under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 in the period 1 April 1996 to 31 March 2005 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. These data have also been published on the Department for Food and Rural Affairs website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy/heca 95/index.htm. Authorities have reported an overall improvement in domestic energy efficiency of 16.7 per cent. as measured against a 1996 baseline.

HEALTH

Smoke-free Premises and Vehicles

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): Today, the Department of Health publishes a consultation on proposed regulations for smoke-free premises and vehicles to be made under part 1 of the Health Bill. The medical and scientific evidence of the risks to health from exposure to second-hand smoke is well established and is set out in the 1998 and 2004 reports of the independent Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health, as well as in the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer Report of 2004.

A key aspect of the Government's strategy as set out in the White Paper: "Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier", is to shift the balance significantly in the favour of smoke-free enclosed public places and workplaces through legislation in order to reduce levels of exposure to second-hand smoke. The smoke-free provisions in the regulations to be made under the Health Bill are a huge step forward for public health by reducing exposure in enclosed public places and workplaces to the hazards of second-hand smoke.

The consultation seeks comments on the content of the regulations and their implementation. The consultation period will run for 12 weeks, closing on 2 October 2006.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library.

Herceptin - Progress on HER2 Testing

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): On 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS I updated the House on Herceptin, following the announcement of its licence for early breast cancer and the publication of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) draft recommendations on its use. In that written statement, I promised to update the House on progress with introducing HER2 testing arrangements across the country. This statement provides that update.

In October 2005 Professor Mike Richards, the national cancer director, wrote to all cancer networks to identify the current level of HER2 testing and to inform them that they would need to put arrangements in place to ensure that patients who may benefit from Herceptin for early breast cancer could be identified.

This exercise confirmed that access to HER2 testing facilities was patchy and few networks were testing all women with early breast cancer to determine their HER2 status. This was unsurprising given that Herceptin was not then licensed for early breast cancer.

In March 2006 the national cancer director sought a progress report from cancer networks. This has shown that there has been a significant improvement in the number of cancer networks providing HER2 testing for all women diagnosed with early breast cancer.

Some 28 out of 34 cancer networks are now reporting that they HER2 test all women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. Of the remaining six:

Two (Leicester, Northampton and Rutland and Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire) report that they will be testing all these women by July/August 2006; and

four (Derby and Burton, Mount Vernon Peninsula and Thames Valley) report that they will be testing all these women by September /October 2006.

HOME DEPARTMENT

National Offender Management Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): Her Majesty's Prison Service and the National Probation Service have today published their annual reports, reporting their performance for 2005-06. The Office for Contracted Prisons has today published their "Statement of Performance". Copies of all the annual reports have been placed in the House Library. The Prison Service report and the Office for Contracted Prisons Statement of Performance include the financial accounts for 2005-06. The financial accounts for the National Probation Service will be published later in the year.

Performance against all the National Offender Management targets for 2005-06 is shown in the table below.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE NATIONAL OFFENDER MANAGEMENT TARGETS FOR 2005/06

	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTTURN
PUBLIC PROTECTION TARGETS		
Category A Escapes	0	0
Total Escapes from Prisons and Prison Escorts	Less than 0.05%	0.014%
Escapes from Contracted Escorts (NOMS)	1:20,000	1:59,082
Risk of harm assessments, full analyses and Offender Assessment Systems (OASys) sentence plans, including risk management plans, on high/very harm risk of harm offenders completed within 5 working days of commencement of order or release into the community	90%	81% (Aug 05-Mar 06)
Risk of harm screenings/full analyses (as appropriate) and OASys sentence plans completed on Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs) within 5 working days of the commencement of the order or release into the community	90%	82% (Aug 05 Mar 06)
SUPPORTING THE COURTS		
Pre-Sentence Reports to the Magistrates courts within the deadline specified by the court	90%	97% (July 05 Mar 06
Timely Arrival at Court (NOMS)	85%	82.31%
FIRM AND FAIR PUNISHMENT		
Proportion of orders and licences in which the offender complies	85%	81%
Breach proceedings initiated within 10 days	90%	91%
Self-inflicted Deaths	Less than 112.8 per 100,000	96.8
Serious Assault	Less than 1.53%	1.84%
Overcrowding (public prisons)	Less than 24%	23.7%
Overcrowding (contracted prisons)	Less than 34.5%	31.3%
HELPING TO CUT CRIME		
Education Awards (Probation Service) Basic Skills starts	40,000	44,972
(Probation Service) Basic Skills Awards achieved*	10,000	14,930
Education Awards (Prison) Basic skills awards achieved*	56,080	63,925
Education Awards (Prison) Work Skills awards achieved*	120,000	186,226
Accommodation on Release	64,765	77,388

PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE NATIONAL OFFENDER MANAGEMENT TARGETS FOR 2005/06

	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTTURN
Employment, Training and Education (ETE) place on release	38,000	42,879
Drug Treatment and Testing Orders/Drug Rehabilitation Requirements Completed (Probation)	4,000	3,977
Drug Treatment Programmes Completed (prisons)	5,850	8,011
Mandatory Drug Tests	Less than 11.8%	10.3%
Offending Behaviour Programmes completions (Probation Service)	15,000	17,127
Offending Behaviour Programmes (Prisons)	7,000	7,942
Of which Sex Offender Treatment programmes	1,240	1,152
Intensive Control and Change Programmes completed	350	270
CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY		
Enhanced Community Punishment/Unpaid Work completions	50,000	51,026
Victim Contact	85%	93%
ORGANISING AND SUPPORTING DELIVERY		
Staff Sickness (public prisons only)	Less than 11..5 days/person	12.17
Staff Sickness (Probation Service)	Less than 9 days/person	12.3
Ethnic Minority Staff (public prisons only)	At least 6%	5.73%
Regionally set employment targets for Ethnic Minority Staff	8.4%	11.9%
Clear proposals in court reports for minority ethnic offenders	95%	97%

* Learning and Skills Council has contributed to this target by delivering in three development regions.

Organised and Financial Crime

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (John Reid): I have today published a consultation paper, "New Powers for Organised and Financial Crime", which will make the UK the least desirable place for organised criminals to operate.

The proposals build on the plans set out in March 2004 in the Government's White Paper: "One Step Ahead: A 21st Century Strategy to Defeat Organised Crime". Those plans have been brought into being by the passing of the Serious and Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 and the establishment of the Serious Organised Crime Agency from April this year. The proposals on which we are now consulting would:

Improve the sharing of data within the public sector and between both the public and the private sectors in order to help prevent crime;

introducing new offences of encouraging or assisting a criminal act to strengthen the current law and make it easier to bring to justice those involved in the margins of organised crime;

establish a new civil crime prevention order to prevent organised criminal activity by individuals or organisations by imposing conditions on them;

strengthen the working of proceeds of crime legislation.

We believe that these additional measures would provide important new means for tackling organised criminality still more effectively.

Copies of the consultation document are available in the House Library and on the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk. We should be glad to receive views by 17 October 2006.

Youth Justice Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): The Youth Justice Board's annual report and accounts for 2005-06 have been laid before Parliament today. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

MOT Fee Increase (Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): The Department for Transport has, today, issued a consultation document for the attention of stakeholders seeking views on the proposed review of the maximum level of MOT fee due for implementation later this year. The letter proposes an increase in the maximum level of fee for a car (MOT test Class IV) from £44.15 to £50.35 from October 2006.

This represents an increase of £6.20. The Government do not intend to increase the maximum price again until April 2008 at the earliest.

The increase in the maximum fee level follows an analysis of how long garages actually spend performing the test which shows it now takes nearly an hour on average to fully MOT a car. This includes a check of up to 26 systems and components, including safety critical ones such as tyres and brakes.

Prescribed MOT fee levels are a maximum—some garages do not charge the full fee. Some garages simply charge less than maximum; some offer free retests; and, some even make no charge for the test provided it is combined with a full service.

The increase in fees will go to the garages to cover the costs of their time, with a small amount—27p—going to the Vehicle Operator Service Agency to cover the costs of running the system, which will in turn be passed to the service provider.

A copy of the letter is available in the Libraries of both Houses. The proposed new fee levels have already been subject to informal consultation with interested parties and so there is a shortened consultation period which expires on 1 September 2006.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Informal Employment, Social Policy and Health Ministerial Meeting (Helsinki)

[redacted] Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Employment, Social Policy and Health Informal meeting was held on 6 to 7 July in Helsinki, Finland.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Competition Policy, the Minister of State, Department of Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, Central (Ms Winterton) and I represented the UK.

The theme of the informal was to look at the challenges of globalisation and demographic ageing. The workshops were divided into three parallel groups.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Competition Policy participated in the workshop on 'Productivity and Quality of Working Life' and focused on the UK experience and strategy for promoting high performance in the workplace as set out in "Success at Work".

I represented the UK on the workshop on Prolonging Working Life for Men and Women and highlighted the Government's plans to extend working life through pension reform and measures to help people to stay in work and balance their caring responsibilities.

My hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department of Health spoke about the Health, Work and Wellbeing Strategy and emphasised the message that work is good for health, especially mental health, in the workshop looking at how to promote health in the workplace.

The presidency drew conclusions from the three workshops and said that it had seen a consensus that the ageing population raised clear challenges, which could best be met by shared objectives for employment, social and health policies. This could include flexicurity, effective social protection and consistent action on health. The flexibility needed to embrace social change should include action on work-life balance, gender equality, lifelong learning and health and safety to make work more attractive and increase productivity. Social partners and civil society must be fully engaged. All actions should be tailored to the needs of women and men.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 18 July 2006

TREASURY

HMRC Online Services

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): In his report on the "Review of HMRC Online Services", published at the Budget in March 2006, Lord Carter of Coles recommended that, for 2007-08 and subsequent returns, the income tax self assessment filing deadline should be brought forward from 31 January to 30 September for paper returns and to 30 November for returns filed over the internet. Lord Carter has since reviewed the responses to the Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment published with his report and has received further representations from tax practitioners. Having reviewed his earlier findings, he has now recommended that, for 2007-08 and subsequent returns, the filing period for paper returns should be reduced to seven months—the new deadline should be 31 October—and the filing period for online returns should remain at 10 months—with a deadline of 31 January. He has also suggested that HM Revenue and Customs officials should work with practitioners to explore how in future the practical difficulties in collecting data earlier might be overcome so that taxpayers can complete their returns sooner if they wish. The Government have accepted Lord Carter's revised recommendation. This updating of the self assessment system takes account of both the views of tax professionals and the operational requirements of HM Revenue and Customs.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Information Packs

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): I am today setting out further details of the Government's implementation strategy and dry run for Home Information Packs (HIPs).

The aims of the HIPs programme

The aims of the Government's reforms to the home buying and selling process are threefold:

(i) To provide home owners with important energy efficiency information about their homes to help them cut fuel bills and carbon emissions. This is vital as homes account for 27 per cent. of Britain's carbon emissions. Energy Performance Certificates will provide clear information about the energy efficiency of homes and how that can be improved. The Energy Saving Trust estimates that following the advice in Energy Performance Certificates could save the average home owner up to £300 a year on their fuel bills The Government believe it is important to implement these as early as possible given the importance of reducing carbon emissions.

(ii) To benefit consumers by cutting waste and duplication, speeding up home sales and reducing the number of failed transactions, which at present cost consumers around £350 million a year in wasted costs.

(iii) To encourage and support long term transformation of the home buying and selling industry by introducing greater transparency and competition to drive down costs and incentivise better service and clearer redress for consumers.

Testing

There are three main components to Home Information Packs: searches and other legal documents; Energy Performance Certificates; and the home condition surveys that make up the other component of a full Home Condition Report. It is essential that all aspects of Home Information Packs are properly tested before fall implementation. We need to be sure that consumers understand, value and can utilise the information that HIPs provide; that the assumed benefits will be realised; and that the different operating systems underpinning HIPs will work effectively.

As part of our on-going programme of implementation, we have already successfully tested over 14,000 HIPs with searches, but largely without Home Condition Reports, in the dry run so far. Over the course of the summer we propose to undertake farther consumer research on Home Condition Reports; to study in greater detail the 250 HIPs that have been produced to date with some kind of survey; and to look to see what more we can learn from experience in other countries where HIPs have been introduced successfully or are currently being proposed. From the autumn the emphasis of our implementation programme will switch to the testing of Energy Performance Certificates and Home Condition Reports. Working with the industry and with consumers, we are proposing to support a series of area based trials and we will test proposals such as allowing sellers to start marketing their homes if they have already commissioned their HIP rather than having to wait up to 14 days. There will be independent assessment and monitoring of all aspects of the dry run.

Roll out

It is also important that reforms are introduced on a timetable and as part of a programme that maximises the benefits for consumers and the environment.

As part of the development of the dry run we have engaged in detailed consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and gathered substantial information on the progress of implementation so far. As a result, we have concluded that there would be significant risks and potential disadvantages to consumers from a mandatory "big bang" introduction of full Home Condition Reports on 1 June 2007. In particular:

Further testing is needed to ensure that Home Condition Reports deliver the assumed benefits for consumers and that the operating systems that support them work smoothly. Design work on the dry run has made it clear that this cannot be completed in time for the results to be taken into account by 1 June.

A recent report from the Council of Mortgage Lenders identified the real possibility that some lenders might not be fully geared up to use HCRs until 2008-09. In particular the industry's plans for bringing in Automated Valuation Models means that many lenders will not have them in place by June 2007 and so will continue to seek separate mortgage valuation surveys where they could have relied on a Home Condition Report.

There are concerns about the number of inspectors that will be in place in time for June next year.

Moreover, because of our commitment to addressing climate change we do not want to jeopardise the successful introduction of Energy Performance Certificates at the earliest possible opportunity by pursuing the 'big bang' mandatory introduction of full Home Condition Reports at the same time.

We believe that progressive market-led take-up of full HCRs could strongly benefit consumers. Bearing in mind our commitment to the early introduction of Energy Performance Certificates, combining an Energy Performance Certificate and a full Home Condition Report at the same time is likely to offer significant additional benefits to buyers and sellers. In particular, sellers offering full Home Condition Reports should be more likely to benefit from swifter sales and suffer fewer transaction failures, as accepted offers are much less likely to be re-opened as a result of new information coming to light. In addition, once Automated Valuation Models are in place, Home Condition Reports should mean buyers get cheaper and swifter valuations and mortgage offers. We therefore believe that there will be a significant incentive for consumers to top up their HIPs voluntarily to include full Home Condition Reports and that this is a product that the market can and should deliver.

Therefore we have concluded that:

HIPs will be introduced with searches and other key documents from 1 June 2007.

Energy Performance Certificates will be included in HIPs on a mandatory basis from 1 June 2007.

We will work with the industry to facilitate market-led take-up of full HCRs. As part of this approach, we will explore with the sector a wide range of options to enable a successful and innovative market for HCRs, including options for supporting the provision of necessary systems, effective demonstration projects for HCRs, and will consider the case for pump-priming funding. This market-led approach has the added benefit of giving industry more flexibility to innovate and adapt to consumer preferences.

This means that the remaining aspects of Home Condition Reports will not be made mandatory from June next year, but HCRs will be authorised documents that sellers will be able to include in their packs

Mandatory HCRs will remain on the table if the industry fails to make a success of the roll out of HCRs

As part of the next phase of reform of we will also be setting out our plans for an ombudsman scheme for estate agents to strengthen consumer protection as well as further proposals to review competition and transparency in the industry to the benefit of consumers.

We believe that these arrangements will ensure that Home Information Packs are implemented in a way that maximises benefits for consumers and the environment and successfully enables the long-term transformation of the home buying and selling market.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Court of Protection Rules and Lasting Powers of Attorney

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State has made the following written ministerial statement:

"The Department for Constitutional Affairs has yesterday published a consultation paper seeking views on new rules of court for the new Court of Protection established under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The Department is seeking views on the draft rules included in the consultation paper. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Department is also publishing the Government response to the consultation on "Lasting Powers of Attorney" today. The consultation ended on 14 April 2006 and 118 responses were received. The consultation response provides a summary of responses and the next steps in light of the consultation.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 establishes a new specialist court, to be known as the Court of Protection, with a new jurisdiction to deal with decision-making for adults who lack capacity. This court will have important structural differences from the current Court of Protection. The new court will be able to make decisions both, as the current court can, about property and affairs (the term used in the Act to describe the financial decision-making jurisdiction) and also about personal welfare matters including health care. The new Court of Protection will begin operating from April 2007.

The Act also allows people to plan ahead for a time when they may lack capacity by appointing an attorney to make decisions about both their property and affairs and personal welfare."

DEFENCE

Nimrod MRA4

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I can announce that the contract for full production of 12 Nimrod MRA4 aircraft has been placed with BAE Systems. This is the culmination of many years of hard work by BAE Systems and its supply chain, and builds upon the considerable investment already made by the Ministry of Defence and BAE Systems. Nimrod MRA4 has had a troubled and well publicised history of time delays and cost overruns. The contract restructuring introduced since early 2003 has been successful in stabilising costs and, with three aircraft participating in the flight trials programme, the design has now reached a level of maturity which permits a commitment to full production.

The greater transparency offered by the revised contracting arrangements and the development of an effective partnering relationship between MOD and BAE Systems and its supply chain have been essential to restoring confidence in the programme. These are key elements of the Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS) and progress on Nimrod MRA4 demonstrates the benefits that will accrue to MOD and industry as these and other features of the DIS are put into effect across the defence industrial base.

The programme will provide the RAF with a maritime patrol aircraft capability second to none. Nimrod MRA4 will offer greater capability and improved availability when compared with the current MR2 maritime patrol aircraft which it replaces.

This contract will secure some 1,000 jobs at BAE Systems sites in the north-west of England, including around 700 at the Woodford site where the aircraft is manufactured. A further 300 or so jobs associated with production will also be secured at other BAE Systems sites.

Military Low Flying

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Tom Watson): It is normal practice for the Ministry of Defence to publish before the summer recess a report giving a detailed account of the low flying training that has taken place in the UK Low Flying System for the previous training year April 2005 to March 2006.

In the preparation of the report for this year an error in the method of attribution of hours from night areas into day areas has been discovered, which also affects information reported in prior years. This has delayed analysis of data and production of the 2005-06 report.

The corrected prior year figures will be shown in the 2005-06 report, and copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

November 2006 Roulement

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I would like to confirm the details of the force package that we currently plan to deploy to Iraq at the next routine roulement of UK forces in November 2006.

The lead UK formation, currently 20 Armoured Brigade, will be replaced by 19 Light Brigade, which will take over command of UK forces in early November. In addition to 19 Light Brigade's Headquarters and Signals Squadron, the other major units currently in Iraq will be replaced as follows:

Unit deploying for Operation TELIC 9	*Unit currently in theatre (Operation Telic)*
HQ 19 Light Brigade	HQ 20 Armoured Brigade
1 x squadron from 2nd Royal Tank Regiment	The Queen's Royal Hussars
The Queen's Royal Lancers	1st The Queens's Dragoon Guards
1st Battalion The King's Regiment	1st Battalion The Light Infantry
1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets	1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry
1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment	2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment
1 x company from the Joint CBRN Regiment and 1 x company from The Black Watch 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	
1 x company from the 51st Highland. 7th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland (Territorial Army)	1 x company from each of The King's and Cheshire Regiment (Territorial Army) and The Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers (Territorial Army)
40th Regiment Royal Artillery	26th Regiment Roval Artillery
2 x companies of the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry (to deploy in September)	1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards (to return in September)
38 Engineer Regiment	35 Engineer Regiment
19 Lt Bde Combat Service Support Battalion	1 Logistics Corps

Following the completion of the roulement in November, the total number of UK troops in Iraq will be broadly the same as currently deployed, approximately 7,100 servicemen and women.

Members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Iraq as part of this force package, and we shall shortly start to serve approximately 600 call-out notices in order to fill some 500 posts. On completion of their mobilisation procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and integration into their respective receiving units. For, the majority their deployment to theatre will also commence in November and most will serve there for six to seven months, although some may have shorter tours. The reservists will perform a wide range of activities including force protection duties, logistics, medical support and individual reinforcements to units. In addition, we expect some 20 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

I emphasise that the force package we deploy in October/November will depend on the conditions on the ground, in particular the security situation in the south and progress on handover of security responsibility to the Iraqi civil authorities over the months to come. I very much hope that positive progress in these areas will enable adjustments to the force package we deploy, and we will continue to keep UK force levels in Iraq under review. I will, of course, aim to inform Parliament of any changes to these plans at the earliest opportunity.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Access to the English Coast

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Barry Gardiner): In July 2005 DEFRA asked the Countryside Agency, working with English Nature and the Rural Development Service, to advise the Government on ways to improve access to the English coast. We asked for that advice to be provided by the end of July 2006 in advance of the publication of a consultation document in October this year.

I have now decided that in view of Natural England assuming responsibility from the Countryside Agency in this area in October this year, Natural England should take forward the work which the Countryside Agency, English Nature and the Rural Development Service have carried out on coastal access. I am today announcing that I have asked the Natural England board to come forward with its recommendations on coastal access to the Government before the end of December this year. In line with these changes I am proposing that the public consultation should now be issued in early 2007.

HEALTH

Audiology Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): We acknowledge that there are pressures with regard to the waiting times for audiology services. Considerable progress has been made in improving the provision of audiology services although we accept that there is still some way to go.

Between 2000-05, the Government invested £125 million in the Modernising Hearing Aids Service programme (MHAS), which was managed by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID), on behalf of the Department of Health. The outcomes of the programme have been significant and have ensured that by 2005 all NHS hearing aid services met the Government target of routinely fitting modern digital hearing aids.

There have been other significant improvements:

Working with RNID, we have ensured that high quality digital hearing aids are now available throughout the NHS with an estimated 750,000 people fitted with digital hearing aids by the NHS;

the current public private partnership (PPP) is also proving very successful; by February 2006 approximately 68,600 patients had been fitted with a hearing aid. NHS trusts benefit from the increased capacity, competitive pricing and quality of service provision available through PPP;

RNID and NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency (PASA) working together have negotiated a reduction in the cost to the NHS of digital hearing aids;

a new degree has been developed to help address the national shortage of audiologists;

'Hearing Direct' has been set up: 12 sites run by NHS Direct which provide follow-up care and advice for selected hearing aid users (may be suitable for one third of all NHS patients);

since January 2006 we have been collecting waiting time and activity data for 15 diagnostic tests and procedures, including pure tone audiometry. These data have been shared with the NHS for performance management purposes since 2 June 2006. These data were published on 12 July 2006;

A key area of challenge to delivering the 18-week waiting target outlined in section 2 of the publication "Tackling hospital waiting: the 18 week patient pathway—An implementation framework" was audiology. Work is underway at official level to scope a national action plan for audiology, to be published in due course. The intention is to develop and take the work forward in partnership with stakeholders. This will involve working with eight physiological measurement sites to test ideas and to improve access to physiological measurement diagnostic services including audiology. These sites will be critical for informing the action plan and its eventual implementation.

The Government's investment, through the work of MHAS, has improved outcomes for patients. Medical Research Council research shows that patients have reported a 40 per cent. increase in benefit with the new service.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Debt Relief (Clarification)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): In my written statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 43-44WS I said that 20 heavily indebted poor countries had had 100 per cent. of their debts to the IMF cancelled in January 2006, and that that applied to another, Cameroon, since. I wish to clarify that, in January, the IMF cancelled 100 per cent. of the debt stock held by 19 countries (including 17 HIPCs, 13 of which were African) and has cancelled 100 per cent. of the debt stock of two other HIPCs, Cameroon and Mauritania, since. Some 21 countries have now therefore received 100 per cent. debt stock cancellation at the IMF.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Annual Reports

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): The annual reports of HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service, the Serious Fraud Office, Treasury Solicitor and the Crown Prosecution Service have today been published and laid before Parliament. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Journey Time Targets

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The accessibility of our cities is key to their economic growth and success. It is therefore important that local authorities take responsibility for addressing the problem of road congestion, and the impact on journey times caused by the increasing numbers of journeys being made.

Each of the 10 largest urban areas in England therefore has a target to limit the increase in person journey time per mile, given the expected increase in travel over the next five years. The target relates to the overall average journey time on a representative set of the busiest roads in each of their major urban centres. The 10 are: London, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, Merseyside, Bristol, Nottingham and Leicester.

While ownership of these local targets, and implementing measures to deliver them, is the responsibility of the local authorities involved, we have weighted (according to traffic volumes) and averaged the journey times across the 10 areas to create a national composite PSA target for the Department for Transport, as we announced on 5 July 2005.

The national PSA target is therefore that:

By 2010-11, the ten largest urban areas will meet the congestion targets set in their local transport plan relating to movement on main roads into city centres. The target will be deemed to have been met if, on target routes in the 10 largest urban areas in England, an average increase in travel of 4.5 per cent. is accommodated within an increase of 3.7 per cent. in person journey time per mile. The local targets on which this is based include:

In London, accommodate an increase in travel of 3 per cent. within an increase in journey time of no more than 1.5 per cent.;

in Manchester, accommodate an increase in travel of 1.5 per cent. with no increase in journey time; and

in the West Midlands, accommodate an increase in travel of 4 per cent. within an increase in journey time of no more than 5 per cent. (the target is expected to change—possibly to 3 per cent.—if funding for the West Midland's Urban Traffic Management and Control Project is fully approved in 2006-07).

Each local authority is responsible for finding a balance between economic development, safety and journey

times consistent with local circumstances and needs. The targets for each area are consistent with each authority's local transport plans, which set out their wider transport strategies. The Department for Transport will be working with each authority, to encourage and support them in delivery.

London, Manchester and the West Midlands account for about two-thirds of the traffic in the 10 urban areas. Major scheme bids, including for the West Midland's Urban Traffic Management and Control Project, are currently being considered.

We have today published a PSA technical note, with full methodological details, on the Department for Transport website. Copies have been placed in Library of the House.

Road Pricing Schemes

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): The Department is to release guidance on appraisal and modelling for local road pricing schemes. The guidance will advise scheme promoters in their preparation of business cases involving road pricing and can be found in the consultation section of the Department's transport analysis guidance website at: www.webtag.org.uk. The guidance has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

An overview of the analysis of road pricing schemes is provided by "Introduction to Modelling and Appraisal for Road Pricing". This is supported by four other modules for analysts: "Designing Efficient Local Road Pricing Schemes" (TAG Unit 3.12.1), which discusses approaches to the design of effective road pricing schemes: guidance on the issues arising when modelling road pricing schemes is provided in "Modelling Road Pricing" (TAG Unit 3.12.2); guidance on the issues arising when appraising road pricing schemes is provided in "Appraisal of Road Pricing Options" (TAG Unit 3.12.3); and "Measuring the Social and Distributional Impacts of Road Pricing Schemes" (TAG Unit 3.12.4) provides guidance on the use of social research methods to assess the social and distributional impacts of road pricing.

During the consultation period, ending 1 October, the Department welcomes comments. The guidance will be kept under review and may be updated from time to time to reflect any comments made.

WORK AND PENSIONS

National Insurance Numbers and Illegal Working

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): I announced on 5 June that the DWP would introduce a "right to work" condition into Jobcentre Plus's National Insurance Numbers allocation and decision making process for employment related applications from July. I can confirm that appropriate administrative arrangements are now in place making it a condition for the allocation of a NINO that there is a right to work. To further support this change, I intend to bring forward amendments to regulation 9 of the Social Security (Crediting and Treatment of Contributions and National Insurance Numbers) Regulations 2001 to make explicit the evidence which must be produced to demonstrate that the "right to work" condition has been satisfied.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 19 July 2006

TREASURY

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): During passage of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (2005), Standing Committee D, 13 January 2005, column 130 and the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act (2005), 7 February 2005, column 615, statements were made that certain powers available to the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) would not be used in respect of tax offences until the outcome of the consideration of these powers by the current review of HM Revenue and Customs' Powers.

Those powers are contained in part 2 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. The Act came into force on 1 April. They enable the director of RCPO (and prosecutors to whom he has delegated such powers), to serve disclosure notices, obtain material, conduct compulsory interviews and execute search warrants. These powers are powers of RCPO, not of HMRC; they are RCPO's to use. However, the prosecutor can authorise use of the powers by an officer of HMRC in respect of tax offences where the prosecutor has decided that such use is appropriate.

As the powers are for RCPO to use, the issue for the Review of HMRC's powers to consider was the guidance that was available to HMRC staff when a prosecutor had authorised the use of the powers by an officer of HMRC. The review has looked at that guidance and, following minor changes, has approved it.

The Attorney-General and I agree that the powers contained in part 2 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 are now available for use by RCPO in respect of tax offences.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning (Best Value)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Meg Munn): My right hon. Friend, the Member for Streatham (Keith Hill), when Minister for Planning made a statement to the House on 14 September 2004 about the Government's approach to achieving the target for 100 per cent. of local planning authorities in England to perform at or above best value (BV109) levels for efficient handling of major, minor and other planning applications.

Since then, authorities have continued to make excellent progress in overhauling their processes and introducing a performance management culture. As a result it is now a realistic prospect that these targets, which are owned both by my Department (as PSA6) and by local government (as LG PSA11), will be achieved by the end of 2006-07 by the large majority if not all authorities.

In order to help embed recent changes in the performance culture in planning Departments, and to sustain delivery against the targets which now carry through to 2008 under the 2004 spending review, I am today announcing my intention to continue designating planning standards authorities for one more year.

It is my intention that authorities performing five percentage points below the targets levels in the year to June 2006 should be considered for designation as planning standards authorities in 2007-08. However, I intend to take into account performance in the year to September 2006 before making the final decision. I intend that the performance standards which designated authorities will be required to meet will be to the national best value target levels, as this year. In summary, the proposed thresholds and standards are as follows:

Percentage of applications determined within time

		2007-08
Major applications	Performance threshold in year to June 2006	55
	Standard to be met in 2007-08	60
Minor applications	Performance threshold in year to June 2006	60
	Standard to be met in 2007-08	65
Other applications	Performance threshold in year to June 2006	75
	Standard to be met in 2007-08	80

Supporting People

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Government are today confirming individual grant allocations to "Administering Authorities for the Supporting People Programme in 2007-08" which will fund housing related support services for over 1 million vulnerable people—including victims of domestic violence, teenage parents, older people and those with mental health problems—to live independently in their accommodation.

As part of the two-year local government funding settlement in December 2005, minimum allocations for 2007-08 were announced guaranteeing 95 per cent. of the total available. Some 5 per cent. of the funding was held back pending consultation on the draft Supporting People distribution formula, with a commitment to confirming full Supporting People allocations for 2007-08 before the summer recess.

The consultation on the Supporting People distribution formula is now complete and responses to this exercise have been assessed. Following consideration of the available options a decision has been taken to target the remaining funding in 2007-08 to help address some of the inherited uneven distribution of grant between

authorities by increasing Supporting People funding to over half of all Supporting People local authorities.

This decision is consistent with the approach taken to determining allocations in both 2005-06 and 2006-07 when an earlier version of the formula was used to inform the grant allocations to those authorities furthest from their correct relative share of the budget. Further work will be carried out on the analysis of responses to the consultation with a view to taking forward work on how we can distribute future funding based on need. All Supporting People grant allocations are listed below.

The Government are also targeting funding from the Supporting People programme to assist linked programmes of national importance.

This early announcement of funding for 2007-08 will help provide the stability required by local authorities and the sector in order to plan for the future.

Local authority	*2007-08 grants allocation (£)*
Barking and Dagenham	5,061,217
Barnet	7,497,667
Barnsley	5,673,232
Bath and North East Somerset UA	4,011,947
Bedfordshire County	7,118,216
Bexley	2,984,688
Birmingham	51,912,681
Blackburn with Darwen UA	6,031,664
Blackpool UA	6,138,533
Bolton	9,101,572
Bournemouth UA	11,152,392
Bracknell Forest UA	2,016,121
Bradford	19,219,872
Brent	12,806,959
Brighton and Hove UA	12,659,223
Bristol, City of UA	27,812,095
Bromley	5,428,129
Buckinghamshire County	5,587,753
Bury	6,653,044
Calderdale	5,674,656
Cambridgeshire County	12,168,459
Camden	35,723,266
Cheshire County	20,537,745
City of London	698,534
Cornwall County	14,204,036
Coventry	15,490,980
Croydon	8,951,651
Cumbria County	9,443,16.4
Darlington UA	3,825,855
Derby UA	10,556,336
Derbyshire County	17,260,646
Devon County	19,337,068
Doncaster	11,064,106
Dorset County	9,665,842
Dudley	6,439,067
Durham County	14,588,081
Ealing	11,125,397
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	4,937,622
East Sussex County	11,561,210
Enfield	11,055,312
Essex County	29,622,839
Gateshead	5,987,723
Gloucestershire County	24,633,207
Greenwich	9,302,736
Hackney	22,221,917
Halton UA	7,803,714
Hammersmith and Fulham	12,826,145
Hampshire County	31,109,951
Haringey	21,330,020
Harrow	3,582,678
Hartlepool UA	3,984,694
Havering	2,578,536
Herefordshire, County of UA	6,523,367
Hertfordshire County	21,000,881
Hillingdon	5,954,047
Hounslow	5,525,734
Isles of Scilly	1,846
Isle of Wight UA	6,379,804
Islington	15,934,504
Kensington and Chelsea	11,170,507
Kent County	32,024,915
Kingston upon Hull, City of UA	11,059,567
Kingston upon Thames	4,405,694
Kirklees	10,593,700
Knowsley	7,381,274
Lambeth	20,792,197
Lancashire County	29,052,873
Leeds	32,986,531
Leicester UA	15,529,446
Leicestershire County	7,012,300
Lewisham	17,219,829
Lincolnshire County	21,373,288
Liverpool	41,900,943
Luton UA	4,520,292
Manchester	38,557,790
Medway UA	5,840,889
Merton	3,385,278
Middlesbrough UA	5,982,841
Milton Keynes UA	5,241,687
Newcastle upon Tyne	18,817,689
Newham	11,068,502
Norfolk County	16,336,572
North East Lincolnshire UA	6,145,522
North Lincolnshire UA	3,454,079
North Somerset UA	5,874,185
North Tyneside	8,623,570
North Yorkshire County	15,180,220
Northamptonshire County	14,256,621
Northumberland County	7,054,329
Nottingham UA	26,052,630
Nottinghamshire County	25,705,789
Oldham	8,227,686
Oxfordshire County	18,856,965
Peterborough UA	4,607,583
Plymouth UA	8,213,292
Poole UA	4,944,078
Portsmouth UA	8,921,250
Reading UA	4,935,083
Redbridge	4,467,863
Redcar and Cleveland UA	2,410,460
Richmond upon Thames	2,847,584
Rochdale	15,076,659
Rotherham	7,567,131
Rutland UA	730,810
Salford	13,191,145

Local authority	*2007-08 grants allocation (£)*
Sandwell	10,580,319
Sefton	6,746,556
Sheffield	25,227,224
Shropshire County	6,345,391
Slough UA	4,325,790
Solihull	2,778,479
Somerset County	19,063,308
South Gloucestershire UA	4,674,886
South Tyneside	4,947,095
Southampton UA	10,559,245
Southend-on-Sea UA	4,908,331
Southwark	18,765,619
St Helens	10,218,473
Staffordshire County	11,971,701
Stockport	8,022,591
Stockton-on-Tees UA	2,950,823
Stoke-on-Trent UA	5,479,678
Suffolk County	18,734,394
Sunderland	11,263,297
Surrey County	18,509,347
Sutton	3,667,041
Swindon UA	5,397,250
Tameside	7,217,707
Telford & Wrekin UA	3,917,442
Thurrock UA	2,375,440
Torbay UA	5,708,189
Tower Hamlets	15,384,899
Trafford	5,431,885
Wakefield	6,967,057
Walsall	7,067,337
Waltham Forest	7,882,823
Wandsworth	11,177,258
Warrington UA	7,611,086
Warwickshire County	10,146,789
West Berkshire UA	5,408,772
West Sussex County	15,049,327
Westminster	17,051,638
Wigan	7,626,132
Wiltshire County	8,174,934
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	1,723,056
Wirral	10,341,400
Wokingham UA	1,609,880
Wolverhampton	7,997,826
Worcestershire County	14,984,323
York UA	8,268,239

DEFENCE

Defence Industrial Strategy and Defence Procurement

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am pleased to announce progress on the complex weapons sector of the Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS). This sector provides key missile development capabilities to our armed forces.

The DIS identified that it represented a substantial challenge to maintain the industrial capability we wished to retain onshore given that we expect investment in new systems to decrease in the next five years from the current level due to a sharp decline in market size. We undertook to work with UK industry to meet this challenge, and can now announce that we are forming a "Team Complex Weapons (CW)". "Team CW" is led by MBDA and is centred around, QinetiQ, Thales Air Defence Ltd., Thales Missile Electronics and Roxel. "Team CW" will enable the UK to maintain key skills and technologies through a mixture of directed procurements and open competition, enabling controlled restructuring to take place whilst maintaining on-shore access to the capabilities our armed forces require.

Together we will develop "Team CW" during the second half of this year. We intend to agree a Strategic Partnering Agreement in 2006. This will require contractually binding measures focused on business transformation both within the Ministry of Defence and within industry allowing better-informed-through-life decisions to be made, and a more incremental approach to technology insertion to be adopted.

We intend to use a range of programmes to incentivise the restructuring process. Most significantly, we have changed our procurement strategy for the Loitering Munition Demonstration and Manufacture programme, potentially worth more than £500 million. It will be single-sourced to the MBDA-led "Team CW", subject to an enduring requirement for this technology, to affordability and to the ability to clearly demonstrate value for money.

We are also announcing four contracts for the development of technologies to contribute to the enhancement of Storm Shadow, and the Future Anti-Surface and Future Rapid Effects programmes, which will offer significant opportunities for collaboration. In the support area, we have placed a "Contract for Availability" known as PROJECT RevISE that covers air-launched weapons designed by MBDA.

Our joint approach with industry will enable us to develop a globally competitive industry that will deliver the technologically advanced missiles our armed forces will need in the future.

Far East Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Tom Watson): Late last year, it emerged that inconsistent criteria had been used for deciding payments over the history of the ex-gratia payment scheme for former Far East prisoners of war and civilian internees. In response to this, my predecessor, the then Minister with responsibilities for veterans, my right hon. Friend the Member for Islwyn (Mr. Touhig), agreed that there should be an independent investigation to examine how the use of inconsistent criteria had arisen and why this had not been exposed earlier. Mr. David Watkins, a retired senior civil servant from the Northern Ireland Office was appointed to undertake this work and his findings were presented to me on 7 July. A copy of his report has been placed in the Library of the House.

The report finds no evidence of culpable behaviour by individuals but identifies a number of shortcomings

with the scheme's development and administration and also makes recommendations designed to avoid any recurrence.

I am grateful to Mr. Watkins for an investigation which has been thorough and far reaching, and has included consultation with the key representatives of those who were adversely affected by the errors. I welcome his report and can say now that we accept the overall thrust of its recommendations. We will analyse it in more detail, in consultation with other interested Departments, and I intend to give a more detailed response in a further statement after the recess.

While the errors in administering the scheme were deeply regrettable, I would echo the report's recognition of the admirable work undertaken by the then War Pensions Agency and others that allowed the scheme to be introduced in a remarkably short timescale, with some 14,000 payments made within three months of the scheme's introduction, and a total of over 25,000 payments now made.

Finally, I know that there has been a residual concern that a number of those who do not qualify under the scheme may be experiencing hardship. To respond to this concern, my officials have been in discussion with the charity which provides support in such cases amongst those from the UK who were once prisoners of war or civilian internees in the Far East. I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence will shortly be providing financial assistance to support the charity's work in dealing with such cases and to help publicise the recently announced changes to the criteria, as a result of which eligibility under the scheme has been extended to those who can show a close link to the UK since the second world war.

HEALTH

Annual Reports and Accounts

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): The annual reports and accounts for the following organisations have been laid before Parliament today:

Dental Practice Board
Dental Vocational Training Authority
Mental Health Act Commission
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse
NHS Appointments Commission
NHS Blood and Transplant
NHS Business Services Authority
NHS Direct
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement
NHS Logistics Authority
NHS Professionals
NHSU
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

The annual reports and accounts for the following organisations will be laid before Parliament shortly:

Human Tissue Authority +
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health
Council for Health care Regulatory Excellence
Healthcare Commission
NHS Pensions Agency
NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service
Prescription Pricing Authority

The business plans for the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency have been placed in the Library today.

Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): The ninth report to Parliament on the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme (PPRS) was published today.

The report covers the main points of the 2005 scheme and the delivery of the 7 per cent. price cut; the management and operation of the 1999 scheme including the delivery of the 4.5 per cent. price cut and consolidated information on company annual financial returns. The report sets out the contribution made to the economy by the UK based pharmaceutical industry and gives an update on international price comparisons.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Library.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Foreign National Prisoners (Deportation and Removal)

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Liam Byrne): I would like to update the House on progress in deporting foreign national prisoners, following the Home Secretary's statement on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, volume 446.

Our objective is that foreign national prisoners should face deportation and deportation should happen as early as possible in their sentence. As an immediate step, we now have an Imminent Release Team in IND, working with HM Prison Service to ensure that foreign national prisoners who meet the existing criteria are not being released from prison without being considered for deportation. My review of the last few weeks confirms that, in order fully to achieve our objective, there is a need for legislation, as well as fundamental reforms in the eight areas identified.

First, the Home Secretary identified that there is today no unique identifier to link individuals who come in contact with the asylum and immigration and criminal justice systems. We have therefore commenced development of a comprehensive approach to identity management across all Home Office areas and will finalise a strategic action plan by the end of September 2006

Secondly, we have identified that the police, Crown Prosecution Service, courts and prisons depend on self-declaration of nationality and that there is no requirement for the police to record nationality of people brought into custody. There is no requirement

in law for a detainee to furnish details of their identity or nationality. The immigration and nationality directorate and the criminal justice agencies have now designed and tested proposals for new ways of working, alongside options for new legal requirements to address this. We will conduct detailed field tests with frontline staff over the summer and produce recommendations in October.

Thirdly, work has to be done to ensure that all future instructions are given to all agencies of the criminal justice, asylum and immigration systems and are both consistent and fully implemented. IND needs to work much more closely with the criminal justice agencies. Lin Homer has therefore joined the National Criminal Justice Board to ensure that this is done. Since 23 May, new guidance has been issued to IND and the prison service. Over the summer we will audit related guidance of six key agencies, benchmark implementation and develop recommendations for change, including training provision, by October. This will be followed up by training and awareness events for staff working in the 20 key prisons, which process largest numbers of foreign national prisoners at the earliest stages of their sentences, by the end of 2006.

Fourthly, the Home Secretary asked for an audit of policy criteria and processes; and fifthly that steps should be taken to ensure that all deportation decisions are made according to the most robust interpretation of the requirements of our international obligations. Guidance in May to IND and prisons identified interim criteria, so that all non-European economic area nationals sentenced to 12 months imprisonment or more, either in one sentence or in two or three sentences over five years; and all EEA nationals sentenced to 24 months or more, should be considered for deportation. We are today changing the immigration rules with effect from midnight tonight to confirm the presumption that all such prisoners should be deported. The guidance sets out also that only rarely will factors other than international obligations weigh against deportation.

But the current law does not go far enough to link criminality with deportation in the way that we would want and the public would expect. We need to change the law to make deportation the norm for foreign national prisoners, to remove some in-country rights of appeal; to streamline procedures; and otherwise to remove barriers to deportation and removal, including existing exemptions for some Commonwealth nationals. We shall announce further steps in the wider IND review, to be published before recess.

Sixthly, new formal arrangements are now in place to refer cases for consideration of deportation where the foreign national prisoner is in custody in Scotland or Northern Ireland. Prison authorities in Scotland and Northern Ireland have confirmed that these processes are working well. These arrangements involve IND officials and officials in the Scottish Executive, the Scottish Prison Service, the Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland Prison Service. Agencies are now developing proposals to extend these formal arrangements for referral across the justice systems in these jurisdictions: for example with the police, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and Scottish courts; and at each stage in the system in Northern Ireland, as approved by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The seventh priority area for action is the sensitive issue of mentally disordered offenders, where there has hitherto been no established system of referral, and nationality has not routinely been recorded. As with Scotland and Northern Ireland, arrangements have now been put in place to ensure that cases are referred for consideration of deportation for this particular group, when their formal restriction is due to end. Home Office officials are considering with the Department of Health what other actions we might take to ensure mentally disordered offenders can be considered for deportation at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Finally, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is conducting targeted interviews with foreign national prisoners who qualify to transfer to serve their sentence in their home country. An urgent amendment is being sought to legislation currently before Parliament to remove the need for prisoner consent in these cases; and prisoner transfer agreements are being negotiated with more foreign Governments. We have agreements with 96 countries and territories. NOMS, IND and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are assembling a package of measures to accelerate this work further.

There remains much to be done. Progress in all these areas will be reported in due course.

Ministerial Authorisation (Zimbabwe)

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Liam Byrne): As a result of intelligence received in 2001 and July 2004 suggesting systematic fraud in applications for UK ancestry from Zimbabwean nationals, consideration of such applications was suspended last year pending further investigation.

In the light of continued evidence of fraudulent Zimbabwean applications for indefinite leave to remain in the UK on grounds of UK ancestry lodged prior to 25 October 2004, my predecessor made an authorisation on 16 January of six months duration under section 19D of the Race Relations Act 1976. This authorisation enabled staff in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to subject these applications to more rigorous investigation than applications from persons of other nationalities, for the purpose of detecting fraudulent applications.

As a result of our review of this authorisation, I have decided to renew it for a further six months. We will review the continued need for this authorisation before its expiry.

A copy of the authorisation has been placed in the Library of both Houses of Parliament.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): The Police Ombudsman for Northern

Ireland's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006 is published today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson): I have placed copies of the Youth Justice Agency's annual report and accounts for 2005-06 in the Libraries of both Houses.

This is the Agency's third annual report since its inception on 1 April 2003. It achieved nine of its 10 key performance targets and all 17 of its development objectives.

TRANSPORT

Demand Management (M25)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): In July 2003 the then Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South-West (Mr. Darling), in response to the ORBIT multi-modal study, confirmed his intention to add an extra lane of capacity to bring most of the remaining three lane sections of the M25 up to four lanes in each direction. Construction work on this major investment project costing over £2 billion is expected to start in 2008 and run through until 2016 with the widening being undertaken in stages.

At the time of the decision to increase the capacity of the M25, it was made clear that widening would be pursued alongside measures to improve the management of traffic flow in order to lock in the benefits that the additional capacity would provide.

The Department has been exploring how traffic management technology already being used on the motorway network might be used to control congestion on the orbital motorway and its junctions. But traffic using the motorway also uses surrounding local roads and not just the motorway. The modelling that has been completed shows that there is potentially considerable benefit to be gained in the Department applying and operating traffic management techniques jointly with local authorities. The benefits would be reflected in better overall journey times for the majority of road users, across both the national and the local networks

It is vital that we harness local authorities' local knowledge at the planning stage, as well as developing a joint approach in applying that knowledge. I am therefore writing today to all the local authorities around the M25 to start this dialogue, focusing initially on those in the north west segment, where the first section of widening will take place, with the aim of developing an approach that will ensure long-distance traffic and local residents all benefit from this huge national investment.

Heathrow Sustainable Development (Air Quality)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have today published the technical report of the Air Quality Technical Panels instituted after the 2003 Air Transport White Paper to review the basis upon which air quality assessments should be carried out for Heathrow Airport.

We continue to support further development at Heathrow, including the addition of a short, third runway in the 2015 to 2020 period, after a new runway at Stansted, but only if we can be confident that the conditions set out in the White Paper can be met. Publishing this report is a significant milestone in the programme of work to review the scope for meeting those conditions. I am grateful to the panel members who have devoted their energies over the past two years to a very full review of the issues and have produced a detailed and comprehensive report.

The report has been peer reviewed and I am happy to accept its recommendations. It is primarily concerned with methodology—how future assessments of air quality around Heathrow should be conducted. It does not attempt to prejudge the question whether development at Heathrow is more or less likely to be achievable within the critical air quality limits. But importantly it provides a sound scientific basis on which we can now proceed to carry out the remaining stages of the work to address that question in the coming months, building on the panels' recommendations.

Copies of the report are available in the House Library and full details will be available on the Department's website.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Strategic Direction for Remploy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): Increasing the number of disabled people that we support into work is a core part of our Welfare Reform agenda. This is central to meeting the Department's aim of an 80 per cent. employment rate, and central to ensuring equality of opportunity for disabled people.

Remploy was set up after the Second World War to provide employment to facilitate rehabilitation and progression to open employment. Employing around 5,000 disabled people, the Remploy factories are engaged in a wide range of sectors ranging from office furniture through textiles to electronics. These industry sectors have experienced significant change over the last sixty years—not least through increased international competition.

In addition, the way in which we support disabled people into work has evolved. Strengthened disability rights mean that we are now in a stronger position to support people in a mainstream environment. This is why Remploy developed its Interwork business—which supported 4,300 people into jobs in 2005.

These changes have raised significant questions about the future strategy for Remploy. That is why in March I commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers and Stephen Duckworth (a disability expert with wide experience of disability rights and employment issues) to conduct a strategic review of the future business options for the company.

Today I have published the findings of the review. Copies of the PricewaterhouseCoopers report have been made available in the Libraries, Vote and Printed Paper Offices and on the DWP website http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2006/remploy

The report delivers a hard-hitting financial assessment of the challenges facing Remploy.

Factories are facing growing cost pressures as a result of increased international competition and technological development

The average cost per employee is £18,000 per year and over £48,000 in the household and toiletries factory— far greater than say the £5,000 cost per head of other WORKSTEP providers.

The report sets out a range of possible scenarios for the business—from no change to complete closure of the factory network. I am ruling out both of these options.

It is clear from both this report and that of the National Audit Office that doing nothing is not an option. This view is shared by the Remploy Board, its management and the trade unions. The necessity for change is clear, but I believe there is still a role for sheltered employment in the future.

We recognise that change will have an inevitable impact on the disabled people Remploy employs. We want to give Remploy the time and support to determine the best way to modernise and restructure its business. We intend therefore to provide the necessary funding to enable this to happen, in particular so there is sufficient time to consider factory reorganisation as part of an overall restructuring package. This is not a cuts package for Remploy; on the contrary we will be maintaining the baseline funding and investing more this year to help deal with the short term issues.

I will be asking the Board of Remploy to undertake the preliminary work to bring forward later next year a five year restructuring plan with proposals both to modernise the business and to support substantially larger numbers of disabled people into work. Full consultation will take place with the trade unions and employees in developing this strategy. I will be making clear that any such proposals must protect Remploy's disabled employees from compulsory redundancy. Once this plan is brought forward, we will consider whether we are able to offer the Board additional funding for modernisation and we will also consider at that stage with the Chair whether we need to enhance the range of skills on the Board to help them to do this.

Currently Remploy supports around 9,000 disabled people in factory employment, Interwork and managed services. In the longer term our ambition is that any restructuring should enable us to help significantly more disabled people in work than if we continue with the status quo thus providing substantially more opportunities for disabled people and better value for the taxpayer.

The efforts of Remploy's existing workforce, its Chair and current Board, and its supporters must not be under-estimated or taken for granted. They have much to be proud of. But Remploy cannot stand still and we need to examine how the ideals which lay behind its creation 60 years ago can fit the world which it now faces.

Disability Rights Commission

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): The Disability Rights Commission's Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06 have been published today and laid before Parliament. The Annual Report demonstrates the DRC's continuing success in its important work to eliminate discrimination against disabled people; promote equal opportunities; encourage good practice and keep the working of the Disability Discrimination Act and the DRC Act under review.

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate Reports (Publication)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection reports on the following councils were published today: Bath and North East Somerset Council, Elmbridge borough council, Exeter City Council, Gateshead borough council, Reading borough council, Shepway district council, Stevenage borough council and Walsall metropolitan borough council. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The BFI reports detail a range of strengths and weaknesses in the housing benefit services provided by councils and make recommendations to improve the security and efficiency of benefit delivery.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering the reports and may ask the councils for proposals in response to BFI's findings.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 20 July 2006

TREASURY

Double Taxation (Poland)

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): A new Double Taxation Convention with Poland was signed on 20 July 2006. After signature, the text of the convention was deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text of the convention will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): At its meeting of 11 July 2006, the Economic and Financial Affairs Council took note of a presentation from the Finnish presidency on its work programme for the Council during the second half of 2006. Priorities include addressing the challenges of globalisation, efficient functioning of the internal market and further economic and structural reforms.

ECOFIN adopted a 104(12) Decision abrogating Cyprus's Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) and Council Conclusions on Portugal's progress in addressing its EDP.

Council adopted a decision allowing Slovenia to adopt the Euro as its currency as from 1 January 2007.

ECOFIN adopted a set of conclusions regarding the first year of the revised Stability and Growth Pact.

Council discussed the renewal of the EIB's external lending mandates, which will set the amounts and strategic priorities of the EIB's operations outside the ED. The Council requested the Economic and Financial Committee to oversee further work on the proposal and will discuss this again at its meeting on 10 October.

ECOFIN was briefed by the Commission on economic dialogues with third countries and held an exchange of views. The UK welcomed the economic content of the EU-US Vienna Declaration as well as further ECOFIN discussion on the key issues for these dialogues.

ECOFIN adopted Council conclusions on a Commission proposal for the funding of the International Accounting Standards Board.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury represented the UK.

Income Support/Job Seekers Allowance

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): The Chief Secretary made a statement on 12 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 723, on timing of the phased transfer on to child tax credit (CTC) of the remaining families with children receiving family support through Income Support/Job Seekers Allowance.

Following further consideration of the proposed timetable, I have decided that the transfer should be deferred until 2007. My decision reflects the fact that it is extremely important to safeguard continuity of support for children among this particularly vulnerable group. The postponement will allow a number of planned tax credits measures, which I announced at the pre-Budget report, some of which require system changes, to be introduced before support for these families' children is transferred to child tax credit.

I will make a final decision next year on whether the transfer should go ahead in 2007 as currently planned. My decision will again be taken in the light of the importance I attach to ensuring the continuity of support that these families receive for their children. Families will continue to receive financial support through their benefits until they are transferred on to child tax credit.

It remains the Government's firm intention to migrate all income-based support for children into a single, seamless system of support delivered through child tax credit.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Indemnity Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. David Lammy): On 26 January 2006 I made a statement to the House regarding the Government Indemnity Scheme. In that statement, we reported a figure of £1,286,220,279 as the contingent liability of non-national museums as at 30 September 2005.

It has since been brought to my attention that the non-national museums' contingent liability figure, produced by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, should have been £1,292,909,094.

DEFENCE

Northern Ireland Future Allowances and Charges

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): On 1 August 2005 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland announced the start of the normalisation programme outlined in the Joint Declaration. Stage 1 of this programme will be complete by 31 July 2007 and, at that time, operation banner will end. An allowances and charges package specific to the operational, security and welfare

circumstances of operation banner is currently in place. With the end of operation banner, however, Northern Ireland will no longer be classed as an operational theatre and, as a result, there will be a number of changes to the package. On 1 August 2007, personnel serving in Northern Ireland will commence payment of food and accommodation charges, and contributions in lieu of Council Tax on the same basis as those elsewhere in the United Kingdom and overseas. Other provisions associated with operational status will also cease, such as operational telephone allowance, welfare entertainment, free e-blueys and the award of operational medals. Other Northern Ireland-related allowances, including: Northern Ireland resident's supplement, which is paid to all personnel serving on permanent assignment in Northern Ireland, in recognition of the impact of the security situation on them and their families; Northern Ireland journeys, which allows personnel and their accompanying families to return to Britain regularly to obtain respites from the pressures of living in Northern Ireland; and other lesser provisions will be retained for the time being, but will be kept under review as the normalisation programme progresses.

Gulf Veterans

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Tom Watson): A key principle of the Government's approach to addressing the health concerns of veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict is that there should be appropriate research into veterans' illnesses and factors that may have a bearing on these.

As a key part of that research, the Ministry of Defence has sponsored an investigation by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down, into the possible health effects of the combination of vaccines and tablets given to troops at the time of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict to protect them against the threat of biological and chemical warfare. The main body of work involved monitoring multiple factors in marmosets for up to 18 months following the administration of vaccines and/or pyridostigmine bromide (the active ingredient in nerve agent pre-treatment tablets). Interim results were announced on 1 April 2003, official report, column, 55WS.

Papers reporting final results from two elements of the main study have now been published in the online version of the journal "Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior" and hard copy publication will follow. A summary of the papers is available on the "Articles in Press" section of the journal's website: www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00913057. The papers report that there were no long-term changes of biological significance in cognition, muscle function, general health, brain electrical activity and sleep that could be attributed to administration of vaccines and/or pyridostigmine bromide.

The publication of these findings in a peer-reviewed journal should be welcomed by Gulf veterans in addressing a key area of concern to them. It represents a further step towards meeting the Department's commitment to investigate these issues. Further results on the immunological aspects of the study will be published in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Pesticides

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): The Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) has agreed to trial arrangements to publish the detailed record of its meetings.

The ACP will continue to publish a short summary minute of meetings within three weeks of a meeting. This is published on the ACP website and supports a requirement under the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees to publish material suitable for a lay readership.

This will be followed with the publication of the full detailed record two to three months after the meeting. This timescale is necessary to allow the Committee's members to review the draft at their subsequent meeting and for consultation with relevant stakeholders to ensure that any commercially confidential information is not disclosed.

Partners for Water and Sanitation

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): I am pleased to welcome the publication of the fourth annual report from Partners for Water and Sanitation (PAWS) on 28th July. The UK tri-sector partnership is proof this partnership model can produce and deliver tangible, measurable results.

PAWS continues to evolve, providing a solid platform where partners from Government, civil society and business can work together with the people within Africa to develop sustainable solutions in the delivery of water and sanitation services. This report marks a key milestone in the Partners for Water and Sanitation, and outlines the progress made at national and local levels in the four African partner countries—South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda and Ethiopia—including scoping visits and exchange programmes.

It is particularly encouraging to see the partnership is making progress in translating words into actions within its partner countries. I look forward to the continuing progress of the partnership in providing support, building capacity and developing sustainable solutions in partner countries.

Copies of the report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

GM Crops

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): Defra has today published a consultation paper on proposals for managing the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops in England,

should GM crops be grown here commercially in due course. The paper is consistent with the Government's overall policy on GM crops, as set out in the parliamentary statement made on 9 March 2004.

The proposals relate to managing coexistence between farms and focus on the specific measures that would be needed for crops of maize, beet, potato and oilseed rape. It is proposed that the key measures required for an effective co-existence regime will be implemented on a statutory basis, with other, less significant measures to be applied via an industry code of practice.

The Defra paper also seeks views on a number of related issues:

whether special rules should apply for coexistence between GM and organic crops;

options for compensating financial losses that non-GM farmers might face due to the presence of GM material in their crops

whether there should be a public GM crop register

guidance to farmers on voluntary GM-free zones

No commercial GM cultivation is expected in the UK before 2009 at the earliest, but we need to prepare for this possibility in good time, so that farmers are clear what rules would apply.

Copies of the consultation paper will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will also be available on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/crops/index.htm. The deadline for responses to the paper is 20 October 2006.

Crop Spraying

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): My noble Friend the Minister of State Lord Rooker has today published the Government's response to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (RCEP) report "Crop Spraying and the Health of Residents and Bystanders". This response sets out the Government's view on the recommendations made by the Royal Commission and indicates how we intend to address them. I have placed copies of the response in the Library of each House.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Royal Commission for producing this report which was requested by my right hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, South and Penarth (Alun Michael) when Minister for Rural Affairs and Local Environment Quality, to examine the science on which the current pesticide approvals system is based and the reasons for people's concerns about possible adverse health effects from pesticide spraying.

The Government recognise the clearly genuine concerns of some residents and bystanders about the spraying of pesticides, Government can, and will, do more to address these concerns.

I firmly believe that these concerns are best addressed at the local level through dialogue between residents and farmers to identify and understand the issues and to develop mutually agreeable solutions. I also believe that this can be achieved most rapidly through a voluntary approach that allows for innovative and flexible solutions.

Existing voluntary schemes such as Farm Assurance and the Voluntary Initiative have demonstrated how effective non-statutory approaches can be in changing behaviour. I want to see schemes such as these playing a crucial role in ensuring that both farmers and the public can have a greater mutual understanding of the problems they each face. These schemes have the potential to provide farmers both with the practical support and the incentive to be good neighbours in this regard and I will be discussing with these organisations and others how this might be achieved.

I believe that the proposals set out in the Government's response, a number of which are already underway, can achieve the majority of outcomes envisaged by the Royal Commission without the need for additional burdensome regulation on the agricultural sector.

The Government have also noted the concern of both the Royal Commission and some members of the public with how the risks to residents and bystanders are considered in the approvals process. To address this concern I have requested a complete review of the model used to assess resident and bystander exposure as part of the pesticide approvals process.

The current approvals process is adequate with clear safety margins built in. However, I recognise that it needs to be more clearly demonstrated to the public that approvals are based on high quality underpinning science. To address this the revised exposure model will give more explicit consideration to a wider range of possible exposure routes and will reflect modern farming practices. The research to develop this model has already begun. A former member of the Royal Commission was one of the peer reviewers for the proposal before it was approved and Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser will ensure the development of the model meets acceptable scientific standards.

The UK is also taking a primary role on this issue in Europe, taking the lead in revising the guidance on acceptable exposure limits, including the assessment of resident and bystander exposure, for the European Commission.

The Government have considered the findings of the report very thoroughly alongside additional independent scientific advice. The Department of Health has sought the views of the Committees on Toxicity and on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment on the report's health recommendations and Defra has additionally considered advice from the Chief Scientific Adviser and the Advisory Committee on Pesticides on the wider recommendations of the report. In addition to this scientific advice we have also considered the views of interested parties from all sides of the debate.

The scientific advice we have received is clear that there is insufficient evidence to support the Royal Commission's recommendations for additional regulatory measures on safety grounds. Introducing regulations for other reasons such as perceived nuisance from spraying would be incompatible with the Government's Better Regulation policy. We have therefore decided against introducing any new regulations at this time.

Animal Products (Import Controls)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products for the financial year 2005-06, as required under the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002), will be laid before Parliament tomorrow.

Copies of the Review will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Defra personal food imports website www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/illegali

Hard copies will be available on request.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Sir John Grant (UK permanent representative to the EU) represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels on 17 July.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs

Presentation of Presidency Priorities

The Council took note of the presidency priorities which included the Middle East, Enlargement, Energy, Central Asia, Human Rights and Relations with Russia.

Migration

The Council adopted conclusions: welcoming the outcome of the Euro-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in Rabat on 10-11 July; expressing its concern about the increasing illegal migratory flows in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic; and underlining the need to address the situation, including further work on East African routes.

External Relations

World Trade Organisation/Doha Development Agenda (WTO/DDA).

Commissioner Mandelson briefed the Council on developments in the current round of trade negotiations.

Procedural conclusions were adopted allowing the Council to meet in special session in July or August if a WTO Ministerial were called.

Sudan/Darfur

High representative Solana stressed the need for the international community to continue support for the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) until UN transition, as well as putting pressure on the Sudanese Government to accept the UN mission. The high representative hoped that a high level-conference in Brussels on 18 July would make progress on both these issues.

The Council adopted conclusions: reiterating EU support for the Darfur Peace Agreement; emphasising the importance of an effective AMIS; and urging the Sudanese Government to agree to UN transition.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Council discussed the forthcoming elections in DRC on 30 July. External Relations Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner said that the EU's election observation mission in DRC, working with other international delegations and with MONUC (UN mission in DRC) and EUFOR (EU force in DRC) on security issues, should help ensure a smooth election process.

The Council agreed conclusions urging the Congolese to seize the opportunity offered by the elections and the authorities to fully comply with democratic principles and noting the ongoing deployment of the EUFOR and the EU election observation mission.

Western Balkans

The Council was briefed by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari on the state of play of the Kosovo status process. The EU would have a key role to play in Kosovo post-settlement.

The Council adopted conclusions on Kosovo reiterating its full support for Ahtisaari and his efforts in conducting the political process to determine Kosovo's fixture status and welcoming the joint report by High Representative Solana and the Commissioner for Enlargement Rehn on the future EU role and contribution in Kosovo.

Conclusions on Macedonia welcomed the organisation for security and co-operation in Europe's preliminary assessment that overall parliamentary elections on 5 July met international standards, despite some isolated incidents.

The Council also adopted conclusions recognising Montenegro as a sovereign state and highlighting the importance of regional cooperation in the framework of the stabilisation and association process.

An Extended Troika (the presidency, incoming presidency, enlargement Commissioner Rehn and high representative Solana) met Serbian Prime Minister Kostunica after the GAERC on 17 July to discuss Serbia's co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the action plan that Serbia had drawn up on how to deliver on its ICTY commitments.

The presidency stressed that Serbia must begin to implement the action plan immediately with full cooperation with ICTY being a condition for restarting Stabilisation and Association Agreement negotiations.

Middle East Peace Process

High Representative Solana briefed the Council on his trip to Lebanon on 16 July.

The Council adopted conclusions: expressing concern at the situation in the Middle East, particularly the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the destruction of civilian infrastructure; supporting the idea of a possible international monitoring presence in Lebanon; and calling for international engagement, especially through High Representative Solana, to de-escalate the crisis.

Iran

High representative Solana briefed the Council on his 11 July meeting with Iranian chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani.

The Council adopted conclusions covering the nuclear file, Iran's approach to the Middle East Peace Process, terrorism and human rights.

Wilton Park

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): Wilton Park is an academically independent Executive Agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Its annual report and accounts for 2005-06 are laid before Parliament today.

Wilton Park celebrates its 60th Anniversary in 2006. It continues to achieve high ratings from participants on the value of Wilton Park conferences. Building on last year's successes, nine overseas conferences are planned for 2006. There has been an increase in the number of participants from certain key areas including international organisations and business.

Wilton Park's performance against agreed targets for 2005-06 is shown below.

	05-06 Target	*05-06 Performance*
Total income	£4.2m	£3.9m
Excellent rating for programmes	54.5%	55.5%
Excellent rating for administration	84%	87%

HEALTH

Patient Power Review

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): As recommended by Ofcom in their report[1] of January 2006, the Department set up a Patient Power Review Group (PPRG) in February 2006 to explore which communication services could be offered to hospital patients without charging as high a price for incoming calls.

The Patient Power Review Group has been considering:

All aspects of the charging structure;

the requirement to install, with limited clinical exceptions, units at every bedside within a hospital site, irrespective of use;

the requirement to offer services through a combined unit, offering television and telephone and capable of offering added value services; and

the need to clarify guidance on use of mobile phones in hospitals.

Further work is needed to provide a considered response to the recommendations made in the Health Select Committee's report on NHS Charges published on 18 July.

A final report will be published by December 2006.

Note

[1]Ofcom own-initiative investigation into the price of making telephone calls to hospital patients.

Allergy Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): We have today published the report of the Department of Health review of services for allergy, which the Government undertook to carry out in its response (Cm 6433, January 2005) to the Health Committee report on the provision of allergy services (November 2004). The report has been placed in the Library and it is available on the Department of Health website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4137365&a mp;chk=/Z3Wtj

HOME DEPARTMENT

Parental Compensation Order

The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety (Mr. Tony McNulty): The Parental Compensation Order (PCO) is provided for by sections 13A to 13E of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ("CDA 1998) which were inserted by section 144 of and Schedule 10 to the Serious and Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

The PCO powers will be commenced initially in 10 local authority areas (Gateshead, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire, Wandsworth, Southwark, Leicester, South Tyneside and York). The use, impact and cost of the PCO will be evaluated as part of the wider use of early intervention.

Attempts to secure voluntary reparation should always be made. The PCO should be used only where that approach fails and when its use would be desirable in the interests of preventing a repetition of the behaviour in question. However, we hope that the existence of the PCO will encourage reparation and wider behavioural change on a voluntary basis.

By requiring the parent(s) or guardian(s) to pay compensation, the PCO is designed to provide compensation to those affected and to prevent further behaviour by the child of the type which caused the order to be made. The PCO will therefore encourage parents and their children to understand their responsibilities and to take responsibility for behaviour.

A PCO is designed to be used as part of a wider strategy to increase the parents' skills and improve their child's behaviour, to address risk factors and underlying problems experienced by the child and family, to steer the child away from involvement in anti-social or offending-type behaviour, to keep the child safe and to encourage positive outcomes.

A Magistrates' Court may make a PCO on application from a local authority when it is satisfied that the child (who must be under 10) has taken, or caused loss of or damage to property in the course of:

committing an act which, if he had been aged 10 or over, would have constituted an offence; or

acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as himself; and that it would be desirable to make the order in the interests of preventing a repetition of the behaviour in question.

Before making an order the court must consider:

the views of the person affected by the damage, loss etc about whether an order should be made in his favour; and

the child's family circumstances and the likely effect of the order on those circumstances.

It follows that local authority practitioners should form a view about the suitability of a PCO following assessment of the child, parents and family circumstances and in light of experience of trying to resolve the dispute on a voluntary basis. The PCO would be a viable option only with the support of the person affected by the damage, loss etc.

The effect of a PCO is to require the parent(s)/ guardian(s) of the child to pay compensation to the person affected. Compensation is limited to £5,000. In deciding the level of compensation the court must take into account:

the value of the damage etc caused to property by the child;

any further loss which flowed from the taking of or damage to the property, or from its loss;

whether the child or parent has already paid any compensation and if so how much;

whether the child or parents have made any reparation and if so what it consisted of;

the means of the parents; and

any lack of care on the part of the person(s) affected by the taking of the property or its loss or damage.

The court is responsible for enforcement of the order and has the same enforcement powers as it does for fines.

The court can make a parenting order when making a PCO provided this would be desirable in the interests of preventing a repetition of the kind of behaviour which led to the PCO being made.

Guidance on the PCO is being completed with DfES following limited consultation with key stakeholders including the Welsh Assembly Government. Feedback from practitioners will help inform the improvement of the guidance. It is intended that there will be a wider consultation exercise on the guidance before implementation of the PCO across England and Wales.

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (John Reid): We have today published the Home Office's 2006 departmental report. Copies are available in the House Library and on the Home Office website. The report describes the work of the Home Office during 2005-06, in particular as reflected in its strategic objectives and key targets as delivered by our three key business areas: policing, security and community safety; offender management and criminal justice reform; and immigration citizenship and nationality.

Identity Cards

The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): Section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 requires a report to be laid before Parliament every six months, following Royal Assent, setting out the Secretary of State's estimate of the public expenditure likely to be incurred on the ID cards scheme during the 10 years beginning with the laying of the report. The first six-monthly report on the costs of the identity card scheme is due on 30 September but, because of the dates of recess, it will be laid before Parliament on their return on 9 October 2006.

National Identity Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): Feedback from industry on the procurement strategy for the national identity scheme has reinforced the importance of avoiding a big bang implementation and supports the incremental approach to the scheme. The Home Office report on the feedback will be published in August. Intellect, the trade association for the UK hi-tech industry has also produced a report on the procurement strategy as part of its concept viability process. Copies of both reports will be placed in the Libraries of the House on publication and the documents will also be made available via the Identity and Passport Service website www.ips.gov.uk

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

State Opening

The Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Jack Straw): Her Majesty the Queen will open the new session of this Parliament on Wednesday 15 November. I plan to announce the date of prorogation as soon as I am able.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Liquor Licensing

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson): This statement sets out my plans to reform liquor licensing law in Northern Ireland. The last review of the law governing liquor licensing and registered clubs took place some 10 years ago. Since then the social and economic climate in Northern Ireland has changed and improved immensely. The peace dividend has altered the shape of the tourism and hospitality sectors and of town and city centres. There is great potential for further growth, and liquor licensing law must keep pace with these developments and with modern expectations.

Coupled with that is the need for a more transparent, accountable and better regulated framework for the licensed trade. There are clear anomalies in the current licensing system and a requirement for greater enforcement powers for the Police Service of Northern Ireland to deal with breaches of licensing law.

The consultation on proposed changes to the existing legislation was launched in November 2005. Since then I have had a number of discussions with political representatives and other interested parties. There has been support from both local political parties and the licensed trade for many of my proposals. Concerns have been expressed by politicians and parts of the licensed trade regarding two of the proposed changes. These are the transfer of responsibility for liquor licensing from courts to district councils and the abolition of the 'surrender' principle. I welcome the views that have been put and now confirm that my plans for the reform of the law on liquor licensing and registered clubs in Northern Ireland are as follows:

The introduction of six new objectives to underpin licensing policy, legislation and regulation. These are—Promotion of public health; Promotion of public safety; Prevention of crime and disorder; Prevention of public nuisance; Protection of children from harm; Fair treatment of all stakeholders.

New, more effective enforcement measures, including immediate temporary closure powers for the police, a penalty points system for licensees who break the law and new council liquor licensing officers.

Moving responsibility for granting and renewing licences and certificates of registration from courts to district councils, leading to a more accountable, transparent system.

Replacing the current twelve categories of licences in favour of a dual system of personal and premises licences.

Abolishing the provision which requires an existing licence for a pub or off-licence to be "surrendered" to a court before a new one may be granted. This will be subject to an assessment of the business impact of my proposal which will help decide how this is addressed in the second stage of reforms. I hope it will be the Northern Ireland Assembly that will consider these matters.

A voluntary proof-of-age scheme and more flexibility to allow under-18s in certified licensed premises and registered clubs when accompanied by responsible adults.

A modest extension of current opening hours for licensed premises and registered clubs, creating scope for opening up to 2.00am Monday to Saturday. Sunday opening hours will remain unchanged as will opening hours for off-licences.

Revoking the financial controls and accounts formats for registered clubs, prescribed in the Registration of Clubs (Accounts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, in favour of best practice guidance.

The proposals will give police the powers they need to crack down on irresponsible drinkers and rogue traders and make the licensing system more transparent and accountable, giving communities more information and a louder voice in decision-making.

Allowing licensed premises and registered clubs to apply to the courts to extend their opening hours up to 2.00am is the result of careful consideration of the changes in people's social habits and the opportunities available for developing the night time economy. I have listened very carefully to the arguments made by the licensed trade, the police, health interests and others, and balanced the economic and social advantages of extending opening hours with the public interest and public safety. Accordingly, I have decided that opening to 2.00am will be available to those licensed premises entitled under existing law to apply for later opening but not to off-licensed premises.

Transferring responsibility for granting liquor licences and club certificates from a court-based system to district councils will create a more accountable system where pubs, off-licences, registered clubs and other licensees will have to explain in detail how their businesses will support the six licensing objectives. There have been concerns expressed about the ability of councils to administer a new liquor licensing system. However, councils already operate a number of regulatory systems including entertainments licensing and street trading, and their range of responsibilities will be greatly enhanced under the Review of Public Administration. The capacity of new councils to undertake these new responsibilities is an issue that is being addressed in the period leading up to the full implementation of the Review of Public Administration. I wish to reassure those concerned that responsibility for liquor licensing will only move to councils once they have built the capacity to administer the new system.

The new system will operate under clear guidelines that will be issued to councils. They will be required to produce a statement of licensing policy that clearly articulates how they plan to control liquor licensing in line with the six licensing objectives. There will be further safeguards. Before councils reach a decision they will have to seek the views of responsible authorities and interested parties such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland, local residents and local businesses. All applications for a licence will be open to objection and a licence may be reviewed, revoked or suspended at any time if there is cause for concern. Those seeking a premises licence will be required to produce an operating plan setting out the nature of the business for approval by councils, and the need for any new licence will have to be clearly demonstrated.

I am replacing the current twelve categories of licence with a dual system of personal and premises licences. This will result in a more robust licensing regime. Personal licences are being introduced for the first time to ensure that those managing licensed premises have accredited qualifications and demonstrate clean backgrounds. This will improve operating standards across the licensed trade and protect against infiltration by those involved in organised crime.

The surrender provision has created anomalies in the licensed trade. At present only pubs and off-licences are required to surrender a licence before being granted a new one. This has capped the overall number of such premises in Northern Ireland, but it has not prevented the growth of alcohol sales in other premises such as large hotels, nor the clustering of pubs and off-licences in particular areas. It is also an artificial barrier to entry to the market and its abolition will create a more equitable commercial environment.

I have listened to the views of local politicians and parts of the licensed trade about the implications of the abolition of surrender. In response to their concerns, I will commission an assessment of the business impact of abolition before making any further decision on the way forward.

I intend to implement some of the proposals as soon as possible. Those relating to enforcement, opening hours, children and registered clubs' accounts should come into effect by Christmas 2007, and draft legislation will be consulted on in autumn 2006.

With regard to the move to councils, I intend to defer the consideration of this aspect of the legislation, along with some of the other proposals that depend on the new system being operational, to a second, later legislative vehicle. The Review of Public Administration is due for completion in 2009 and the target date for making legislation to transfer responsibility for licensing from courts to district councils and for the introduction of new licensing objectives will be linked to this. This tranche of legislation will also see the abolition of the existing categories of licence and, subject to an impact assessment, the surrender provision. The final decisions on this will hopefully be taken by a devolved Assembly, should it be successfully restored.

I believe this is a balanced package of measures that weighs up the rights, needs and demands of the various interested parties. They will bring licensing law in Northern Ireland up to date, both to deal more effectively with the alcohol-related problems we currently face and to meet modern day expectations. They will result in a more democratic approach that allows local people to have greater influence in how and where the licensed trade operates. They will promote a safe, welcoming environment in town and city centres where the evening and night-time economy can flourish and will encourage investment, variety and high standards of service in the hospitality, tourism and entertainment sectors.

Review of Public Administration

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson): I wish to make a statement on progress on the Review of Public Administration (RPA). Implementation of decisions on the review follows statements to this House on 22 November 2005 and 21 March 2006. The outcome of the RPA represents the most comprehensive reform of public administration and services in Northern Ireland in over 30 years.

Implementation of these decisions, which involve radical restructuring of health and social services, education and local government, is now proceeding across a wide range of organisations and services. Robust programme and project management arrangements are in place to deliver implementation. These include a local government taskforce which is making a vital contribution to our new vision for local government. A steering group which is representative of the various sectors is led by the head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and formal arrangements are also in place to consult with trade unions as the implementation programme proceeds.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has tasked me with overseeing implementation of these reforms.

On 8 March 2006, this House was informed of the establishment of a Public Service Commission to safeguard the interests of staff affected by decisions on the review and ensure a smooth transition for them to new organisations.

Restructuring of Education and Health and Social Services is to be complete by April 2008. This is to include the establishment of new regional Authorities in each sector and early progress is being achieved towards this with the appointment of a Chief Executive (Designate) of the Health and Social Services Authority. A new Library Authority will also be created by this date. Transformation of health and social services is already well under way. Some 18 Health and Social Services Trusts are to be reduced to five larger trusts by 1 April 2007. Legislation for these is already in place and they will operate in shadow form from 1 August 2006. The chairs of these trusts have been appointed and a competition to appoint the chief executives has just been completed. We intend to appoint a Chief Executive (Designate) of the Education and Skills Authority in the autumn.

Seven pieces of primary legislation are required to implement RPA decisions. One of these is already in operation enabling the appointment of a Local Government Boundaries Commissioner on 1 June 2006 and setting out the procedures to be adopted by the Commissioner in drawing the boundaries of the proposed seven new district council areas. Three of the remaining six pieces of legislation will deal with health and social services, education and local government restructuring. The others will deal respectively with libraries, transfers of functions from central to local government and residual issues in relation to public bodies, including the removal of nomination rights to the boards of such bodies.

I shall keep this House informed of progress as preparation of these legislation proposals to implement this major restructuring programme continues.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

EU Structural Funds

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): On 28 February 2006, the Department of Trade and Industry published a consultation document on a draft National Strategic Reference Framework for future ED Structural Funds programmes.

The consultation document invited stakeholders to comment on three main issues: the methodology for allocating future competitiveness funding between the UK's regions; the administrative arrangements for delivering future programmes; and the strategy for future spending set out in the draft National Framework.

The Department of Trade and Industry is currently analysing the 320 responses to the consultation, received from stakeholders across the UK. The Government intend to publish a full response to the consultation as soon as possible after the summer recess.

Government Assets

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Chancellor stated in his Budget 2006 announcement that the Government would be prepared to consider selling part of their stake in British Energy. I confirm that the Government will actively consider a sale of part of their stake in British Energy via a capital markets transaction.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Informal Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Innovation (Lord Sainsbury of Turville) has made the following ministerial statement.

"I attended the informal meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 10-11 July, hosted by the Finnish Presidency in Jyvaskyla. The meeting focused on innovation policy, with discussion of the Seventh Framework Programme for research and development over lunch on the first day.

On the morning of 10 July, a number of speakers gave presentations on their views of the challenges for European Innovation policy. Presentations were given by:

Jorma Ollila—Chairman of the Board of Nokia;

Michael Worley—President of the GEEF, a group representing family-run businesses in Europe;

Juliana Garaizar—Managing Director of IFEX;

Gordon Murray—Professor at the School of Business and Economics, University of Exeter; and

Esko Aho—former Finnish Prime Minister and President of the Finnish National Fund for Research and Development.

Commissioners McCreevy and Verheugen both welcomed the Presidency's focus on innovation policy, and stressed the importance of better regulation, an effective intellectual property regime, public procurement, research and development, structural funds, cluster policy, dialogue with industry, and modern financing instruments in promoting innovation.

Over lunch, Commissioner Potocnic updated Ministers on the current state of play of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development. An additional Competitiveness Council has been called on 24 July, at which it is hoped that political agreement on a common position can be reached.

In the afternoon, Ministers split into breakout groups to discuss a number of questions about innovation policy posed by the Finnish Presidency. I chaired one of the groups. We reported back on our discussions in a plenary session on Tuesday morning.

All Ministers supported the Presidency's paper on a broad based innovation strategy and its focus on demand-side policies. I emphasised the need for development of the intellectual property and state aid regimes, outcome-focused regulation, innovation-oriented public services and public procurement, and support for research and entrepreneurship. There was scope for EL) action in some areas, but member states must take the lead in others, with the ED ensuring that it did not discourage national or private initiatives.

The Commission welcomed member states' comments and the Presidency's work, and confirmed their intention to produce a communication on innovation policy in September, in advance of the informal summit in Lahti in October".

Insolvency Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): The Insolvency Service plans to deal with some 72,000 new insolvencies in the year to 31 March 2007 including a significant increase in personal bankruptcies. Its planning assumption for the level of redundancy payments and other, insolvency-related claims is 95,000.

In support of the policy that bankrupts who can make a contribution for the benefit of their creditors should do so, official receivers have been asked to ensure that, as last year, at least 17 per cent. of bankrupts agree or are ordered to make such payments. Action will continue to be taken against bankrupts and company directors in respect of financial misconduct or dishonesty and Companies Investigation Branch, part of the Agency from 1 April 2006, will continue to investigate the affairs of companies in the public interest.

The Service's new financial regime, put in place by the Enterprise Act 2002 will be reviewed in this, its third year and it is likely that new targets relating to unit costs and fees will be agreed as a result. The Service is required to balance its case administration costs and income over the three-year period.

I have also set the Insolvency Service the following targets for the year 2006-07:

	Target
Increase the level of user satisfaction index to	90 per cent.
Increase the level of public confidence in the service's enforcement regime to	60 per cent.
Ensure the average time for concluding disqualification proceedings is no longer than	26 months
Complete internal section 447 investigations	
within 90 days of commencement	60 per cent.
within 180 days of commencement	90 per cent.
Reduce the unit cost of redundancy payment processing by 31 March 2007 from the 2005-06 baseline	3 per cent.
and	
Process redundancy payment claims for payment within	
3 Weeks	78 per cent.
6 weeks	92 per cent.

In addition to these targets the service is required to meet centrally promulgated targets relating to replying from correspondence from hon. Members, making payment to suppliers and reducing sickness absence levels.

UK Trade and Investment

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) launched today its new five-year strategy entitled "Prosperity in a Changing World". This strategy sets out how UKTI will respond to the enhanced role envisaged in the Budget.

The new strategy describes how UKTI will take the lead to maximise the UK's ability to attract foreign

direct investment, win market share in the new high growth economies, and help business internationalise in a globalised world. It will lead Government efforts to:

Market the UK overseas as a key business partner and as the preferred location for inward investment;

boost UK trade with, and secure investment from, emerging economies such as China and India;

promote the UK's financial services sector and the City of London as the world's leading international financial centre;

lobby overseas on regulatory issues and barriers to trade and investment;

target innovative R&D-intensive companies both for inward investment and as potential exporters.

It outlines plans for UKTI to reform itself to become a more streamlined, entrepreneurial organisation, focusing on the ever-changing needs of its clients. UKTI will spearhead a more professional approach to marketing the strengths of the UK economy. It will allocate resources to frontline services where they can be most effective in adding value to the UK economy.

I am arranging for copies of the UKTI 5-year strategy to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Partnerships Law Reform

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): The Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission published a report on partnership law reform in November 2003 (Law Com No 283; Scot Law Com No 192). It included recommendations in respect of general partnership law and limited partnership law, together with a draft Bill designed to replace both the Partnership Act 1890 and the Limited Partnerships Act 1907. I am very grateful for the Law Commissions' detailed and thorough work.

The DTI followed this with a consultation document on the economic impact of reform of partnership law. Respondents to the consultation were divided on the economic benefits of the proposed reforms to the business community. A summary of responses is being published on the DTI website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/bbf/corp-governance/partnership/page25911.html.

Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government have carefully considered the report from the Law Commissions and the consultation responses and intend to bring forward proposals for the reform of limited partnership law based on the Law Commissions' recommendations. The recommendations for limited partnership reform have been widely supported and there is a strong economic case for taking them forward. The reforms are not dependent on the proposed reforms for general partnership law which the Government have decided not to take forward at this time.

The Government aim to take forward the reforms to limited partnership law by means of a Regulatory Reform Order when Parliamentary time allows, and to publish a consultation document containing draft clauses shortly.

Civil Plutonium and Uranium Stocks

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): The Department will be placing the figures for the United Kingdom's stocks of civil plutonium and uranium as at 31 December 2005 in the Libraries of both Houses. In accordance with our commitment under the 'Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium', we have also sent the figures to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who will circulate them to member states. The figures will be available on the Department's and the IAEA's websites.

The figures show that stocks of unirradiated plutonium in the UK totalled 104.9 tonnes at the end of 2005. Changes from the corresponding figures for 2004 are a consequence of continuing reprocessing operations (that is, as reflected in the increased quantity of 'unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants'). HEU stocks decreased mainly as a result of down-blending. The increase in the civil depleted, natural and low enriched uranium figures reflects the increased stocks at the UK enrichment plant.

TRANSPORT

General Aviation Strategic and Regulatory Reviews

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has today published the recommendations of its two reviews in the General Aviation sector. Ministers are grateful to the CAA for taking the initiative to review General Aviation and to the teams involved for their contribution to the process. We believe these are the first reviews of their kind in the EU and will improve understanding of the General Aviation sector and its value to the UK economy. It is, however, only the beginning. It is now for Government, the CAA and General Aviation to continue to work together and build upon the recommendations in these reports.

The reviews clearly demonstrate that General Aviation is an important and integral part of the UK aviation sector and that it makes a not insignificant contribution to the UK economy, both in terms of direct economic value (approx. £1.4 billion per annum) and numbers employed (approx. 11,600). As a direct result of the reviews, the Department for Transport has made a commitment to participate in a new General Aviation Strategic Forum with CAA and General Aviation representatives, which will meet quarterly to discuss strategic issues facing the sector.

Additionally, the Department has also established a focal point for General Aviation matters with in its Aviation Airspace Division. We will consider the other recommendations in due course. Copies of the full reports are available on the CAA's website and have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Highways Agency

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): The Highways Agency annual report and accounts for 2005-06 is published today under section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. Copies of the report will be placed in the House Library and will be available from the Vote Office.

M6

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): On the 19 July last year I announced that I had asked the Highways Agency to carry out a detailed review to allow an informed decision to be taken on the case for building a new tolled Expressway to run parallel with the M6 between Birmingham and Manchester as an alternative to widening the existing M6 by one lane in each direction. This followed a consultation exercise undertaken in 2004 on the broad concept of an Expressway.

The Government had accepted the need for more road capacity in this corridor, as shown by the Midlands to Manchester multi-modal study (Midman), which reported in July 2002. The issue was how best that capacity could be provided. Given the high level of investment involved whatever option would be taken forward, it was clearly important that we properly considered the potential for the extra benefits that might be achievable from an Expressway.

The 2004 consultation document "M6: giving motorists a choice" suggested that the Expressway might be delivered more quickly than the widening, by avoiding the need to build new structures such as bridges, and avoiding substantial disruption to traffic during construction. The evidence from the detailed development work undertaken by the Highways Agency has not borne this out.

The Highways Agency's modelling suggests that an Expressway would have a significant impact on both the levels and the mix of traffic using the Expressway and the M6. In particular, it is likely that the proportion of heavy freight traffic on the M6—which is already relatively high—would increase further, requiring additional infrastructure works at junctions to provide safely for traffic joining and leaving the road. This, together with providing for the appropriate range of access options at each junction between the Expressway and the existing M6, would require the demolition of many existing structures and reconstruction of 20 per cent. of the existing carriageway. The Expressway would also have a much larger land take, requiring some 50 per cent. more land than the widening. The Expressway and associated works would cause more disruption to existing traffic and would cost some 15 per cent. more than widening.

Although on-line widening would necessarily involve some disruption to M6 traffic during construction, the phasing of works could mean additional capacity being provided sooner than an entirely new road, with efforts focused on the most heavily trafficked sections first.

The Highways Agency has held a series of seminars and meetings with stakeholders, to set out indicative plans for both options, and take feedback. On the basis of these more clearly defined propositions, few stakeholders regarded the Expressway as an attractive alternative to widening.

In the light of the further development work and stakeholder consultation, we have therefore decided not to pursue the Expressway alternative any further.

The Highways Agency has continued to progress the widening option and will now focus solely on that. This work will include examining the demand management measures needed to ensure that the benefits of additional capacity are locked-in.

A more detailed report on the options review has been placed in the Library of the House.

Airport Policing

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): In his statement on 21 November, the then Secretary of State for Transport announced the Government's intention to commission an independent, wide-ranging review of policing at airports. He subsequently appointed Stephen Boys Smith, a former senior civil servant, to lead the review.

The review was tasked with identifying a sustainable approach to the policing of airports which takes account of the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and, in particular, addresses the need for funding arrangements that are objective and transparent.

The review was about airport policing not airport security, which had already been considered by Sir John Wheeler's review in 2002. Wheeler recognised that the "designation" of airports for policing purposes was an issue and saw the implementation of a Multi-Agency Threat and Risk Assessment (MATRA) process as fundamental in modernising that process. MATRA is in place at over 40 UK airports and the present review has considered whether the process of designation should now be replaced, given the changes implemented following the Wheeler review.

The review report has now been submitted to both my Department and the Home Office. We welcome its broad thrust and will be working closely with key stakeholders to consider the recommendations in detail.

The review has identified areas where we can build on the good work already being done by all stakeholders at our airports. It makes recommendations in a number of areas:

It endorses the principle of joint accountability for airport security and the concept of airports as "communities" where stakeholders must work together in full partnership to protect against a range of threats.

It recommends continued and enhanced liaison between key stakeholders, including Government Departments, the Police Service and airport operators at both national and local level to maintain a consistent understanding of and response to threats and risks.

It endorses the current Multi-Agency Threat and Risk Assessment (MATRA) approach already in place at UK airports and recommends that it is strengthened further.

It recommends the system of "designation" is discontinued and that policing costs should generally be met by the industry on the basis that policing forms part of an agreed airport "community" response, that costs are clear and transparent, and that policing at airports is brought within the mainstream policing agenda.

Although this review has not focused on aviation security measures it is concerned with a key element in the wider protection of our airports against a range of threats including from terrorism and serious and organised crime. Given these considerations, it is naturally not a report for public circulation. I intend to make a further statement in due course.

British Transport Police

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): On 11 October 2005 my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh South-West, (Mr. Darling), announced his decision to review the role of the British Transport Police (BTP). The review, which has been carried out in consultation with interested parties including rail operators, passenger representative groups, the BTP, the BTP Authority and other policing organisations, has now concluded.

The review has examined a range of options in relation to the future policing of the railways, including transferring the function to local police forces and various options for expanding or re-focusing the role of the BTP. It has also considered the relationship between the work carried out by the BTP and the requirements of the rail industry.

I have concluded that there remains a strong case for retaining a national specialist police force for the railways. The BTP plays an important role in combating crime and helping to deter potential terrorist activity on the rail network. The review has confirmed the effectiveness of the force in its key role and, in particular, that its specialist knowledge of the operation of the railway is an important asset. I have therefore decided not to make any structural changes to the way in which the policing of the railways is carried out.

However, the review has identified a need for greater clarity in detailed aspects of BTP's operation in relation to its responsibilities to the rail industry, the rail industry's own duties and the role of local police forces.

I therefore propose to write to the chairman of the BTP authority and the chief constable of the BTP asking them to ensure that the force's resources are focused on areas where the BTP can provide maximum added value to the fight against crime on the railway. I will be asking them to establish how the role and responsibilities of the BTP relative to those of other forces can be clarified and, where necessary, revised and incorporated into current protocols between BTP and local forces.

I will also be asking them to develop a more structured partnership approach between the force and the rail industry focused on agreed needs and priorities. This will require all stakeholders to interact more effectively at all levels, in particular at the local level to ensure that local issues and concerns are addressed. Bespoke neighbourhood policing for the railway community and enhanced communication between the train companies and the BTP will help ensure that the policing service is tailored more effectively to meet local needs.

I have also decided to increase the membership of the British Transport Police Authority to enhance scrutiny of the force's resource requirements and to strengthen the industry's input to the authority's management and oversight of the efficiency and effectiveness of the force. I will be appointing two additional industry members.

The review has also considered the arrangements for funding the BTP. I have concluded that the BTP should remain largely funded by the rail industry. The Government will continue to consider providing additional central funding for specific projects and initiatives undertaken by the BTP which provide benefits beyond the railway environment.

West Midlands Planning Assessment for the Railways

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Derek Twigg): Today the Department for Transport has published the West Midlands Regional Planning Assessment for the railway (RPA), the third in a series of 11 RPAs covering England and Wales. The West Midlands RPA covers the whole of the West Midlands Region.

RPAs are the key link between regional spatial planning (including preparation of regional transport strategies) and planning for the railway by both Government and the rail industry and are designed to inform the development of the Government's strategy for the railway. They look at the challenges and options for development of the railway in each region over the next twenty years, in the wider context of forecast change in population, the economy and travel behaviour. An RPA does not commit the Government to specific proposals. Instead it sets out the Government's current thinking on how the railway might best be developed to allow wider planning objectives for a region to be met, and identifies the priorities for further development work.

The area covered by the West Midlands RPA has a population of just over 5.3 million of which 2.5 million live in the West Midlands conurbation centred on Birmingham. While population levels are not expected to grow significantly, structural changes in the type of employment available and greater prosperity are expected to lead to more trips being made. Growth in rail passenger journeys is forecast for the region and it is expected that there will be particular growth in longer distance journeys, especially to London, and commuting to central Birmingham.

Planning for railways in the West Midlands needs to take into account a changing economic and social context set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy. I am particularly grateful for the contribution made to the development of the RPA by the Regional Assembly, Advantage West Midlands, local authorities and others.

The RPA clarifies the role of the railway in the region, its contribution to the economy and its place in the overall transport system, setting out where greater

rail capability and capacity will be needed over the next twenty years, and the options for responding to that need. The focus of the RPA is making better use of the existing network but it also draws attention to the need to improve access to stations, including interchanges, and the expected need to increase train capacity to meet forecast growth in demand.

Copies of the document have been placed in the House Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): I am pleased to announce publication of the annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2005-06 and the Social Fund Commissioner's annual report.

The Secretary of State's annual report on the social fund for 2005-06 (Cm 6856) was published today and has been laid before Parliament. Copies are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

The report records that total gross expenditure in 2005-06, excluding winter fuel payments, was £917 million. This included more than 275,000 non-repayable grants and more than 2.2 million interest free loans together worth over £742 million, and funeral and cold weather payments totalling more than £53 million. In addition around 238,000 Sure Start maternity grants worth over £120 million were made, and over eight million households benefited from a winter fuel payment at a cost of around £1.99 billion.

The report also confirms that reforms to the social fund loan scheme were introduced from April 2006, with extra net funding of £210 million over the next three years to support the changes.

The social fund commissioner's report has also been published today and copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Claims Handling (Mesothelioma)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): On 16 May I announced that my Department and the Association of British Insurers (ABI), the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), and the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) had agreed to work together to identify urgently ways in which we can speed the settlement of claims for those suffering from mesothelioma. I said that I would report on progress before Parliament rises for the summer recess.

More stakeholders have also been involved in this work, such as the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) and we have also kept other interested parties informed.

Since then, the Government have introduced amendments to the Compensation Bill to reverse the effects of the Law Lords ruling on Barker *v.* Corus. This would have caused delays in resolving claims and made it more difficult for mesothelioma sufferers to recover full compensation. We are changing the law to make it easier for them to get full compensation as quickly as possible.

These new provisions would also enable certain changes to be made to the financial services compensation scheme, which should considerably speed up payment of claims to mesothelioma victims and produce a fair outcome for insurers.

Today I announce interim measures to speed up current claims handling for mesothelioma sufferers. I am also confirming that we will put in place a long term solution. This work will start now and I will provide a further update on progress in the autumn. We are committed to having a full dialogue and we will invite comments from all interested parties.

Looking forward, we have identified a number of interim measures that can be implemented relatively quickly and will speed up the settlement of claims across the UK:

Our partners are developing a standard claim letter that should be in place by October.

We are drafting a leaflet for those diagnosed with mesothelioma to explain the help available to them and where to find it.

In July, DWP will clarify with claims handlers best practice for ensuring priority for industrial injuries disablement benefits for those with mesothelioma.

Also in July, DWP will work with Revenue and Customs to address tracing employer records more quickly.

To support the code of practice for tracing Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance (ELCI) policies, ABI will introduce a phone enquiries helpline in the autumn and will also issue guidance on how to get the best out of the code.

We will review the code of practice for tracing ELCI policies to ensure that the code is comprehensive and has the confidence of users.

ABI will spread best practice within the wider insurance industry with a claims handling best practice guide.

Partners will consider further public awareness activity to encourage claimants to use qualified, experienced legal practitioners when making a claim.

We will continue to work with our partners to ensure that these short-term outcomes are delivered quickly as we develop options for future change.

Post Office Card Accounts

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Department for Work and Pensions ran a number of small-scale Post Office card account pilots between 13 February and 10 March 2006. The pilots tested various approaches to moving people from having their benefit or pension paid into a Post Office card account to payments into a bank account, and they have provided us with some useful information on how customers react.

We have already shared the key findings with Post Office Ltd. to help them identify customer needs as they develop new savings and banking products which are likely to be more attractive to many of their customers than the current Post Office card account.

Post Office Ltd. plan to start a three month trial next week when it will be writing to 10,000 existing Post Office card account customers to encourage them to open one of its new instant saver accounts.

Among the key findings from the DWP pilots were:

Many customers were not aware that they could use their bank account at the Post Office. This is not just an issue for those receiving a benefit or pension. There are around 20 million people who could access their bank account at a Post Office, but only around 10 per cent. (2 million) per week actually do so. This is a huge untapped market which could bring vital new income into Post Office branches. DWP will work with Post Office Ltd. and support it in its efforts to increase this market;

once customers had moved from the Post Office card account and become used to their new routine, the vast majority (85 per cent.) were happy using a bank account rather than a Post Office card account. Customers like the additional features of bank accounts and the flexibility to get their money when and where they want; and

there are opportunities for Post Office Ltd. to respond positively to customer demand by providing new products which offer more features than the Post Office card account. Customers need to be properly informed of all of their options and the services that the Post Office offers.

We will continue to discuss with Post Office Ltd. and other key stakeholders how the needs of customers can continue to be met after the Post Office card account contract ends in 2010. DWP officials will also be discussing the findings from the pilots and our future payments strategy with customer representative groups and other key stakeholders over the next few months.

Our commitment to allowing people to continue to collect their benefit or pension in cash at the Post Office if they wish remains unchanged. Around 25 different bank accounts can be accessed at Post Office branches now, and we hope there could be more in the future, as well as new Post Office products.

I am placing a report of the pilot findings in the Library of the House.

Benefit Fraud Inspectorate

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (BFI) has today announced its phase 17 programme of work.

The authorities that will be inspected are: Caerphilly county borough council, city of Edinburgh council, Glasgow city council, London borough of Hounslow council, Sheffield city council, south Bedfordshire district council, Staffordshire Moorlands district council, and Watford borough council.

I am pleased to announce that the planned focused inspections of the claims administration in, Braintree district council, London borough of Newham council and Solihull Metropolitan borough council will not go ahead as all three councils have shown significant improvements in their performance.

BFI is an independent unit within the Department for Work and Pensions that inspects and reports directly to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the standard of benefit administration and counter-fraud activity in local authorities and the Department itself.

Agency Reports and Accounts

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I am pleased to announce that the Department for Work and Pensions has today laid the 2005-06 annual reports and accounts for two of its executive agencies: The Pension Service (HC1531) and The Rent Service (HC1289). Copies are available in the Printed Paper Office and the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 24 July 2006

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Commission for Racial Equality (Annual Report 2005)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Ruth Kelly): The Commission for Racial Equality's Annual Report 2005 is published today.

Copies will be available in the House Library. Copies will also be sent to the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales.

Control of Advertisements

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): The Government are consulting on draft regulations to control outdoor advertisements and an accompanying draft circular and a partial regulatory impact assessment.

The draft regulations and circular take forward proposals announced in 2000 and 2002 following earlier consultation.

The new draft regulations will update and improve the current arrangements for controlling outdoor advertisements and make the legislation more responsive to rapidly changing forms of advertising. The draft circular will clarify the legislation and provide guidance to help ensure that the system operates effectively.

The consultation period ends eight weeks from today and we expect to make the regulations and publish the circular by the end of the year.

Copies of the consultation documents are available in the Libraries of both Houses or via the DCLG website at: www.communities.gov.uk/consultations.

The draft circular includes guidance and advice to local planning authorities on dealing with unlawful advertisements alongside motorways and trunk roads. This is part of a package of measures we have adopted to get these unlawful advertisements removed.

I will be writing to the leaders of councils in whose areas these unlawful advertisements are still being displayed seeking their assurance that they will take action to get these advertisements removed.

Local Development Frameworks

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Meg Munn): The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA 2004) which commenced on 28 September 2004 provided for a three-year transitional period in which policies in old style plans could remain in force pending adoption of policies in the new development plan documents (DPDs) and regional spatial strategies (RSS). The policies in the old style plans in place at commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 are saved until the end of the three-year transitional period, which ends on 27 September 2007. However, policies in plans that are adopted or approved after commencement of the PCPA 2004 will be saved for three years from adoption or approval date. If policies in old style plans are not extended after the three-year saved period and policies in DPDs and RSSs have not replaced them, there will be a risk of a policy gap for local planning authorities and regional planning bodies in carrying out their planning functions. My officials will be writing to all local planning authorities and regional planning bodies shortly to inform them about the procedures that they will be required to follow when making applications for extension of old style policies and the type of polices that are likely to be given favourable consideration.

The assessment of the case for saving old style policies will be based on the criteria set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12 which are:

where appropriate, there is a clear central strategy;

the policies have regard to the Community Strategy for the area;

the policies are in general conformity with the regional spatial strategy or spatial development strategy;

the policies are in conformity with the core strategy development plan document (where the core strategy has been adopted);

there are effective policies for any parts of the authority's area where

significant change in the use or development of land or conservation of the area is envisaged; and

the policies are necessary and do not merely repeat national or regional policy.

These policies will include policies that would help deliver Government objectives, such as green belt boundaries, unimplemented waste and minerals site allocations, housing site allocations, established settlement boundaries (pending review through DPDs), policies that support the delivery of housing; regeneration policies and policies that will enhance economic development.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): In our December response to the Kate Barker review of housing supply we committed to reform the planning delivery grant to support local housing delivery and conduct a wider consultation on local planning and housing incentives. Today we launch the consultation on a proposal for a new housing and planning delivery grant and the criteria for allocations for the final year of the current planning delivery grant. The consultation will run until 17 October 2006.

The Government's aim is to encourage local authorities to respond more effectively to local housing demand. Over 200,000 new households are formed

each year but last year just under 170,000 additional homes were built, with upward pressure on house prices as result. The Government believe that local authorities do not have sufficient incentives to respond to housing need.

Under our proposals, a performance related grant would be paid to local authorities as a reward for meeting the housing needs of the community and in improving planning performance. The proposal is part of the Government's package of measures to improve housing affordability and our commitment to create and maintain sustainable communities.

The Government's aim with a new grant would be to encourage local authorities to become active in the delivery of new housing to meet local housing demand. The grant would be awarded to local authorities with high levels of demand who are delivering additional housing. The proposal envisages that the grant would continue to resource planning to ensure effective delivery of the new planning system.

We are also consulting on the criteria to allocate £120 million of planning delivery grant for the financial year 2007-08. Within this allocation we are proposing to increase the percentage of planning delivery grant awarded to support housing. This is to ensure that the grant better supports areas which are delivering high numbers of new homes and areas struggling with issues of low demand. We plan to announce the first part of this grant in November 2006, with further announcements planned for spring 2007.

Copies of the Planning Delivery Grant 2007-08: Proposed Allocations Criteria have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on the DCLG website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1 501792

The housing and planning delivery grant consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses tomorrow and will be available from tomorrow afternoon on the DCLG website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1017165

Housing Private Finance Initiative

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): The closing date for expressions of interest to the fifth housing PFI bidding round in support of our decent homes programme and for the provision of additional social rented housing was 31 March.

My officials are in the final stages of the assessment process and I expect to announce the outcome during the summer.

Housing and Regeneration Review

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Ruth Kelly): I am today updating the House on the housing and regeneration review, launched in April this year by the Deputy Prime Minister, the then Minister for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Shields (Mr.Miliband).

This Government have an ambitious agenda for housing and regeneration. My letter of 12 July to the Prime Minister outlined my vision for developing mixed communities and increasing the supply of affordable and market housing.

Delivering this agenda requires a step-change in our activities. It is therefore vital that we get our delivery arrangements absolutely right, with clear, focused and accountable delivery chains.

The current review of housing and regeneration provides an important opportunity to build on the existing strengths of English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation and ensure a coherent approach to delivering new housing and mixed sustainable communities. We must make the most of the skills and expertise of these bodies, and maximise the use of private investment, public subsidy, land holdings and assets to support and deliver local and regional housing and regeneration strategies.

At the same time, the creation of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as a new strategic department, focused on delivering for people and places, offers an opportunity to evaluate our wider departmental delivery chain for housing and regeneration. I have therefore asked my officials to undertake further work in three key areas.

First, in addition to addressing the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships, I have asked officials to examine the DCLG's delivery functions to determine the scope for rationalising existing delivery focused activities across the piece. Secondly, I have asked officials to undertake a distinct stream of work on modernising the regulation of affordable housing, particularly in the light of the increasing involvement of the private sector. Finally and relatedly, I have asked officials to carry out further work and analysis on the range of potential modernisation and structural options for reform.

I will make a further announcement in the autumn on my plans for creating a modern, dynamic delivery chain to support stronger communities and create places in which people feel proud to live.

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (Targets 2006-07)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Angela E. Smith): Key Performance Targets have been agreed for The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

The agency's principal financial target for 2006-07 is to achieve a minimum dividend payment to the Department for Communities and Local Government of £1,500,000.

An operational target has been set to achieve room occupancy within the Centre of 70 per cent.

The agency also has the following quality of service targets:

Overall score for value for money satisfaction of greater than 90 per cent.

The number of complaints received to be less than two per 100 events.

An average response time when answering complaints of less than four working days.

Reduced Ignition Propensity

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Angela E. Smith): Careless handling of smokers' materials continues to be one of the major causes of UK accidental fire deaths in the home. Evidence has shown that Reduced Ignition Propensity (REP) cigarettes decrease the risk of inducing ignition or progressive smouldering in materials, therefore reducing the number of accidental fire deaths in the home.

RIP cigarettes have been legislated for in New York State, California, Vermont, Illinois, New Hampshire and Massachusets and are all now in place, including Canada. The legislation requires that all cigarettes conform to American Society of Testing and Materials Standard (ASTM International).

At the request of the UK, supported by Sweden, the European Commission undertook to look into the case for developing an appropriate technical standard for RIP cigarettes. The Department for Communities and Local Government will be working very closely with the Department of Health which has led Government work on tobacco regulation, and the Department of Trade and Industry which leads on consumer product safety. It is expected that further discussion on the case for developing a European technical standard for REP cigarettes will take place at the next General Product Committee meeting in Brussels this September.

Planning Appeals

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Meg Munn): The majority of planning appeals in England are decided by inspectors, but a small percentage are decided by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, usually because the development is large and controversial (out of a total of 25,000 appeals, some 150 were recovered for decision by the Secretary of State last year). This statement sets out the Secretary of State's policy on recovering planning appeals and replaces the previous policy on which appeals are recovered for the Secretary of State's determination (which was set out in a House of Commons *Hansard* written answer for 25 July 2000). These changes are being made to achieve a greater focus on those cases which merit ministerial decision, and over time to lead to a reduction in the number of cases recovered and produce time savings in decision making.

In future the Secretary of State will consider recovery of appeals involving—

Any proposal for residential development of over 150 units or on sites of over five hectares, which would significantly impact on the Government's objective to secure a better balance between housing demand and supply and create high quality, sustainable, mixed and inclusive communities.

Proposals for development of major importance having more than local significance.

Proposals giving rise to substantial regional or national controversy.

Proposals which raise important or novel issues of development control, and/or legal difficulties.

Proposals which involve any main town centre use or uses (as set out in paragraph 1.8 of PPS6) where that use or uses comprise(s) over 9,000 sqm gross floorspace (either as a single proposal or as part of or in combination with other current proposals) and which are proposed on a site in an edge-of-centre or out-of-centre location (as described in Table 2 of PPS6) that is not in accordance with an up-to-date development plan document prepared in accordance with the policy in PPS6.

Proposals for significant development in the green belt.

Major proposals involving the winning and working of minerals.

Proposals against which another Government Department has raised major objections or has a major interest.

Cases which can only be decided in conjunction with a case over which inspectors have no jurisdiction (so-called "linked cases").

There may on occasion be other cases which merit recovery because of the particular circumstances.

Water Efficiency Consultation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Angela E. Smith): Members will be interested to know that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will be jointly consulting on ways of making water efficiency mandatory, during the recess. The scope of the consultation will cover water efficiency in new homes, existing buildings and in respect of the domestic uses of non-household buildings. We are considering a range of measures including amendments to the Building Regulations 2000. There will be a slightly longer consultation than normal—four months rather than three—as we recognised the difficulty of consulting during a holiday period.

Copies of the consultation document will be available later in the year on both the DCLG and DEFRA websites and in the Libraries of both Houses. I will be writing separately to the hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr. Ainsworth), Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee, the right hon. Member for Fylde (Mr. Jack), Chairman of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, and the hon. Member for Milton Keynes, South-West (Dr. Starkey), Chairman of the Communities and Local Government Committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Law Commission Chairman

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My noble Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer has made the following written ministerial statement;

"I have appointed Mr. Justice Terence Etherton to be chairman of the Law Commission from 1 August 2006. He succeeds Mr. Justice Roger Toulson whose term of office will then be completed.

I have decided that the needs of the Law Commission are usually best met by having a member of the senior judiciary as chairman. This follows a consultation in the 2004 consultation paper, Appointment of Law Commissioners, and the response paper issued in 2005. As a result I have decided to propose to Parliament amendments to the Law Commissions Act 1965 so that the chairman can be recruited from the senior judiciary as and when appropriate. I will do so when legislative time and opportunity allows."

Electoral Administration Act

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Bridget Prentice): The Electoral Administration Act received Royal Assent on 11 July 2006. The Act aims to tackle four areas at the core of a healthy democracy by improving access, improving confidence, extending openness and transparency of party financing and maintaining professional delivery of elections.

In line with the Government's commitment to bring as many of the important provisions in the Act into force as soon as possible a commencement order has been made which includes the following key provisions:

New rules for transparency and permissibility of loans,

Registration provisions to apply to the 2006 annual canvass process,

A package of offences in relation to postal voting applications and conduct of elections,

Provisions in relation to the regulation of political parties; and

Power for the Electoral Commission to set performance standards.

The provisions in the Act to bring a similar regime of transparency and permissibility to that set out for donations in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) to loans from political parties will come into force on 11 September 2006. The Government consider that it is important for the new regime to be brought into force at the earliest opportunity. Political parties will be required to report to the Electoral Commission all regulated transactions existing at that date and any entered into between that date and the end of that month, within 30 days from the end of September. Taken together, the existing donations regime and the new regulated transactions regime provide a robust and transparent mechanism to ensure that significant financial benefits to political parties are disclosed.

We have also brought into force a package of offences in the Electoral Administration Act that aim to improve the security and confidence of the electoral process. These will come into force on 11 September 2006 and relate to both the application for postal and proxy votes as well as offences around the conduct of elections. We believe that it is vital that we tackle potential problems of fraud in relation to elections. Along with other provisions in the Act that will be brought into force in time for the May 2007 elections. We believe this represents a comprehensive set of legislative changes that will improve the confidence in the electoral system.

The Government are also committed to improving the accuracy of the register and tackling potential registration fraud at the earliest opportunity. We have therefore commenced those provisions in the Act that relate to the annual canvass process so that they can be in place for the 2006 annual canvass. This includes the new duty on Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to carry out necessary steps to maintain the register and the new registration offence of supplying false information in connection with registration. Both these provisions will come into force on 11 September 2006.

In addition, the Electoral Administration Act contains miscellaneous provisions in part 7 which are designed to simplify and streamline procedures for the regulation of political parties and many of these will come into force on 11 September 2006.

The power for the Electoral Commission to set performance standards in relation to electoral activity will also come into force on 11 September. This will allow the Electoral Commission to carry out the important preparatory work in relation to the performance standards scheme.

We aim for the Electoral Administration Act to be implemented in full, where possible, for the May 2007 elections. We will therefore be making subsequent commencement orders to commence the remaining provisions in the Act.

Personal Data

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): My noble Friend, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I have today published a consultation paper on proposed custodial penalties for breaches of section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998. In an environment where concerns about identity fraud are growing and where the widespread use and exchange of data is increasingly important to the economy and to society as a whole, it is essential for people to be confident their personal data will not be willfully or recklessly abused. We are determined that the regulatory regime properly reflects the risks that come with greater data use. The aim of this proposal is to provide an appropriate and effective level of deterrent for those who seek to profit from the illegal trade in personal information. We welcome the recent report by the Information Commissioner 'What price privacy? The unlawful trade in confidential personal information' which has been an extremely valuable contribution on this issue, and we are responding positively to the report's recommendations. We are seeking views on whether the proposed sanctions would act as an effective deterrent to those who deliberately or recklessly misuse personal information. Copies have been placed in the Printed Paper Office, Vote Office and Libraries of both Houses."

DEFENCE

Armed Forces and Dental Officers Pay

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The supplement to the 2006 report of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, making recommendations on the pay of service medical and dental officers, has been published today. Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House. I wish to express my thanks to the chairman and members of the review body for their report.

The review body recommended a pay increase of 2.2 per cent. for junior doctors and cadets, and 2.4 per cent for associate specialists. In addition, the review body recommended that there should be an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the values of trainer pay and distinction and clinical excellence awards. These recommendations are to be accepted in full, with implementation effective from 1 April 2006.

All regular and reserve defence medical services consultants, general medical practitioners, general dental practitioners and higher medical management personnel will also receive a 2.2 per cent. increase effective from 1 April 2006. In addition, and closely matching the recommendation of the AFPRB, the Government have agreed to a further consolidated payment effective from 1 November 2006 to ensure the levels of pay are comparable to their counterparts in the NHS.

The agreed pay award will be met from within existing departmental expenditure limits.

Force Levels in Germany

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): The then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid), announced on 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 3WS the move of 4 Mechanised Brigade (4 Armoured Brigade) to the UK from Germany. At the same time, we made clear that we would take the opportunity to make further adjustments to our forces in Germany, where it made sense to do so. I want today to announce that an initial review of the opportunities for further rationalisation of our basing arrangements in Germany has developed proposals for the possible return to the UK of Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (HQ ARRC), 102 Logistic Brigade (102 Log Bde) and 1 Signal Brigade (1 Sig Bde), over the period 2008-2012, including identifying exactly where these units will be based in the UK. A project team is being established to assess these proposals in greater detail, and to determine whether they are practicable and offer value for money. An important part of the team's remit will be to consider in more depth where in the UK we could re-locate HQ ARRC and the two brigades. The team will produce an initial report around the end of the year; it is unlikely that we will be in a position to announce final decisions until well into 2007.

I have notified our NATO allies, including the German Government as host nation, of our plans, and the Chief of the Defence Staff has written to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe in view of the HQ ARRC's assignment as Headquarters NATO Rapid Deployment Corps (UK).

Separately, we also plan a series of minor moves within Germany which will lead to the closure of Osnabrück Station from early 2009. This will entail moving 1 Close Support Medical Regiment (1 CSMR) from its current base in Münster Station to alternative British army estate in Germany, and replacing them with another unit, the identity of which will be determined by further analysis. These moves will enable Osnabrück Station to close. Subject to the conclusions of the project team, further moves are envisaged in due course that would enable us to close Münster Station and therefore Osnabrück Garrison as a whole. The current planning assumption is that this would not take place before 2010. The relocation of HQ ARRC, 102 Log Bde and 1 Sig Bde would also enable us to close Rhine Garrison in the period 2010-2012. This will concentrate our Germany-based forces in Hohne, Paderborn and Gutersloh garrisons.

We also plan to return 12 Regiment Royal Artillery from Paderborn to the UK as early as summer 2007, as we re-organise our air defence regiments and capitalise on UK based facilities for High Velocity Missile Stormer vehicles. As a result, 12 Regiment will collocate with 47 Regiment Royal Artillery at Thorney Island. Consequently, 16 Regiment Royal Artillery, which we had previously envisaged moving from Woolwich to Thorney Island, will now be based in North Luffenham in summer 2007. In order to enable the necessary re-balancing in Germany, 12 Regiment's barracks in Paderborn will be occupied by another unit, the identity of which will be determined by further analysis.

We will continue to make further modest adjustments to our force levels in Germany, but our plan remains to base UK forces in the country, in the form of 1 Armoured Division and its supporting units, for many years to come. These moves and the work of the project team in no way signal a change in either our commitment to the NATO Alliance or in our overall defence policy, nor do they in any way devalue the continued close bilateral relationship between the UK and Germany.

General Service Engagement Bounty for the Royal Irish (Home Service)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): On 9 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 961, I announced the settlement package for the Royal Irish (Home Service) (R IRISH (HS)) personnel being discharged as a result of the normalisation process in Northern Ireland. Included within the settlement package was an alternative to redundancy; a taxable £10,000 engagement bounty offer to all those eligible R IRISH (HS) personnel who wished to transfer, and are accepted for a general service engagement in the wider army. We had anticipated that around 250 such personnel would take the opportunity to continue with their military career in the army, but, to date, only a handful of the R IRISH (HS) personnel are in the process of being accepted into general service army.

I very much meant what I said back in March that I was eager for as many home service personnel as possible to take the opportunity to continue with their military career in the armed forces.

As a result, I am announcing today a one-off increase to the general service engagement bounty to a taxable £20,000. This decision to increase the bounty was taken in order to encourage more eligible R IRISH (HS) personnel to opt for transfer, rather than redundancy.

MOD Civilians in Northern Ireland

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am pleased to announce the severance package for the estimated 1,500 MOD civilians in Northern Ireland being made redundant during the period 1 August 2006 to 31 December 2008, as a result of the process of normalisation.

The House will recall that when I announced the package for the Royal Irish (Home Service) (R IRISH (HS)) on 9 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 961 I explained that a process of consultation would take place with the trades unions on the civilian redundancies in accordance with our duties under Section 188 of the Trades Unions and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. That consultation has now been concluded and the redundancy package has been decided.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the dedication and commitment shown by MOD civilians in Northern Ireland over many years in supporting the armed forces, and in helping bring about the enabling environment for the current security normalisation programme. While normalisation is good news for Northern Ireland, it also brings substantial change for our civilian work force and my Department has been working hard to draw up an enhanced redundancy package for those affected. I am now in a position to provide details of that package.

In addition to the normal occupational redundancy package (which, for the majority, will be compulsory terms under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS)), affected staff will receive a flat rate financial recognition award (FRA) payment of £14,000 gross.

The payment is being made, in recognition of a unique set of circumstances, to MOD civilians based in Northern Ireland, and are a combination of the following factors:

The pressures and restrictions arising from their association with the armed forces in Northern Ireland, which they experienced while working for MOD and are likely to continue to affect them in the immediate aftermath of being made redundant;

The difficulties they may experience as a result of normalisation and directly arising from their former association with the armed forces in Northern Ireland; and

The effect of those pressures being exacerbated by the fact that the whole of the R IRISH (HS) is being disbanded, affecting over 3,000 individuals and nearly 50 per cent. of the civilian workforce are losing their jobs over a compressed timescale.

In summary, during the period 1 August 2006 to 31 December 2008 MOD civil servants made redundant through the process of normalisation will receive:

Redundancy compensation under the terms of their occupational redundancy scheme;

Access to the MOD outplacement service for a period of 12 months (an increase over the normal 6 months);

A re-training allowance of up to £1,000 per person, and

A flat rate additional payment of £14,000 gross.

The package, which goes significantly beyond statutory entitlements, is well deserved and we hope will be well received by MOD civilians in Northern Ireland. To put this into context, typically an individual who is aged 50 or over and made redundant between 1 August 2006 and 31 December 2008 will receive the immediate payment of an enhanced pension (and a tax free pension lump sum for those in the 1972 section of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS)), redundancy compensation of up to six months pensionable pay and the FRA of £14,000. To give examples, a 51-year-old band C with an average salary of £26,167 and 31 years service will receive a lump sum payment of £27,084 (this is the redundancy compensation and the FRA), in addition they will receive their pension lump sum of approximately £30,419 and an annual pension; a 54-year-old B and E/skill zone 3 with an average salary of £17,975 and 34 years service will receive a lump sum payment of £22,987 (this is the redundancy compensation and the FRA), in addition they will receive their pension lump sum of approximately £25,136 and an annual pension. Those staff under age 50 and made redundant in the same period will typically receive a preserved pension payable at age 60, redundancy compensation up to three times their annual pensionable pay and the FRA of £14,000. To illustrate, a 34-year-old band E/Skill zone 3 with an average salary of £17,975 and 16 years service will receive a lump sum payment of £43,958; a 27 year old band D/skill zone 4 with an average salary of £20,617 and 9 years service will receive a lump sum payment of £29,463. These lump sums are the combined totals of redundancy compensation and the FRA. Redundancy compensation and the FRA combined will be tax free up to the first £30,000 in accordance with the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.

This is a generous package for a unique set of circumstances for those MOD civilians in Northern Ireland made redundant between 1 August 2006 and 31 December 2008.

Operational Force Enhancements

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I have made clear my determination to ensure the armed forces on operations have the resources they need to do the job. I said I would update the House on developments in two particular areas of operational capability: additional options for armoured vehicles and helicopter support for Afghanistan.

As I told the House on 26 June, I ordered an urgent review of our armoured vehicle fleet, particularly focused on the evolving threat in Iraq, but covering the whole operational picture including Afghanistan, to ensure we were providing commanders with the best options.

That review has now concluded. It has confirmed that there is a growing requirement for a protected vehicle with capabilities between our heavy armour,

such as Warrior, and lighter patrol vehicles, such as SNATCH. The review has also identified feasible options to address the gap in the short term. We have now completed a very rapid assessment of those options and have identified three complementary ways forward. Two of these build on, and accelerate, work already ongoing in the Department. The third is new. The necessary funding will come in part from acceleration of existing funding within the defence budget, and in part from substantial new funding from the Treasury.

The first element is an additional buy of around 100 VECTOR, our new Pinzgauer based protected patrol vehicle, for Afghanistan, on top of the 62 already on contract. VECTOR provides good protection and, importantly, increased mobility and capacity compared to SNATCH which makes it very suitable for the rugged terrain and long patrol distances in Afghanistan.

The second element is to provide around 70 additional up-armoured and upgraded FV430 to equip a mechanised infantry battlegroup for Iraq by the spring of 2007, again on top of the 54 we have already ordered. The FV430 will be delivered incrementally with the first vehicles currently expected to be delivered this autumn.

Significantly smaller and lighter than Warrior, the up-armoured FV430 will provide a similar level of protection while being less intimidating and having less impact on local infrastructure—thereby providing commanders with an important additional option. Since it is able to carry out many of the same tasks as Warrior, it will also relieve pressure on heavily committed Warrior vehicles and armoured infantry battlegroups.

The third, new element is the Cougar manufactured by Force Protection Incorporated of Charleston, South Carolina. We judge that this vehicle meets our requirement for a well protected, wheeled patrol vehicle with a less intimidating profile than tracked vehicles like Warrior or FV430. We are arranging to rapidly procure around 100 vehicles through US military sources. We have received excellent co-operation from the US Government, military and industry—an example of the special relationship bringing real benefits for our soldiers on the ground. Once we take possession of the vehicles, we must then customise them with Bowman radios and electronic counter-measures—and then fit additional armour beyond the standard level, to ensure they have the best possible protection. This procurement and enhancement process takes time. But we expect to be able to deliver the vehicles, in batches, with an effective capability in place before the end of the year and continuing through the next six month rotations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These three vehicles will complement existing Warrior and SNATCH. Warrior will continue to provide the capability to deal with the most demanding threats, but its profile and weight makes it unsuitable for some operations and situations, such as Afghanistan. SNATCH, with a much less intimidating profile, enables troops to interact with locals and promotes a sense of normality and will remain a key tool for building and maintaining consent. The up-armoured FV430, the Cougar medium PPV, and VECTOR fill the requirements for varying degrees of protection, mobility and profile between these two extremes. But I am confident that together these vehicles provide commanders with the right range of options to deal with the situations and threats they face.

In my Afghanistan statement on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1131-35, I detailed the additional forces we shall deploy to Southern Afghanistan. I also undertook to provide further details of the enhancement of the Support Helicopter force deployed as part of the Helmand Task Force once I had received definitive advice on the needs of our Commanders on the ground. I have now had that advice, as endorsed by the Chief of the Defence Staff, and I have directed that those needs be met in full.

I have therefore directed that two extra CH-47 CHINOOK be deployed: the first in early September 2006, and the second in October. Helicopter force levels will remain under constant review.

I also wish to update the House on the units assigned to provide additional forces for Afghanistan. Force protection for 28 Regiment, Royal Engineers will be provided by W Company, 45 Commando, Royal Marines, not a composite unit as has been suggested. Finally, I erroneously referred in my earlier statement to 12 Signal Regiment. The unit listed should have been 14 Signal Regiment.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Stratetgic Export Controls (Annual Report)

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): The 2005 Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls will be published at 11 o'clock today as a Command Paper. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. The Report describes UK policy and international developments in export control regimes, as well as information on export licensing decisions taken during 2005.

The Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls is an innovation of this Government. This report, the ninth Annual Report (the first report was published in 1997) is a step away from the traditional reports of the past. Our export licensing system is one of the most rigorous and transparent regimes in the world and the Annual Report —in this new format—symbolises our continued commitment to accountability and transparency by presenting detailed information in a more modern and user friendly format. This year, due to the increasing volume of information on strategic exports that is being published by the Government, all the statistical data that was historically published only in hardcopy is now made available on a CD ROM which accompanies the report. Since 2004 the Government have also produced detailed Quarterly Reports available on the Internet—ensuring that the UK provides some of the most open and timely export licensing information available anywhere. The new CD ROM includes the Quarterly Reports for 2005, as well as more consolidated data, information on licence refusals and fuller information on trade control

(trafficking and brokering) licences issued during 2005. The complete Report will be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website and also published through The Stationery Office.

British Council Trustees (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): Copies of the British Council Trustees' annual report and accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2006 have been placed in the Library of the House. During the period the Council received £189,210,000 grant-in-aid from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Prospects for the European Union 2006

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I will today lay before the House the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Command Paper 6896 on "Prospects for the European Union 2006". This is the latest in a series of forward looks to the work programmes of the respective European Union Presidencies.

Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. Additional copies can also be obtained from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. A copy will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website www.fco.gov.uk

The last White Paper was published in January at the conclusion of the UK Presidency of the EU. This was a retrospective of our Presidency as well as a forward look to the year ahead. The White Paper I am laying before the House today is an update to the Spring Paper and sets out in more detail the priorities of the Finnish Presidency over the next six months.

The Finnish Presidency began on 1 July. The Finns have presented an ambitious programme for the next six months which builds on the work of previous Presidencies and addresses many important challenges for the European Union. We agree with the challenges identified by the Finns and welcome their proposed priority actions. In particular we welcome the focus on follow-up to the Hampton Court agenda initiated under the UK Presidency in October 2005. The informal meeting of the European Council in Lahti on 20 October will focus on innovation and energy and will be an opportunity to look at the next steps we collectively need to take to meet Europe's needs in the 21st century.

The Finnish Presidency also plans to take forward work in key areas such as tackling climate change, enlargement, competitiveness, security and migration. For example we will see an open dialogue on the best way to drive international action on tackling climate change. This Presidency will host a discussion on the Commission report on enlargement progress in the Autumn. It will also oversee the mid term review of the 2004 Hague programme which will, amongst other issues, look at stronger EU co-operation to tackle illegal migration. The Finns hope to reach agreement on a number of important measures to boost European competitiveness including final adoption of the Services Directive and increased investment in Research and Development.

This agenda demonstrates the EU's commitment to delivering on issues of concern to our citizens. We welcome these priorities and look forward to working with the Finnish Presidency over an important six months.

"The United Kingdom in the United Nations"

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): I will today lay before the House the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Command Paper 6892 entitled "The United Kingdom in the United Nations".

The Command Paper provides a comprehensive overview of the work of the United Nations, and details the UK's significant contribution to the UN's efforts, consistent with the UK's strong support for the organisation.

HEALTH

Clostridium Difficile Outbreaks at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and Publication of Data on Healthcare

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): The Healthcare Commission has today published its investigation into outbreaks of clostridium difficile at Stoke Mandeville hospital (Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust). Copies of the report have been placed in the Library.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State commissioned this report to establish:

- whether the trust's systems and processes for the prevention and control of infection were adequate during the two outbreaks;
- the current state of the trust's systems to control this infection; and
- the lessons to be learned from these outbreaks, both for the trust and the wider NHS, about how best to reduce the risk of C. difficile infection.

The Healthcare Commission's report identified the factors involved in the first outbreak and concluded that a failure to implement appropriately the lessons learnt from this, combined with an inadequate governance system, led to a delay in controlling the second outbreak. Since the outbreaks, the trust has improved infection control practice and consequently strengthened patient safety.

My right hon. Friend has today written to Anna Walker, Chief Executive of the Healthcare Commission to accept the conclusions of the report. This letter also asks that the Commission use the powers available to it to ensure that trusts are following the good practice set out in the new Code of Practice on Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infection and to use their powers of intervention where trusts fail to do so.

The Department will work closely with the trust, the strategic health authority, the Health Protection Agency and the local primary care trusts in addressing the recommendations in the report. As the conclusions have a wider applicability to the health service, the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer will consider this report over the summer and assess how the lessons learned can be implemented both locally and nationally to reduce the risk from this infection. The Department will also ensure that the report's conclusions inform the review of the current C. difficile guidance.

Today also sees the publication of the latest information from the Department of Health's mandatory healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) surveillance system. This information, which has been placed in the Library, brings together data on MRSA blood stream infections, clostridium difficile associated disease, glycopeptide resistant enterococci blood stream infections and orthopaedic surgical site infections to help assess trends in HCAIs.

This statistical report has been prepared by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and is a part of our new approach to publication of HCAI data, where the HPA both manages the surveillance programme and publishes the data. An annual report will be produced every July to help evaluate trends and facilitate access to all the data.

Mandatory surveillance has shown a clear need to improve NHS performance and we believe that upgrading the level of surveillance and more rapid feedback of results will help performance. Therefore we intend to move to quarterly publication as soon as it is feasible to do so.

Expert Group on Phase 1 Clinical Trials - Interim Report

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): On 25 May 2006 I informed the House that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) had published its final report on the investigations into the incident that occurred with the phase 1 clinical trial for a drug in development known as TON 1412, *Official Report*, column 95WS. I also announced the membership of the expert group established by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State under the chairmanship of Professor Gordon Duff, to consider what the incident revealed about the underlying science, and how clinical trials involving these types of products should be managed in the future. I promised a further report to the House when the expert group provided its interim report.

That interim report is being published tomorrow, 25 July, together with the minutes of all its meetings, the documents submitted for its consideration and details of the evidence given by a wide range of stakeholders, all of which have contributed to its preliminary findings. A copy of the interim report will be placed in the Library.

It is important to recognise that this is an interim report, that a public consultation will take place on its proposals, and further opportunities for interested parties to give evidence will be available in the autumn.

The Government are very grateful for the great deal of progress already made on this important issue by the expert group in the two months since it first met. The group anticipates completing its work in the autumn and I will provide a further report to the House when this report is available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Criminal Records Bureau (Annual Reports and Accounts 2005-06)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): I announce that the 2005-06 annual report and accounts for the Criminal Records Bureau have been laid before Parliament. Arrangements are now in hand for their publication and copies will be placed in the House Library.

Justice and Home Affairs Council 24 July 2006

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The Justice and Home Affairs Council will be held today, 24 July 2006, in Brussels. I am attending on behalf of the Home Office. I thought it would be useful if I were to outline the main issues I expect to be discussed.

The Council will take an initial presentation by the Commission on the Hague programme review. There will also be discussion of migration issues and, in the mixed committee format, the second generation Schengen Information System. On the first of these, the Commission will present four communications: the future direction of the Hague programme which includes a proposed use of Article 42 TEU (the passerelle clause); reviewing the implementation of the Hague programme to date (the scorecard); options for better evaluation of the impact of EU policies in the area of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA); and a legislative proposal based on Article 67(2) TEC adapting the provisions of the European Court of Justice under Title IV (immigration, asylum and civil law matters). The presidency has indicated that they will focus on procedure and handling and is not looking for substantive discussion on these items at this Council. Detailed discussion, including in relation to the more controversial aspects, such as the possible use of Article 42 TEU (the passerelle clause) and Article 67(2) TEC (adapting the remit of the ECJ in Title IV) will take place later in the year, including at the September Informal JHA Council in Finland. Those aspects aside, the Government's initial view is to welcome the focus on implementation and more effective evaluation contained in the communications.

There will be information items on the EU preparations for the UN high-level dialogue on international migration and development and the report on the outcome of the Euro African ministerial conference on migration and development held in Rabat on 10-11 July 2006. The Government welcome the adoption of the EU common position at the General Affairs and External Relations Council last week, 13 July; we will continue to feed into preparations for the UN High Level Dialogues on

International Migration and Development, which take place in September. There will also be a presentation by the Commission and Frontex (EU Border Agency) on the situation in the Mediterranean and Africa. We expect there to be a focus on the continuing influx of illegal immigrants to the Canaries and Malta. The UK strongly supports EU joint operational activity in the Mediterranean and has offered technical assistance to the Spanish and Maltese authorities.

There will be discussion on the management of migration flows; specifically on the two Commission Communications on: a policy plan for legal migration and a common policy on illegal immigration. The presidency will be seeking a first exchange of views on both items. The UK will be encouraging solutions of sharing best practice and establishing common principles, while advising against inflexible, detailed prescription, especially in the form of legislative measures on labour access.

The Government are fully committed to tackling the problem of illegal immigration of third country nationals and notes with interest the Commission's Communication; we will examine concrete proposals for measures when they are tabled in due course.

In the mixed committee format the presidency will be hoping to agree a general approach on the key outstanding issues in the three legal instruments establishing SIS II—a regulation covering immigration aspects, a Council decision covering law enforcement aspects and a regulation covering access by vehicle registration authorities—with a view to reaching a First Reading deal with the European Parliament in September. This is the last opportunity to resolve the major outstanding issues within the Council before the expected EP vote in September. The UK will not participate in the regulation covering immigration but will participate in the other two legal instruments.

Two further presentations by the Commission are expected in the margins of the meeting. These are on: i) a proposal for a regulation setting up the powers and the financing of teams of national border control experts of member states (Rapid Border Intervention Teams) to provide joint EU technical and operational assistance at the external EU Border, co-ordinated by Frontex and ii) a proposal for a community code on visas—a Schengen measure in which the UK will not participate. Although the UK will not participate in the first proposal, we support the concept of nominated experts deployed at short notice to respond to emergencies to help enhance the security of the EU external border, but will wish to look carefully at the detail.

Finally there is likely to be a lunch-time presentation by Commissioner Franco Frattini on the issue of CIA rendition flights.

Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals - Great Britain, 2005

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): I wish to announce that the publication entitled Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals—Great Britain—2005 is being presented as a Command Paper (6877) today. Copies will be placed in the House Library.

This annual report meets the requirement in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to keep Parliament informed about the use of animals for experimental or other purposes. It also forms the basis for meeting periodic reporting requirements at EU level. There has been criticism in previous years, including from a House of Lords Select Committee, for providing too much detail and not being very digestible or reader-friendly. Therefore some changes have been made to improve the contents and layout of this publication with the intention of making the publication easier to comprehend and follow.

The report shows an overall increase over the previous year of 1.4 per cent. in the number of procedures undertaken. The total number of procedures was 2.9 million, an increase of 41,300 over the previous year. Although this is the highest total since 1992, it does not necessarily signal an established upwards trend in animal use. A number of factors, including the economic climate and global trends in scientific endeavour, determine the overall level of scientific procedures.

Non-toxicological procedures accounted for about 86 per cent. of the procedures carried out in 2005. These included studies for fundamental biological or applied research in human and veterinary medicine, with the main areas of use being for immunological studies, pharmaceutical research and development, and cancer research.

Procedures for toxicological purposes accounted for the remaining 14 per cent. of all procedures. About 73 per cent. of these were for testing the safety and efficacy of new drugs and medicines.

In keeping with previous years, those procedures that used mice or rats (or other rodents) were the great majority at 84 per cent. Those using fish amounted to 8 per cent. and those using birds, 4 per cent. The total of all procedures using dogs, cats, horses and non-human primates, that is, those species offered special protection by the Act, was less than 1 per cent. of the total.

Genetically normal animals were used in about 1.65 million regulated procedures, representing 57 per cent. of all procedures for 2005 (compared with 59 per cent. in 2004 and 84 per cent. in 1995). Genetically modified animals (nearly all rodents) were used in 957,500 regulated procedures representing 33 per cent. of all procedures for 2005 (compared with 32 per cent. in 2003 and 8 per cent. in 1995).

These trends have been evident over recent years, reflecting the changing balance in use between genetically normal and modified animals, and are set to continue as advances in genetic science open up new and promising avenues of research.

I should point out in relation to the statistics that the Home Office, as regulatory authority under the 1986 Act, does not control the overall amount of animal research and testing which takes place, the imperative being to minimise the numbers of animals used for justifiable purposes. We ensure, in carrying out our licensing function, that the provisions of the Act are rigorously applied in each programme of work. All animal use must be justified, and for each particular programme of work the number of animals used, and the suffering caused, must be minimised.

Passport Fees

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The Privy Council has made an Order in Council, the Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 2006, which gives authority for a revision in passport fees. The revision will take effect on 5 October 2006. The fee for a standard 32 page passport will increase from £51 to £66 while the fee for a 48 page passport will increase from £62.50 to £77. The fee for a passport for a child will increase from £34 to £45. The fee for an adult using the guaranteed one week counter service for a standard 32 page passport will increase from £77.50 to £91, for a child from £70 to £80 and a 48 page jumbo from £87 to £97. The fee for an adult using the guaranteed same day service for a standard 32 page passport will increase from £96.50 to £108, for a child from £83 to £93 and for a 48 page passport from £104.50 to £114.50. The fee for a collective passport, for organised trips for schools and youth groups, will remain unchanged at £39.

This increase represents the second stage of the two year fee agreement reached with HM Treasury last year. This followed a stringent review of costs to ensure that the fee for each type of passport service closely reflects the production costs accrued by that service and bears its share of the cost of consular protection services. This increase will deliver extensive improvements required in the ongoing efforts to combat passport and identity fraud.

United Kingdom Passport Service (Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The UK Passport Service annual report and accounts 2005-06 have been laid before Parliament today and will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House on publication. This will be the last annual report and accounts issued by UKPS whose activities were transferred to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) from 1 April 2006.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gaza and Lebanon

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): I am deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Lebanon and in the Gaza Strip.

In Lebanon, the crisis has led the UN to estimate that at least 500,000 people have been displaced. Insecurity and damaged infrastructure is making it difficult to reach those in need of medical care, food and water supplies. The supply of electricity has stopped to most villages and towns in southern Lebanon. Stocks of fuel will be exhausted in two weeks. Factories producing medicines, milk, wood, and housing supplies have been destroyed. It is clear from aid agencies that they need immediate and safe access to the displaced and the wounded and those requiring humanitarian assistance. I support the proposals by the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross—ICRC—for safe humanitarian access, but ultimately the security situation needs to stabilise in order to ensure that vital assistance can get where it is needed.

We have responded to international appeals for humanitarian aid. Following the initial response I announced last week, I am today committing a further £2.2 million to support humanitarian relief, including for the UN Flash appeal, which has been launched today. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund is also providing an initial contribution of $5 million (of which the UK share is $1.4 million [£770,000]). This brings the total UK commitment to £5 million, and we stand ready to do more as needed. DFID is deploying two humanitarian advisers to the region. Two stabilisation and recovery advisers will join them shortly. The Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit is helping cross-government planning for the UK's contribution to stabilisation and recovery, immediately hostilities cease.

The situation in Gaza is also very difficult. Following the Israeli attack on Gaza's only power station, electricity is limited to supplies received from Israel. Households receive six to eight hours' electricity per day. Electricity is vital for hospitals and clinics, which need constant supplies of power to run medical equipment and keep drugs at constant temperatures. It is needed to pump fresh water to houses and to treat sewage. It is essential for the safe storage of food and for processing flour to make bread. Most households in Gaza are receiving two hours of water per day. This means they do not have reliable access to water for drinking, personal hygiene and washing clothes. According to the World Health Organisation, cases for diarrhoea among refugee children in Gaza in early July were 50 per cent. higher than the same period last year. Humanitarian supplies are vital. The Rafah crossing was opened temporarily on 18 July to allow those stranded at the crossing in desperate conditions to enter, and the Karni crossing was temporarily open for humanitarian and commercial imports. But both are now closed again. Action is needed to ensure unrestricted humanitarian access, including the supply of medical equipment, fuel, food and electricity.

The UK made a contribution of £15 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in April, which provides basic services for Palestinian refugees in Gaza, Lebanon, and elsewhere in the Middle East. This is helping UNRWA provide healthcare and other basic services to Palestinian refugees, who comprise 70 per cent. of Gaza's population. The EU collectively provides over half of UNRWA's funding, and the UK last year was the third largest bilateral donor.

The European Union has established a temporary international mechanism to support the basic needs of the Palestinian people. The mechanism will provide support to health, education and social affairs, help to pay for utilities and assist the very poorest Palestinians. The UK stands ready to allocate up to £12 million to the mechanism, plus our share of the European Community contribution, giving a total of up to

£25 million. The mechanism has already enabled much needed fuel supplies for emergency generators after Gaza's only power station was damaged by military action. These fuel deliveries are keeping hospitals open, water pumps going and waste treatment plants open. The mechanism will soon start making payments to health workers in both Gaza and the West Bank to ensure they can continue to provide essential medical care. We welcome the decision of G8 leaders to immediately expand the mechanism to provide wider assistance to the people of Gaza, we are working closely with the Quartet and others to ensure that this happens.

The UK is also providing assistance to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enable it to monitor closely the humanitarian situation in Gaza to assist donors and others to make sure help gets to those who need it most.

It is particularly important for the humanitarian welfare of innocent civilians in Lebanon, Israel, and Gaza that there is an end to the violence on all sides. The UK Government support efforts to put in place a durable ceasefire.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Devolution

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): On 15 May, Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly were recalled to participate in a process to secure the full restoration of the institutions in Northern Ireland on or before 24 November. The Assembly rose on 7 July for summer recess and will reconvene on 4 September.

Following their discussions with the Northern Ireland political parties in Parliament Buildings, Stormont on 29 June, the Prime Minister and Taoiseach issued a statement which again reiterated their commitment to the November deadline and called for all sides to commit to a period of genuine and frank political engagement on the outstanding issues in the months ahead.

A work plan was also published alongside the statement in order to assist the parties in their work between now and the November deadline. Both the statement and the work plan have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The plan allows for the Preparation for Government Committee to continue its valuable work during the summer recess and I have recently provided for the creation of sub-groups within the Committee to deal with the issues of devolution of justice and policing, changes to the institutions and the economic challenges facing Northern Ireland.

I have made clear previously that, in the event that devolved government is not restored on or before 24 November, all MLAs' salaries and allowances will be cancelled with immediate effect. I have repeatedly stressed that it remains the Government's firm hope that devolution can and will be restored by that deadline but I wish to ensure that MLAs have the fullest of opportunities to arrange their affairs in advance. My officials have therefore written to all MLAs explaining the implications of the termination of allowances for MLAs in respect of their responsibilities as employers of their staff and for their constituency offices. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Gifts 2005-06

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I have today published a list of gifts received by Ministers. The list provides details of gifts received by Ministers valued at more than £140 for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Ministerial Travel

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): Expenditure on Ministerial overseas visits for the last three financial years and for the year 1996-97 is as follows:

	Expenditure (£million)
1996-97	7.9
2003-04	5.2
2004-05	5.1
2005-06[1]	6.1

[1] The figure for 2005-06 reflects payments made so far for travel undertaken in the period; a few bills have yet to be submitted to departments for payment.

A list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate.

Special Advisers

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): Listed below are the names of special advisers in post at 24 July 2006, the special advisers' pay ranges for 2006-07, the number of special advisers in each pay band by department and the total pay bill cost of special advisers for 2005-06.

All special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the *Model Contract* and *Code of Conduct for Special Advisers* providing assistance on the full range of their appointing Minister's departmental responsibilities. Where a special adviser has a specific expertise or works mainly in a particular area of the department's work this is indicated.

Appointing Minister	Special Adviser in post	Expertise
The Prime Minister	Jonathan Powell	Chief of Staff
	Liz Lloyd	Deputy Chief of Staff
	Ruth Turner	Director of Government Relations
	Matthew Taylor	Chief Adviser on Strategy
	Policy Directorate	
	David Bennett	Head of Policy Directorate
	Conor Ryan	
	Paul Corrigan	
	Geoffrey Norris	
	Philip Collins	
	Justin Forsyth	
	Kieran Brett	
	Strategic Communications & Press	
	David Hill	Director of Communications
	David Bradshaw	
	Hilary Coffman	
	Matthew Doyle	
	Chris McShane	
	Benjamin Wegg Prosser	
	Huw Evans	
	Events & Visits	
	Jo Gibbons	Director of Events, Visits and Scheduling
	Katie Kay	
	Angela Goodchild (p/t)	
	John Watts	
	Victoria Gould	
	Research and Information Unit	
	Catherine Rimmer	
	Katie O'Donovan	
Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State	Joan Hammell	Chief of Staff
	Mick Halloran	
Minister for the Cabinet Office and for Social Exclusion (and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)	Peter Kyle	
	Anna Turley	
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government	Julie Crowley	Media and communication
	David Leam	
	Rachel O'Brien	Women and equality
Chief Whip (Commons)	Sue Jackson	
	Simon Benson	
Chief Whip (Lords)	Margaret Ounsley	
Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor	Garry Hart	
	Philip Bassett	
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport	Nick Bent	
Secretary of State for Defence	Matt Cavanagh	
	Alaina Macdonald	
Secretary of State for Education and Skills	Chris Norton	
	Mario Dunn	
	Clare Montagu	
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Madlin Sadler	
	Tony Grayling	
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Sheila Watson	
	Ed Mitchell	
	Malcolm Chalmers	Foreign affairs
Minister for Europe	James Connal	
Minister for Trade	Martin O'Donovan	Trade
	Blair McDougall	Communications; human rights

Appointing Minister	Special Adviser in post	Expertise
Secretary of State for Health	Liz Kendall	
	Karen Livingston	
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Steve Bates	
	Justin Russell	
	Anna MacMillan	
Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal	Mark Davies	
	Declan McHugh	
Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council	Joe Dancey	
	Dorothea Hodge	
Secretary of State for International Development	Beatrice Stern	Communications
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales	Claire McCarthy	Northern Ireland issues
	Philip Taylor	Northern Ireland issues
	Andrew Bold	Wales issues
	Matthew Burchell	Wales issues
Secretary of State for Scotland and Secretary of State for Transport	Paul Sinclair	Transport
	Iain Gray	Scottish Affairs
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry	Andrew Maugham	
	Sam White	
	Emily Thomas (unpaid)	
Chancellor of the Exchequer[1], [2]	Spencer Livermore	
	Damien McBride	
Chief Secretary	Jonathan Ashworth	
	Jo Dipple	
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions	John Williams	
	John Woodcock	
Minister without Portfolio	Paul Richards	
	Andy Bagnall	

[1] In addition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Dan Corry, Paul Gregg, Shriti Vadera, Michael Jacobs, and Stewart Wood to the Council of Economic Advisers on special adviser terms.
[2] Plus Sue Nye appointed as an unpaid adviser.

Pay bands for 2006-2007

The pay bands and pay ranges for special advisers for 2006-07 are as follows:

Scheme Ceiling: £136,500

Pay Band 4: £84,000 to £100,900

Pay Band 3 and Premium: £62,800 to £97,500

Pay Band 2: £49,300 to £65,400

Pay Band 1: £38,100 to £51,100

Pay Band 0: Up to £38,100

Advisers by Pay Band

At 24 July 2006, the number of special advisers in each pay band by department is as follows:

Department	Pay band 0	1	2	3	4
No 10[1]	—	[2]6	2	[2]13	[2]1
Deputy Prime Minister's Office	—	1[2]	—	1	—
Cabinet Office	—	[2]2	—	—	—
Communities & Local Government	—	[2]1	[2]2	—	—
Chief Whips' Offices (Commons and Lords)	—	1[2]	2	—	—
Constitutional Affairs	—	—	—	—	2
Culture, Media and Sport	—	—	1	—	—
Defence	—	1[2]	1[2]	—	—
Education and Skills	—	1[2]	2[2]	—	—
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	—	—	1[2]	1[2]	—
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Includes Minister for Europe and Minister for Trade)	1[2]	2[2]	-	3[2]	—
Health	—	1[1]	1[2]	-	—
Home Office	—	1[1]	—	2[2]	—
International Development	—	1	—	—	—
Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal	—	[2]1	1	—	—
Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council	—	[2]2	—	—	—
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Wales	—	[2]4	—	—	—
Secretary of State for Scotland and Transport	—	—	1	[2]1	—
Trade and Industry[3]	—	1	1	—	—
HM Treasury[3], [4]	—	1	[2]2	1	—
Work and Pensions	—	1	—	—	[2]1

Department	Pay band 0	1	2	3	4
Minister without Portfolio	—	[2]	—	[2]	—
Total	1	29	17	23	4

[1] Plus three special advisers who are paid beyond Pay Band 4 but within the scheme ceiling.
[2] Includes provisional salaries yet to be agreed.
[3] Plus one unpaid Adviser.
[4] Plus the five members of the Council of Economic Advisers who are employed on special adviser terms (one in Band 4, three in Band 3, and one in Band 1). One of the members of the Council works part time.

Paybill costs

The cost of special advisers in 2005-2006 was £5.9 million[1]

[1] This figure includes salary, severance pay and estimate of pension costs.

House of Lords Appointments Commission

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I have today placed the House of Lords Appointments Commission Annual Report for 2004-05 and 2005-06 in the Libraries of both Houses. I am grateful to the members of the Commission for the report and their valuable work.

Advisory Committee on Business Appointments

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I have today published the eighth report of the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. The report provides an account of the work of the Committee in advising former Ministers and Crown servants on the acceptance of appointments after leaving Crown service. The report covers the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House. I am grateful to the Chairman, Lord Mayhew of Twysden, and to the members of the Committee for giving their time and expertise so generously.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Public Prosecution Service (Annual Report)

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): I have today placed in the Library of the House copies of the first Annual Report of the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland and of its business plan for the coming year.

While the new Service was formally launched in June 2005 it initially only took work from the six police districts that make up the PPS Belfast region. It has, however, been planned from the start as a regional service and the last year has seen good progress in rolling out the Service over the whole of Northern Ireland.

In August 2005 the PPS western and southern region assumed responsibility for the conduct of all youth offences occurring in the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Armagh, Banbridge and Newry and Mourne districts as well as all prosecutions from the five police districts within Fermanagh and Tyrone. A new Lisburn office, serving as headquarters of the PPS eastern region opened in March 2006 and will be fully operational by October of this year when it will add a further six police districts to those already within the PPS structure.

The roll out of the PPS will continue through this year and next and when completed will operate from six regional offices planned for Belfast, Lisburn, Newry, Omagh, Londonderry and Ballymena. This regional approach, with each office having its own regional prosecutor, will encourage local involvement with the service, helping the community understand its work and how it goes about reaching decisions and thereby building public confidence in the criminal justice system. The annual report and business plan is part of this process and will be of interest to anyone with an interest in the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland or in criminal justice generally.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Central Government Payment Performance

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): The overall payment performance of Government is 96.87 per cent. Figures for the financial year 2005-06 show that there has been a slight fall compared to last year's figure of 97.09 per cent. Some 54 per cent of Departments improved on their performance of last year.

Government Departments and their agencies are required to monitor their payment performance and to publish the results in their Departmental or annual reports. The table lists, by Department, the proportion of bills paid within 30 days, or other agreed credit period, on receipt of a valid invoice.

The Government take this issue very seriously, and are committed to improving the payment culture in the UK, in order to create fair and stable business transactions. The Government's own payment performance is an important element in this policy.

Main Departments 2005-06	Paid on Time %
Defence Bills Agency (Ministry of Defence)	100
Office of Fair Trading	99.86
Intelligence Agencies (GCHQ)	99.80
Privy Council Office	99.71
Office for National Statistics	99.51
Office for Government Commerce	99.48
Office of Gas & Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	99.46
The National Archives (Public Records Office)	99.31
Health & Safety Executive	99.19
Scotland Office (Department for Constitutional Affairs)	99.11
Office of Water Services (OFWAT)	99.10

Main Departments 2005-06	*Paid on Time %*
Postal Services Commission (PostCom)	98.97
Export Credit Guarantee Department	98.93
HM Revenue & Customs	98.80
Department for Transport	98.71
Charity Commission	98.24
Food Standards Agency	98.18
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	98.09
Forestry Commission	97.98
Ordnance Survey	97.95
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	97.66
Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)	97.66
Government Actuary's Department	97.54
Land Registry	97.38
Department for International Development	96.76
Department for Education & Skills	96.29
Department of Health	96.19
Treasury Solicitors Department	95.78
Department of Trade and Industry	95.67
UK Trade & Investment	95.35
Electoral Commission	94.91
Office of Rail Regulation	94.89
HM Treasury	94.70
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	94.19
Cabinet Office (OPS)	94.06
Central Office of Information	93.17
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	92.96
Serious Fraud Office	91.46
Department for Work and Pensions	89.79
Crown Prosecution Service	88.96
Wales Office (Department for Constitutional Affairs)	88.64
Department for Constitutional Affairs (Lord Chancellor's Department)	88.48
Northern Ireland Office	86.65
Home Office	86.24
National Savings and Investments	85.49
Royal Mint	84.98
Overall Total	96.87

Coal Authority (Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06)

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): I have today laid a copy of the Coal Authority report and accounts for 2005-06 before Parliament.

Regional Development Agencies (Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06)

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I have today laid before Parliament the annual reports and accounts for 2005-06 for the eight Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) outside London. Copies have been placed in the House Library.

The annual report and accounts for London are presented to the Mayor of London rather than to Parliament. I shall provide a copy to the House of Commons Library when it is available.

The Government welcome the contribution that the RDAs have made during this year to driving forward economic development in their respective regions.

Also published today are the RDAs' reported outputs for 2005-06. These results are evidence that the RDAs continue to play a valuable role in improving the economic performance of the English regions and, through working with their partners, the RDAs are making a real difference to the individual regional economies concerned. The figures cover the creation and safeguarding of jobs, the number of people helped to get a job, the amount of brownfield land brought back into use, the number of businesses added to the regional economies, the number of businesses helped to improve their performance, the number of learning opportunities created and the amount of private sector investment attracted benefiting deprived areas, all as a result of RDA activity.

Press releases on the outputs have been issued in each region. Copies of the output results have been placed in the House Library, and are also available on the DTI website at: www.dti.gov.uk/regional/regional-dev-agencies/index.html

TRANSPORT

Journey Times (Urban Areas)

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Douglas Alexander): In my written ministerial statement of Tuesday 18 July 2006, *Official Report* 18-19WS the Department published new targets for journey times in urban areas. The target included for Merseyside unfortunately used an interim version of Merseyside's target, rather than the final target they adopted. Incorporating the final target has a small beneficial effect on the national journey time target, lowering it by just 0.03 per cent.

The revised success criteria are therefore as follows: the target will be deemed to have been met if, on target routes in the 10 largest urban areas in England, an average increase in travel of 4.4 per cent. is accommodated within an increase of 3.6 per cent. in person journey time per mile.

An updated public service agreement and technical note has been placed on the Departmental website today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Release of Data from the UK Vehicle Registers

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): I am today announcing 14 major new measures to ensure that the release of data from the UK vehicle registers is undertaken in a way that:

Protects vehicle keepers from misuse of their information;

ensures that those who do have reasonable cause can get the data they need;

balances the right to privacy of individuals whose data are held on the register with the need of others to gain proper redress;

is cost effective—in that the costs to all are proportionate to the benefits that the scheme delivers; and

is right in principle and works in practice.

This follows the review that I announced in December last year and the public consultation launched in February this year.

I will give a full update on progress in delivering these new measures in the autumn.

I will continue to scrutinise closely the way in which the scheme operates and how it is used. Should further action be merited, I will ensure that it is taken quickly.

The new measures are as follows:

New Requirements for evidence of 'reasonable cause'

(1) New detailed guidance on what is likely to constitute 'reasonable cause'.

(2) Clarity that behaviour in using data will be considered in judging whether a particular applicant's assertions as to the 'reasonable cause' for his application are to be believed; and in deciding upon whether approved conditional access is granted or maintained.

(3) For all applications where 'reasonable cause' relates to a vehicle left on land without permission or in breach of terms and conditions, evidence is required that the applicant is the landowner or has the permission of the landowner to pursue the vehicle keeper.

(4) For all applications where 'reasonable cause' relates to the pursuit of a penalty charge, evidence is required that a penalty scheme was indeed in place on that piece of land (that is, that there was signage).

New requirements for 'approved conditional access'

(5) Those bodies and companies seeking approved conditional access that do not have an appropriate regulatory body are required to be current members of an 'accredited' trade association. Part of the process for 'accrediting' trade associations will include ensuring that there is a clear and enforced code of conduct (for example relating to conduct, parking charge signage, charge levels, appeals procedure, approval of ticket wording; and appropriate pursuit of penalties–that is, approach by letter only and county court action only to permit a house call).

(6) Organisations that do not comply with the terms of the accredited trade association will be expelled and without valid membership of another accredited trade association will lose their approved conditional access. Trade associations that do not police the conditions of membership adequately will lose their accreditation.

(7) All those seeking approved conditional access will be required to serve a 'probationary' period of six months or, if longer, for the period of time it takes to make 20 requests— during which all requests should be made on a case by case basis.

New Measures to ensure awareness of the vehicle keeper

(8) That all those who receive data, as evidence of their 'reasonable behaviour' and as a condition of 'approved conditional access', include in any correspondence with the keeper a leaflet or statement advising them of:

The 'reasonable cause' which formed the basis of the request;

the 'complaints' procedure by which a data subject can notify both DVLA and the Information Commissioner if they believe their data have been used inappropriately;

the appeals procedure (for the regulatory body) if they feel that, for example, a parking charge notice has been issued incorrectly.

And that this information is also placed on the DVLA web site.

(9) That DVLA maintain on its web site a list of organisations and companies who have requested data and the reasons for their request.

(10) That a reference to the location on the DVLA website of guidance and advice and all other information relating to the release of vehicle keeper data are included on all DVLA documentation sent to the vehicle keeper—including the annual VED reminder.

New Auditing Procedures and action to combat misuse or complaints

(11) A rolling 3-year programme of audit check including targeted checks on those where concerns have been raised:

(12) A clear set of procedures where such concerns are raised:

An audit is triggered by complaints of substance representing a disproportionate level of granted requests or any complaint of a serious nature if following implementation of the audit recommendations a disproportionate level of complaints of substance are received an organisation with approved conditional access will be required to submit requests on a case by case basis; if it is already subject to request on a case by case basis it will be subject to additional scrutiny of each request it m[illegible]

if a disproportionate level of further complaints of substance are received and a company is found to be consistently using data inappropriately or a serious complaint of abuse of the system by an applicant is substantiated then there is a distinct possibility that we will not believe the applicant to have reasonable cause upon a future request and, if so, data release would then be declined in that case.

New Complaints Procedures

(13) A clear procedure by which data subjects can notify DVLA if they feel that their data have been used inappropriately and take steps to draw this to the attention of vehicle keepers by including information in paperwork sent to them and on the DVLA website. This will include information of how they can notify the Information Commissioner of the misuse of their data.

(14) Complaints received will form part of the evaluation of whether an applicant's assertion of 'reasonable cause' is valid.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Agency Reports and Accounts (2005-06)

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I am pleased to announce that the Department for Work and Pensions has today laid the 2005-06 annual reports and accounts for three of its executive agencies: Child Support Agency (HC1402), the Disability and Carers Service (HC1336) and the Appeals Service (HC1542). Copies are available in the Printed Paper Office and the Vote Office.

Publication of the Jobcentre Plus annual report and accounts has been delayed until after the summer recess.

Financial Assistance Scheme

The Minister for Pensions Reform (James Purnell): On 6 June I wrote to Members to advise them that I had commissioned a review of the administration of the financial assistance scheme and would report the outcome before the summer recess. In particular I was concerned about ensuring that all eligible people receive payments as quickly as possible; that we ensure the most cost efficient operation; and that we examine a full range of options for the appropriate organisational location of the operations.

Today I have placed copies of the findings of the review in the Library. These show that obtaining data from trustees is the key to making payments and highlight the need to significantly strengthen the skills within the financial assistance scheme operations needed to obtain this data, concluding that this can best be achieved through an injection of skills from the private sector or the pension protection fund. These skills can best be managed from within DWP.

The review has also identified the scope for some operational efficiencies and more detailed work will be undertaken to establish optimum staffing levels. In addition, it has concluded that the long term governance of the Operational Unit is best placed in the Pension Service. Overall we expect these changes to increase the speed at which people receive help from the scheme.

I have now commissioned work to implement the findings and will update on implementation in the autumn.

I am also pleased to announce that today we have published the draft Financial Assistance Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2006. These regulations will bring into effect the extension to the financial assistance scheme announced in the White Paper on pension reform on 25 May. We will be consulting on the draft regulations over the next eight weeks and will publish a response to the consultation along with the final version of the draft regulations. Copies of the draft regulations and consultation document have been placed in the Library and can also be found on the FAS website at www.dwp.gov.uk/fas.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 25 July 2006

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Validation of Planning Applications

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Meg Munn): Today I have launched a consultation on the requirements for local authority validation of planning applications. This follows on from an earlier consultation on proposals for a standard application form.

The consultation proposes that there is a core and mandatory list of national requirements for applicants to comply with in submitting a planning application, which is to be supplemented by a list of local authority requirements. These local requirements must be consulted on by the local authority prior to being published on their website. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) intends to publish guidance for local authorities on what the local lists should contain, and will also make clear that there are a number of national requirements on applicants to provide information on such areas as flooding, and land contamination. The proposals provide that where an application does not meet the published national requirements and locally consulted on requirements, the authority will not be required to validate it.

The consultation is linked with the development of the standard application form, and the proposals are intended to complement the streamlining and efficiency benefits that will result from there being a single national form.

The consultation period ends on 30 September 2006. Any proposed legislative changes would be brought in by April 2007, and local authorities would have to adopt these by July 2007, the date on which the standard application form would become mandatory.

The consultation paper has been published on the DCLG website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1017165 and a copy of the paper has been placed in the Library of the House.

Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): Today we have published a revised edition of the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities. The revised code is issued jointly by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Secretaries of State for Health and for Education and Skills, and will replace the current guidance (issued in July 2002) with effect from 4 September.

The code provides clear statutory guidance on how local authorities should carry out their homelessness functions and will assist authorities in providing appropriate and effective responses to homelessness and potential homelessness. It also complements other forms of advice, guidance and best practice which have been produced to help local authorities strengthen the services they provide to help people avoid homelessness, wherever possible.

The revised code strengthens the guidance on dealing with vulnerable groups, including people fleeing violence and families with children. It also includes stronger guidance on preventing homelessness, on providing a wide range of housing options, and limiting the use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

Copies of the revised Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities are being made available in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available free of charge from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the guidance can also be accessed through the Department's website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1501614

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Human Rights Act

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor made the following written ministerial statement:

"I have today placed in the Printed Paper Office, the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses copies of the Review of the Implementation of the Human rights Act. The review was commissioned by the Prime Minister. It considers the impact of the Human Rights Act on UK law, the impact upon policy formulation by Government, the myths and misperceptions that have grown up around the Act and proposals for the way forward.

The Government remain fully committed both to the European Convention on Human Rights and to the way effect is given to it in the UK by the Human Rights Act. As shown in the review, the Human Rights Act has had a significant, but beneficial, effect upon the development of policy by central Government.

The Government will take forward a number of actions to address areas of concern highlighted by the review. The Government are conducting a thorough review of how police, probation, parole and prison services balance public protection and individual and collective rights and, if necessary, will legislate to ensure that public protection is given priority. Other initiatives include a major push for the provision of better and more consistent guidance and training on human rights within Departments; and a proactive, strategic and co-ordinated approach to human rights litigation, so that it has the maximum possible impact on future case law under the Human Rights Act. The Government will also lead a drive to ensure that the public s well as the wider public sector are better informed about the benefits which the Human Rights Act has given everyone in the UK."

Draft Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Baroness Ashton) had made the following written ministerial statement:

I am pleased to announce today publication of the draft Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill. Copies of the draft Bill, explanatory notes and accompanying regulatory impact assessments are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the DCA's website.

The main effects of the Bill are to:

Create a new, simplified, statutory framework for tribunals to provide coherence and enable future reform;

Unify the tribunals judiciary under a senior president;

Amend the existing threshold criteria for eligibility for appointment to judicial office in order to enable a wider range of applicants to apply;

Unify the law relating to enforcement by seizure and sale of goods, including power of entry to premises;

Allow creditors with claims in the civil courts to be able to enforce their judgments more effectively; and;

Introduce a package of measures to help those who are willing and able to pay off their debts over time and a new personal insolvency procedure for those who have fallen into debt but have nom foreseeable way out of it.

The Government intend to introduce the Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals Without the Right of Appeal

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Margaret Beckett): I have today placed in the Library of the House copies of the annual report by Fiona Lindsley, the independent monitor for entry clearance refusals without the right of appeal.

Decisions taken in the calendar year 2004 were under review. Ms Lindsley's report raises a number of interesting proposals as to how we may improve our entry clearance operation world-wide and we are committed to doing this.

I wish to express my thanks to Ms Lindsley for her hard work in completing this, her third and final report as independent monitor for entry clearance matters. Ms Lindsley's contract as independent monitor has now ended and she has been succeeded by Mrs. Linda Costelloe Baker, whose first report covering decisions made during 2005 will be published later this year.

Hong Kong

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): The latest report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website www.fco.gov.uk The report covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2006. It includes a foreword by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. I commend the report to the House.

Cyprus: Export Licensing Policy

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The Government have reviewed the application of our arms export licensing policy for Cyprus. We currently assess all export licence applications against the consolidated criteria as well as the policy restriction imposed in 1997 on exports to military forces on the island. We have determined that the consolidated criteria alone will be sufficient in assessing future export licence applications for Cyprus.

We will continue to scrutinise the export of military equipment to Cyprus with the same rigour, applying strict controls on a case-by-case basis with due regard to security on the island and stability in the region, and in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. We will no longer have regard to the EU common embargo list in assessing licence applications to Cyprus.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Jack Straw): In 1996 the independent Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) recommended that parliamentary pay, allowances and pensions should be reviewed every three years starting in 2000. In line with this recommendation, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, has written to John Baker, the Chairman of The Review Body, in the following terms:

Terms of the review

"I understand that the Senior Salaries Review Body is ready to undertake the triennial review of parliamentary pay and allowances;

You will be aware of recent statements by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on public sector pay restraint and the underlying rate of inflation. I am sure that the review body will wish to take account of this important context in its deliberations.

I am writing to confirm that the Government would like to see the following areas covered in your report:

(a) The salaries of Members of the House of Commons taking into account the benefits of the parliamentary pension scheme;

(b) the salaries of Ministers and other office holders, including those with additional responsibilities in Parliament, and the operation of severance pay;

(c) aspects of the benefits and funding of the parliamentary contributory pension fund;

(d) an appropriate approach to the annual increase to parliamentary salaries between triennial reviews to replace the current automatic link to the senior civil service given the changing recruitment and retention strategy for senior staff;

(e) the rate of allowances for Members of the House of Commons, including eligibility for the additional costs allowance and the London supplement, and the operation of the resettlement grant in the light of forthcoming age discrimination legislation;

(f) the rate of peers' expenses allowances; and

(g) the extension to unmarried partners of eligibility to spouses' travel costs, and to cover travel to devolved assemblies for Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland MPs.

I should also be grateful for your recommendations on the adequacy of the current provision of IT equipment for Members both in the House of Commons and in their constituencies.

I look forward to receiving your recommendations next year."

The review will also take into account the recent appointment of the Lords Speaker.

Consultation with Members of Parliament

As previously outlined to the House following the last triennial review, the SSRB will be pro-active in seeking contributions from each Member of Parliament. The SSRB will write to Members of Parliament in due course.

Contacting the SSRB

Not withstanding this, Members who have views should submit their comments to the SSRB by early December 2006 at the following address:

Alan Dawson
Senior Salaries Review Body
The Office of Manpower Economics
6th Floor
Kingsgate House
66-74 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6SW

Alternatively, those Members of Parliament who have comments can email the secretariat to the SSRB. Please contact: alan.dawson@dti.gsi.gov.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

Causeway Project

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson): The Government have received a report from the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland, Mr. Kit Chivers. The report, "The Causeway Project: A Short Inspection", has today been published.

The Government warmly welcome this report, and thank the chief inspector and his team for the evident care and reflection which has gone into producing this work. The criminal justice organisations are actively considering the report and have already taken some actions in line with the recommendations.

Copies of the chief inspector's report have been placed in the Library.

Community-based Restorative Justice

The House will recall that in December 2005, I published for consultation draft guidelines setting out a proposed framework regulating the community-based restorative justice schemes that are currently operating in Northern Ireland.

That period of consultation afforded the opportunity for all interested parties to make their views known to Government and generated responses from 56 organisations and individuals across the statutory and voluntary sectors as well as from members of the public. The consultation revealed general support for restorative justice as a concept but highlighted serious concerns about the way in which some key aspects of schemes might operate. It was clear from the strong criticisms that the draft guidelines did not get it right and so today I am publishing a robust new protocol to address those concerns.

The Government have always been clear that where community-based restorative justice schemes operate they must be part of the criminal justice system and must not act, or be perceived to act, as an alternative to the existing policing structures. Society would not tolerate officially approved schemes becoming a tool for local paramilitary control and neither will the Government.

The regulation of community-based restorative justice in Northern Ireland was a key recommendation of the Criminal Justice Review which itself was central to the Good Friday Agreement.

I have today published that revised framework which I have renamed a "Protocol for Community-based Restorative Justice Schemes" to affirm its status, not simply as guidelines, but as a document which requires full compliance by all participants and which effectively sets a 'gold standard' for schemes. I have placed a copy of the protocol in the Library of the House.

The protocol contains a number of important changes which will, I believe, substantively address the four keys issues of concern raised by respondents during the consultation. Those concerns centred on: the ability for schemes to use third parties to distance themselves from direct engagement with the police; arrangements for determining the suitability of persons working in schemes; the need for a robust independent complaints mechanism; and the need to set demanding standards for schemes underpinned by an effective inspection regime.

As a consequence of those concerns I have:

Removed the provision for schemes to report offences to the Police Service of Northern Ireland through a third party. The protocol now requires that schemes engage, and have a direct relationship, with police on all matters governed by the protocol. The centrality of the police to the way in which schemes operate is non-negotiable.

Agreed arrangements for a panel, comprising representatives of relevant statutory bodies, to determine the suitability of individuals to work in posts governed by the protocol. The panel will consider criminal records and other pertinent information provided by statutory agencies, including the police, in determining the suitability of any individual in accordance with published criteria contained in the protocol.

Agreed with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland that they will establish an independent complaints mechanism for victims and offenders who may have cause to raise concerns about how a scheme has handled their case.

Ensured that the new protocol sets exacting standards which schemes must meet to achieve accreditation, with continued compliance tested by a rigorous, regular and unannounced inspection regime undertaken by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate who shall publish their inspection reports.

The protocol would establish the relationship between schemes and the criminal justice system in dealing with low-level criminal offences and offenders and, by definition, govern cases which have both achieved the criminal threshold and been deemed suitable by the Public Prosecution Service for referral for a restorative disposal. While the protocol cannot therefore formally extend to schemes' other activities, as part of the inspection regime records on non-criminal cases handled by schemes will be examined to help ensure that all cases attaining the criminal threshold have been referred to the police. Schemes which achieve accreditation will, as organisations, have demonstrated the attainment of the high standards required in the protocol which I expect to see reflected in all aspects of their activities.

Due to the significant nature of the changes I want to allow for a further period of consultation on the new protocol, which will run in parallel with an Equality Impact Assessment to explore the potential for any of its measures to adversely impact on equality of opportunity for any of the nine categories set out in section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This will be launched shortly and will involve a 12-week public consultation period.

It has never been a direct corollary that schemes which sigh up to the protocol will receive NIO funding. However I expect that accredited schemes meeting the exacting standards set out in the protocol should be in the best position, where they meet the appropriate grant criteria, to apply for funding from whatever statutory or charitable sources are currently available to them. Conversely any scheme which does not sign up to them will not receive any funding whatsoever from Government for community-based restorative justice.

I hope that the revised protocol can provide an effective way forward but I am keen to hear the views of all the stakeholders and interested parties during the consultation period.

PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces Pay Review

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I am pleased to announce that I have reappointed Professor David Greenaway as chairman of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body for a second three-year term, commencing March 2007. The reappointment has been conducted in accordance with the office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance on appointments to public bodies.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Fraud Review

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Mike O'Brien): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"The final report of the fraud review was published yesterday and I have placed copies in the Libraries of both Houses. The Government are issuing it for consultation and seeks responses by 27 October 2006.

The report outlines current arrangements for dealing with fraud, identifies gaps and shortcomings in the system, and makes recommendations for dealing with them. The recommendations are wide ranging and are aimed at improving fraud deterrence, prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and penalties. Benefits will include reduction of fraud losses to taxpayers, consumers and businesses and a reduction in the harm that fraud causes to individuals and communities.

The Government accept the analysis of the report and is sympathetic to the broad conclusions and recommendations; but we believe the report would benefit from a wider public consultation. Implementation of the recommendations will be considered in the light of consultation responses and after further evaluation of the funding and legislative implications."

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Facilities Research Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): My noble Friend the Minister for Science and Innovation (Lord Sainsbury of Turville) has made the following ministerial statement:

"The Government announced on 22 March 2006 a consultation on a proposal to create a Large Facilities Council. The consultation was announced in the document Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014: Next Steps, and the Government asked for responses on two principal questions as follows:

The Government would welcome views on whether all large facilities operations should be integrated under a new Large Facilities Council, or whether there is a case for some facilities to remain under the management of other Research Councils.

Furthermore, in the event of a merger, should the grant-giving functions of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) be moved to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)?

Following this consultation, which closed on 16 June, the Government have decided to create a new Large Facilities Council by merging the current responsibilities of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC), and the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC). PPARC's grant-giving functions will not be transferred to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). Responsibility for nuclear physics will be transferred from EPSRC to the new Council. The Government aim to set up the new Council so that it can take on its new functions by 1 April 2007".

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive

The Minister for Energy (Malcolm Wicks): I have today published a consultation document on the Government's proposals to implement the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive (the WEEE Directive).

The Government are firmly committed to sustainable development and recognises that effective implementation of the WEEE directive has a key role to play in achieving this goal. Electrical and electronic equipment is the fastest growing category of waste across the European Union, with an estimated 17 to 20 kg per person produced every year. The UK alone generated around 1 million tonnes of WEEE last year. By ensuring that WEEE is treated, recycled and disposed of to high environmental standards as required by the directive, we protect the environment and human health from the risk of hazardous contamination.

The proposals published today follow on from the implementation review announced last December, and have been developed through extensive consultation with companies and other interested parties who will be directly affected by the new regulations. They represent a balance of controls needed to identify and discourage free-riders and give companies the freedom to find the most cost-effective routes to meet their obligations.

The intention is, subject to the outcome of public consultation, that the directive should be transported into UK law early in 2007, leading to full implementation on 1 July 2007.

The consultation document will be placed on the DTI website so that it is available to the wider public. The consultation period will run for 12 weeks, with a closing date for comments of 17 October 2006. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Unfair Terms in Contracts

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): The Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission published a report on unfair terms in contracts in February 2005 (Law Com No. 292; Scots Law Com no. 199). It set out detailed recommendations, together with a draft Bill designed to produce a unified regime replacing the Unfair Contracts Terms Act 1977 and the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999 for the whole of the UK in a way that is much clearer and easier to follow, and also addressed some gaps in protection that the Commissions identified. I am grateful for the Law Commissions' detailed and comprehensive report and for their extensive consultations on the issues involved, and appreciate their commitment to this project.

This project was undertaken jointly by the Law Commissions at the request of both the Department of Trade and Industry and the then Lord Chancellor's Department—now the Department for Constitutional Affairs. The Government have carefully considered the Law Commissions' report and are content in principle to accept the recommendations for reform. This acceptance is subject to further consideration of the detail of the issues, and to further work to identify potential cost impacts. The proposed legislation will be subject to full public consultation.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Monday 4 September and Friday 8 September 2006

CABINET OFFICE

Publication of Public Bodies Directory

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am pleased to announce that the 2006 version of the "Public Bodies Directory" has now been completed and copies of the directory are available in the Library for the Reference of Members. The directory provides information on individual public bodies as at 31 March 2006. The directory is also accessible at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public_bodies/index.asp. This shows that at 31 March 2006 there was a reduction of 28 long-term public bodies since the same date in 2005.

The directory lists the public bodies sponsored by central Government, with contact details, information about their remit and about the membership of their boards. It also introduces a new category within the public bodies classifications; Public Broadcasting Authorities. This recognises the unique governance arrangements pertaining to the BBC and S4C, which set them apart from other non-Departmental bodies and public corporations.

The board membership figures are broken down between male and female members for individual bodies, and summaries are provided at departmental level for the proportions of board members who are women, have declared they have a disability or come from a minority ethnic background. There have been small increases in all categories. As at 31 March 2006, 35.5 per cent. of appointments made were women (up 0.5 per cent. on the position at 31 March 2005), 5.9 per cent. were members of ethnic minority groups (up 0.4 per cent.) and 5.1 per cent. were to those declaring a disability (up 0.8 per cent.).

A cross-Government summary of individual Departments' figures will be placed on the public appointments website at: www.publicappointments.gov.uk. This reinforces the Government's commitment to continue to pursue its diversity objectives and to promote outreach activity and plans.

The directory also includes information about the Government's Task Forces, Ad-hoc Advisory Groups and Reviews, giving a more complete picture of the bodies and groups working to deliver the Government's objectives.

Social Exclusion Action Plan

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): Today we are publishing the "Social Exclusion Action Plan".

We have much to be proud of in our efforts to tackle poverty, promote social justice and create the right environment for sustained economic growth.

However, a consequence of this success is that the more modest progress of some specific groups within our society has become more apparent.

This Action Plan is the first step towards changing that. It aims to create the conditions to allow everybody to accept opportunity, reach their full potential and play their full part in society.

This Action Plan marks a new direction for the Government's social exclusion policy. It commits us to:

Better identification and early intervention: We will identify early who is at risk of persistent exclusion and use this information to more effectively intervene and support those most in need, and before disadvantage becomes entrenched.

Identifying what works: We will systematically identify and promote interventions that work. To ensure effective adoption of best practice, we will build the capability of providers and commissioners.

Multi-agency working: We will break down barriers and enhance flexibility so local providers and agencies can work together to meet the needs of excluded groups, especially those facing multiple problems.

Personalisation, rights and responsibilities: We will tailor services to the needs of the individual. We will empower, where it is appropriate, excluded groups to make choices on their own behalf or ensure there is an independent, trusted third party to work on their behalf. Our approach will be framed by a clear understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens, services and the community.

Supporting achievement and managing underperformance: Where local authorities and services are delivering, Government will leave them alone. But where there is underperformance, Government will intervene.

The Action Plan outlines how these principles will be applied or piloted for excluded groups throughout the lifetime—during the early years, the childhood years and the adult years. Implementing more focused and immediate interventions will supplement and inform deeper systemic reform.

Copies of the Action Plan have been placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ordnance Survey Agency Performance Monitors

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Angela E. Smith): The following performance targets have been set for Ordnance Survey in 2006-07:

Ordnance Survey will report externally against a set of Agency Performance Monitors (APMs) as required of all Executives Agencies in Government:

1. To achieve an operating profit before interest and dividends of £4.5 million for the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

2. Some 99.6 per cent. of significant real world features are represented in the database within six months of completion.

3. To continuously improve the timeliness of the supply of our data to customers with a success rate not lower than 96 per cent.

4. To reduce carbon emissions from Ordnance Survey Headquarters by 28 per cent. against the base year of 2000-01.

5. To achieve an increase of at least 5 per cent. in business with customers transacted through our Ordnance Survey Options and Ordnance Survey Leisure map shop e-channels.

These targets reflect Ordnance Survey's continuing commitment to customers, improved value for money for all of its stakeholders and commitment to Government policies.

DEFENCE

Iraq Roulement - Theatre Reserve Battalion

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): On 18 July in a written ministerial statement I confirmed the details of the force package for the next routine roulement of UK forces in Iraq in November when the lead UK formation, currently 20 Armoured Brigade, will be replaced by 19 Light Brigade. I would now like to confirm some of the details of preparations for this roulement. As for previous roulements, elements of the Theatre Reserve Battalion, currently the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, will be deployed to provide additional security during what is always a period of intense activity for UK forces. There will also be some additional support aimed at contributing to improving security in Basra city.

In total this involves approximately 360 additional personnel. They will begin deploying shortly and complete their work not later than January 2007.

This is a critical period for the Iraqi people and their Government. There is an opportunity to improve significantly the security situation in Basra city—building on, and reinforcing, recent progress in Baghdad. Improved security in Basra will create the conditions for the important civil development work being led by the UK's Provincial Reconstruction Team. Therefore I have agreed that the deployment of troops from the Theatre Reserve Battalion, while strictly time limited, should on this occasion be brought forward and extended by a short period. In addition, I have also authorised the deployment of Royal Engineers to assist with reconstruction and countering the threat from improvised explosive devices, a Royal Marine boat troop to assist in tightening security on the Shatt Al Arab waterway, and a troop of Royal Military Police to augment our training of the Iraqi Police.

We ask our servicemen and women to discharge difficult and dangerous tasks. But over the next few months, through security operations and civil development projects, we have a key opportunity to make improvements to the lives of the people of Basra and lay the foundations for the departure, once the conditions are right, of coalition forces from front line roles in Iraq.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Annual Uprating of Loans, Grants and Fees for Higher Education Students

The Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Bill Rammell): The level of support for loans, grants and fees that will be available to eligible students in the 2007-08 academic year will be 2.33 per cent. higher than for 2006-07, in line with forecast price increases.

For students who have entered higher education on or after 1st September 2006, and are being charged variable fees, the maximum fee payable will increase from £3,000 to £3,070 in 2007-08. The increase to the fee will be matched by a corresponding increase to the loan for fees that students can take out.

For students who are not being charged variable fees (primarily students who entered higher education before 1 September 2006), the maximum fee payable will increase from £1,200 to £1,225.

The increased fee amounts have been authorised by the Student Fees (Amounts) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2006, which will come into force on 1st September 2007.

I am placing a memorandum in the Library giving details of all the increased loan, grant and fee rates for 2007-08. These rates are being incorporated in the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2007, which will be laid before Parliament in due course.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy - 4th Annual Report 2005-06

The Minister for Children and Families (Beverley Hughes): I would inform the House that the Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy has published its Annual Report for 2005-06. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Laboratories Agency - Performance Targets 2006-07

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): In my written ministerial statement of 16 May I set out the Performance Targets for the Veterinary Laboratories Agency for 2006-07. The third target listed under Service Delivery in that statement should have had the figure of 80 per cent. rather than 75 per cent. That and all other targets are set out again below.

Service Delivery

1. To meet 85 per cent. of Rationale, Objectives, Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation (ROAME) milestones together with evidence of significant progress towards an outcome based measure of research projects.

2. To achieve 85 per cent. of surveillance deliverables to time.

3. To achieve a score of at least 80 per cent. satisfaction in the VLA customer satisfaction survey.

Financial

4. To achieve full cost recovery.

Efficiency

5. To deliver 2.5 per cent. efficiency savings.

Quality

6. Maintaining current third party certifications and accreditations.

7. To achieve ISO14001 certification for the regional laboratories.

Safety

8. To implement the VLA safety plan 2006-07 to timescales indicated in the Business Plan.

Further details are given in the VLA Business Plan for 2006-07 a copy of which has been provided to the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

UK Nominations to the Economic and Social Committee

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The Government have submitted to the EU Council Secretariat details of the United Kingdom's 24 nominees for membership of the Economic and Social Committee. The Government have made these nominations on the basis of a fair and transparent selection process to ensure the UK delegation reflects the social and economic diversity of the United Kingdom.

The present four-year term of the ESC ends in September 2006. The UK divides its 24 members equally between Group I (Employers), Group II (Employees) and Group III (Other Interests).

The ESC is a consultative body, which produces Opinions for the Council of Ministers on draft legislation. Additionally the Committee can produce its "Own Opinion" on any other economic or social issue.

The UK has 24 full members in the ESC from a current total membership of 317. There are eight UK members in each of the three groups.

The nominees are:

Employers (Group I)

1. Kenneth Fraser
2. Peter Morgan
3. Madi Sharma
4. Bryan Cassidy
5. Jonathan Peel
6. David Sears
7. Brendan Burns
8. Brenda King

Employees (Group II)

9. Christine Blower
10. Sandy Boyle
11. Marge Carey
12. Peter Coldrick
13. Nicolas Crook
14. Brian Curtis
15. Judy McKnight
16. Monica Taylor

Other Interests Group (Group III)

17. RoseD'Sa
18. Maureen O'Neill
19. Michael Smyth
20. Jane Morrice
21. Richard Adams
22. Sukhdev Sharma
23. Tom Jones
24. Derek Osborn.

The 2005 Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): The 2005 Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls will be published at 1100 today as a Command Paper. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House. The report describes UK policy and international developments in export control regimes, as well as information on export licensing decisions taken during 2005.

The Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls is an innovation of this Government. This report, the ninth Annual Report (the first report was published in 1997) is a step away from the traditional reports of the past. Our export licensing system is one of the most rigorous and transparent regimes in the world and the Annual Report—in this new format—symbolises our continued commitment to accountability and transparency by presenting detailed information in a more modern and user friendly format. This year, due to the increasing volume of information on strategic exports that is being published by the Government, all the statistical data that were historically published only in hardcopy are now made available on a CD ROM which accompanies the report. Since 2004 the Government have also produced detailed Quarterly Reports available on the Internet—ensuring that the UK provides some of the most open and timely export licensing information available anywhere. The new CD ROM includes the Quarterly Reports for 2005, as well as more consolidated data, information on licence refusals and fuller information on trade control (trafficking and brokering) licences issued during 2005. The complete report will be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office web site and also published through The Stationery Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

East Africa - Humanitarian Update

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): At the beginning of this year the UN judged that 8.2 million people in East Africa and the Horn were in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, mainly food aid, following the worst drought for a decade. Since then approximately 490,000mt of food aid has been delivered to respond to these needs. Additional assistance has been provided in the form of emergency medical and nutritional relief, water and sanitation, shelter and other forms of relief. The UK has provided approximately £55 million or $103.9 million towards this. Overall the international donor community have provided over $660 million towards the relief effort.

The long rains in the early and mid part of 2006 have led to improvements in most areas. Unfortunately, most notably in Ethiopia, flooding has brought its own tragedy as over 600 people have died and more than 150,000 have lost their homes or been affected in one way or another. Most recently DFID has made available a further £6 million for humanitarian assistance in Kenya, where malnutrition rates remain high and current season harvest assessments present a very mixed picture. In Ethiopia we have provided £1 million for urgent relief to flood-affected people.

Humanitarian assistance is still needed to address the urgent medical and nutritional needs of the most seriously sick and malnourished, and to meet other basic needs, including clean water, to the reduce risks of death and disease. Basic humanitarian indicators remain worrying, but we expect that the steps taken by relief agencies have mitigated what might have been more serious consequences, such as widespread mortality and displacement. We are closely monitoring the situation.

Assistance is also being provided in an effort to improve productive capacity by investing in livestock or other farming inputs such as seeds, tools and livestock vaccinations. However, it remains a challenge to achieve sustained benefits for the poorest and most vulnerable communities. In Ethiopia we are leading supporters of a productive safety nets programme to tackle chronic hunger; we are working on the development of a similar programme in Kenya. It is also important to note that substantial risks remain from conflict in the region, and we are working closely with the international community to promote peace and stability as a prerequisite to finding long term solutions to persistent humanitarian crises.

India - Reproductive and Child Health

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): I have approved support of £252 million over five years for the second phase of the Government of India's nationwide Reproductive and Child Health Programme. DFID will disburse £10 million in financial assistance plus a further £700,000 in technical assistance in 2006-07. Thereafter, annual disbursements will be subject to satisfactory reports on progress.

This programme will support the Government of India in tackling India's huge burden of maternal and infant mortality. One fifth (136,000) of all maternal deaths in the world, and one quarter (1.8 million) of all infant deaths occur in India. Globally we will not reach the Millennium Development Goals to reduce these deaths unless we succeed in India. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme is the Indian Government's single biggest response to meet this challenge. The programme aims to reduce the Maternal Mortality Ratio from 407/100,000 live births in 1998 to 100/100,000 in 2015, and the Infant Mortality Rate from 70/1000 live births in 1998 to 30/1000 in 2015. If the programme achieves all its targets, over one million lives will be saved each year.

The programme will introduce new measures to tackle concerns about procurement irregularities in the first phase of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, which was not funded by DFID. An action plan will help strengthen competitive tendering procedures and increase transparency for the purchasing of drugs and equipment, and new standards will be introduced to improve the quality of products. Until these measures take effect, all procurement contracts over $200,000 will be handled by international agents.

The total cost of this second phase of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme is around £5 billion, which the Indian central and state Governments will meet the bulk of. External aid will be around 15 per cent. of the overall budget, with the single largest contribution coming from DFID. Our aid is being fully coordinated with other development partners, including the World Bank.

The Reproductive and Child Health Programme is universal in coverage, and it will provide care through pregnancy, childbirth and childhood. But resources will be targeted on India's poorest states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh and will especially target women and children among the poorest and most marginalised families, in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

DFID's financial support will be used for upgrading maternity facilities; increasing skilled attendance at birth; the purchase of essential drugs, equipment, supplies and contraceptives; staff training; communications; the piloting of new ideas; and assessing the impact of the programme. DFID technical assistance will finance a National Health Systems Resource Centre, which will provide overall technical assistance to the Programme at central and state level, and strengthen health sector procurement.

This second phase of the programme is ambitious and will require a huge expansion in the delivery of public sector health services, to tackle some of the country's biggest health problems. It also includes a number of additional accountability and financial management safeguards to strengthen the Government's anti-corruption systems. The programme will be monitored closely by the Indian Government and development partners, through reviews every six months. A copy of the Project Memorandum for the DFID contribution has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Update on Recovery in Lebanon and Humanitarian Situation in Gaza

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): The recent conflict in Lebanon caused great harm to the civilian populations in both Israel and Lebanon. A million people, a quarter of Lebanon's population, were displaced by the fighting and in Israel 300,000 people were reported to have fled their homes or taken to shelters. Israel had every right to defend itself against Hezbollah, but from the beginning we expressed the need for a proportionate response. I believe that this requires all sides to respect international humanitarian law.

The ceasefire, reached after much diplomatic activity, including strenuous efforts by the British Government, is holding and has aided the relief effort but the humanitarian situation in Lebanon remains serious.

On 15 August, the day after the ceasefire came into effect, I visited Beirut to assess the situation for myself. The priorities for the humanitarian aid effort were to secure sustained access for humanitarian convoys to reach the most vulnerable; to ensure safe return for displaced citizens; to minimise the risk of injury and death from unexploded munitions for those returning and for aid workers; and to repair basic infrastructure, such as water and power supplies and bridges.

From early in the conflict, the UK responded to Lebanon's call for help. Our total funding commitment now stands at £22.3 million, including our share of multilateral spending, making us one of the biggest bilateral contributors to the humanitarian effort. In line with our assessment of current priorities, this money is helping to provide shelter, healthcare, water and sanitation, and to clear unexploded munitions. We have agreed to provide urgently needed prefabricated bridges to open critical humanitarian supply routes. The first three bridges arrived in Lebanon on 1 September.

The Government have also urged Israel to lift all restrictions on normal shipping entering Lebanese ports, as set out in resolution 1701. This is essential in order to help restore the economy. The partial lifting of the economic blockade last week has further enhanced the chances of avoiding a much bigger humanitarian crisis and will help Lebanon begin the path to recovery. We continue to push for further progress on the issue.

The international community has responded generously to Prime Minister Siniora's appeal for assistance at the Stockhom conference on early recovery held on 31 August. Collectively we have pledged over $900 million to aid recovery. It will be important that these pledges are acted on as soon as possible.

Lebanon needed our aid, and we are ready to do more as needed, but more than anything else what Lebanon and the region need is peace. The conflict of this summer was a symptom of a wider collective failure to resolve the conflict that has affected the Middle East for decades. UNSCR 1701 was a step in the right direction, and must be implemented by all parties, but we need to encourage negotiation, compromise and above all political leadership to end the long-term suffering of people on both sides of the border.

Unfortunately, what has happened in Lebanon is not the only humanitarian crisis in the region. We cannot forget the plight of the Palestinians, especially in Gaza, where violence continues and people die. Since the start of the current conflict on 28 June, over 200 Palestinians have been killed and over 700 injured. The cost of damage to agriculture and industry is now estimated at around $46 million. Many households continue to receive only six to eight hours of electricity per day. However, there are plans to rebuild the Gaza power station and to supply electricity from Egypt, which should improve the situation. Intermittent electricity supply is affecting all key services. Water supply and sanitation services remain limited, with severe health implications. The UN now estimates a 65 per cent. increase in the number of children with diarrhoea compared with this time last year. Hospitals are struggling to operate vital equipment and to store drugs and vaccines safely.

Food prices are rising and 70 per cent. of Gazans are now considered to be food insecure. The World Food Programme reports a 7[illegible] per cent. increase in numbers using their feeding programme. Gaza crossing points are open intermittently, primarily for humanitarian food supplies. Action is needed to ensure unrestricted humanitarian access, including the supply of medical equipment, fuel, food and electricity.

At the Stockholm Donor Conference on 1 September, donors pledged $500 million for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, of which $200 million was for humanitarian aid. The UK pledged £3 million to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) for operation, maintenance and repair work to keep water, sanitation and electricity services running. This follows an earlier contribution to the TIM of £3 million to fund essential health supplies. In addition, the UK made a contribution of £15 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in April. UNRWA provides healthcare and other basic services for Palestinian refugees, who comprise 70 per cent. of Gaza's population. The UK has also deployed two experts to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to improve its capacity to monitor the humanitarian situation in Gaza. These two experts will assist donors and others to make sure help gets to those who need it the most.

HEALTH

NHS Financial Performance

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): My Department published on 11 August 2006 the NHS financial performance for the first quarter of 2006-07. The report indicates that the NHS is on track to achieve our aim of a net financial balance by the end of the year. The report shows that the NHS as a whole

is forecasting a small surplus for the year of £18 million, after application of a £350 million contingency created by the Strategic Health Authorities.

The report is available in the Library and is published on the Department's website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/79/95/04137995.pdf

Outsourcing of the NHS Supply Chain Services

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): A 10-year contract has been awarded to DHL to manage the supply chain and procurement services currently managed by the logistics division of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) and part of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA).

The effective date of the contract will be 1 October 2006 and the new service will be known as NHS Supply Chain. DHL will operate NHS Supply Chain as agent of the NHSBSA, which will be responsible for managing the contract on behalf of the Department and of the NHS.

DHL will manage the procurement and supply chain services of approximately £3.7 billion of NHS non-pay spend and forecasts savings greater than £1 billion for the NHS frontline.

In addition, the partnership with DHL will:

Secure continuity of the services for at least 10 years;

ensure all Trusts will benefit from lower prices;

secure the vast majority of the 1,650 jobs that are being transferred;

protect staff terms and conditions under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE);

create up to 1,000 new jobs to support expansion over the 10 years;

guarantee that all the logistics distribution centres will remain open for five years at the very least; and

require the construction of a new distribution centre in the Midlands within 18 months.

We recognise that NHS Trusts value the NHS Logistics service and we have ensured that DHL will, at a minimum, maintain the current service. As is the case now, NHS Trusts will not be mandated to use the outsourced service. For DHL to be successful they will have to demonstrate value for money to NHS Trusts. They will also work very closely with clinicians to source the right products at the best prices from suppliers.

This is also an opportunity for suppliers with innovative products to gain better access to the NHS. DHL will purchase products on behalf of the NHSBSA in accordance with EU procurement regulations thus ensuring open and fair competition.

Review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): The arrangements under part IX of the drug tariff have not been reviewed for over twenty years and there were clear indications that neither the NHS nor the taxpayer were receiving value for money.

We have therefore been consulting with the market over potential price cuts since October 2005.

In reviewing part IX, the Government's objectives have been to:

Maintain, and where applicable improve, the current quality of care to patients;

secure value for money for the NHS;

ensure equitable payment for equivalent services and transparent reimbursement pricing;

work in partnership to deliver fair prices for the NHS and reasonable returns for suppliers and contractors;

facilitate the introduction of innovative solutions;

maintain local choice in the provision of services; and

keep administration arrangements to the necessary minimum.

We have consulted extensively with industry on these issues. Following consultation on dressings and chemical reagents, we have decided to implement a staged price reduction of up to 15 per cent. to the April 2006 drug tariff reimbursement prices for some blood glucose detection strips. Initially, reimbursement prices will be reduced by 12 per cent. on all affected products from 1 October 2006. This may be followed by a further reimbursement price reduction of 3 per cent. from 1 November 2006. We hope that the 3 per cent. variant will allow the market to maintain the free provision of related services, including the supply of educational material, helplines and metres. Responses to the consultation indicated that a price reduction of 15 per cent. may mean that it would be difficult to maintain these services. We have written to companies to inform them of the price changes.

A consultation on stoma and incontinence appliances has closed today and further consultation with industry will be held.

Spearhead Primary Care Trust Areas

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): The Government have set Public Service Agreement targets to address geographical inequalities in life expectancy, cancer, heart disease, stroke and related diseases. The targets aim to see faster progress compared to the average in the "fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators". Achievement of the targets will be assessed on the outcomes for this group in 2010. The local authorities and primary care trusts which make these areas are the Health Inequalities Spearhead Group.

The Spearhead group is defined on local authority data and consist of 70 local authorities that are then mapped onto primary care trust boundaries.

Revised primary care trusts boundaries were announced on 19 May. Following the reconfiguration, the spearhead group list has been refreshed to take account of the new primary care trust boundaries. The list of 70 Spearhead group local authorities (that has not changed) and the revised list of 62 primary care trusts that map to them is as follows:

Local Authorities in the Spearhead Group	*Primary Care Trusts in the Spearhead Group*
Barking and Dagenham	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Barnsley	Barking & Dagenham PCT
Barrow-in-Furness	Barnsley PCT
Birmingham	Birmingham East & North PCT
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen PCT
Blackpool	Blackpool PCT
Blyth Valley	Bolton PCT
Bolsover	Bradford PCT
Bolton	Bury PCT
Bradford	Central Lancashire PCT
Burnley	City and Hackney PCT
Bury	County Durham PCT
Carlisle	Coventry PCT
Chester-le-Street	Cumbria PCT
Corby	Derbyshire County PCT
Coventry	Doncaster PCT
Derwentside	East Lancashire PCT
Doncaster	Gateshead PCT
Easington	Greenwich PCT
Gateshead	Halton & St Helens PCT
Greenwich	Hammersmith & Fulham PCT
Hackney	Haringey PCT
Halton	Hartlepool PCT
Hammersmith and Fulham	Heart of Birmingham PCT
Haringey	Hull Teaching PCT
Hartlepool	Islington PCT
Hyndburn	Knowsley PCT
Islington	Lambeth PCT
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Leicester City PCT
Knowsley	Lewisham PCT
Lambeth	Lincolnshire PCT
Leicester	Liverpool PCT
Lewisham	Manchester PCT
Lincoln	Middlesbrough PCT
Liverpool	Newcastle PCT
Manchester	Newham PCT
Middlesbrough	North East Lincolnshire PCT
Newcastle upon Tyne	North Tyneside PCT
Newham	Northamptonshire County PCT
North East Lincolnshire	Northumberland Care Trust
North Tyneside	Nottingham PCT
Nottingham	Oldham PCT
Nuneaton and Bedworth	Redcar & Cleveland PCT
Oldham	Rochdale PCT
Pendle	Rotherham PCT
Preston	Salford PCT
Redcar and Cleveland	Sandwell PCT
Rochdale	South Birmingham PCT
Rossendale	South Tyneside PCT
Rotherham	Southwark PCT
Salford	Staffordshire County PCT
Sandwell	Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT
Sedgefield	Stoke on Trent PCT
South Tyneside	Sunderland PCT
Southwark	Tameside & Glossop PCT
St. Helens	Tower Hamlets PCT
Stockton-on-Tees	Wakefield PCT
Stoke-on-Trent	Walsall PCT
Sunderland	Warrington PCT
Tameside	Warwickshire PCT
Tamworth	Wirral PCT
Tower Hamlets	Wolverhampton PCT
Wakefield	
Walsall	
Wansbeck	
Warrington	
Wear Valley	
Wigan	
Wirral	
Wolverhampton	

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Order Powers

The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety (Mr. Tony McNulty): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

During the period 11 June to 10 September 2006, nine orders were made with the permission of the court under section 3(l)(a) of the 2005 Act—one in respect of a British citizen on 19 June 2006, one in respect of a foreign national on 31 July 2006, six in respect of foreign nationals on 1 August 2006 and one in respect of a British citizen on 5 September 2006.

The Secretary of State has also renewed one control order in accordance with Section 2 (4) (b) of the 2005 Act on 30 August 2006.

There are 15 control orders currently in force, six of which are in respect of British citizens.

During the period two requests to modify a control order obligation were agreed, and seven requests to modify a control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal exists in section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State not to modify an obligation contained in a control order.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Suspension of Doha Development Agenda Negotiations

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): I would like to update the House on the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda. On July 24, Pascal Lamy, the Director General of the WTO announced that he was recommending the suspension of the negotiations across all subjects after talks between the US, EU, Brazil, India, Australia and Japan broke down on the key issues of agricultural domestic support, agricultural market access and non-agricultural market access. He said the suspension would give all WTO members time to reflect, to examine available options and to review their positions. His recommendation was accepted at a WTO General Council meeting on 27 July.

The UK Government are very disappointed that insufficient progress has been made in the negotiations to allow the conclusion of the Doha Round this year. While it is very disappointing that no agreement has yet been reached, it is premature to say that the Doha Round has collapsed and cannot be revived. We believe that all key players have a responsibility to use the suspension of the negotiations to reflect on their positions with a view to showing flexibility in future that will allow an agreement to be reached. Developing countries, including the poorest countries, are the biggest losers from the failure to reach agreement.

The UK remains committed to achieving an ambitious, pro-development outcome to these negotiations. Our priority now is to encourage all WTO members to re-engage in the negotiations as soon as possible. The UK Government have taken and will continue to take every opportunity to press for this—within the EU and with other WTO members. The UK Government will also continue to press for progress on Aid For Trade for developing countries. Building developing countries' capacity to trade is important in helping them integrate into the global economy and for providing a route out of poverty, and we do not believe that Aid for Trade should be conditional on the successful conclusion of the DDA.

The UK will continue to support a multilateral, rules based international trading system. We believe multilateralism is the best way of tackling unfair trade practices.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Independent Living Review - Membership of the Expert Panel

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): The Office for Disability Issues has set up an Expert Panel to support the work of the cross-Government Independent Living Review, as announced in another place by my noble Friend the Baroness Royall on 14 July.

The role of the Expert Panel will be to shape and steer the Independent Living Review which we have set up to identify imaginative and practical solutions to support independent living for disabled people. The Independent Living Review Project Team will report regularly to the Expert Panel and ensure that its views are reflected as the review progresses.

The review, which will report in summer 2007, will:

Bring together the views and experience of central and local government officials, disabled people and organisations of disabled people;

develop imaginative new solutions in the areas of health, social care, transport, employment and housing;

develop thinking on the relationship between independent living and individual budgets; and

make practical proposals for activity to support independent living.

Dame Jane Campbell, former Chair of the Social Care Institute for Excellence, will chair the Expert Panel. Rob Greig, National Director for Learning Disabilities, will be Vice Chairman.

Expert Panel members include a range of experts in the field of independent living, including disabled people, and people from organisations of disabled people, user-led groups and service delivery organisations.

I am pleased to announce that members of the Independent Living Review Expert Panel are:

Dame Jane Campbell, Expert Panel Chair, Disability Rights Commissioner, Former Chair, Social Care Institute for Excellence

Rob Greig, Expert Panel Vice Chair, National Director for Valuing People, Co-chair of Learning Disability Task Force

Saghir Alam, Disability Rights Commission, lead Commissioner for Partnership and Capacity Building, member of CENTREX Race and Diversity Panel

Ian Basnett, Chair of Independent Living Committee, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Nasa Begum, Principal Adviser for Participation, Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE)

Zoe Carter, User Involvement Network for Mental Health Services in North Essex

John Dixon, Joint Chair of Disability Committee, Association of Directors of Social Services

David Gardiner, UK Older People's Advisory Group, Better Government for Older People

Fazilet Hadi, Director of Policy, Royal National Institute for the Blind

Frances Hasler, Head of User Participation, Commission for Social Care Inspection

Rowen Jade, Office for Disability Issues Advisory Group

Raymond Johnson, National Manager, People First

Elaine Morton, Chief Executive, Independent Living Funds

Menghi Mulchandani, Chair, National Centre for Independent Living

Jo Williams, Chief Executive, Mencap

Jean Willson, Chair of Centre 404 (formally Islington Mencap), A local organisation founded by parents of children with learning difficulties, which provides family support, learning and leisure opportunities, and supported housing

Gerry Zarb, Head of Independent Living Strategy, Disability Rights Commission

Government Departments on the Office for Disability Issues Board of Management will also be represented on the Panel.

The first meeting of the Expert Panel is being held today, 11 September 2006.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Monday 11 September and Wednesday 13 September 2006

TREASURY

Financial Services Regulation

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): Concerns have been expressed to the Government about the effects of a possible takeover of the LSE by a company based outside the UK on the LSE's rules, in particular the rules applying to those companies whose securities are traded on the LSE's markets. This is a concern that the Government share. In this statement I set out our approach.

The Government are neutral as to the nationality of the owners of Recognised Bodies (RBs)[1]. Of the current RBs, five are subsidiaries of overseas based companies. Openness to overseas investment has been an important part of the success of the City in recent years and will continue to be in the future.

The Government would also not seek to intervene in the independent judgments of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the competition authorities in respect of any changes of ownership of RBs. The FSA and the competition authorities have specific tasks to perform on an independent basis within clear legislative frameworks set out by Parliament. Independence and indifference to nationality are key elements of the UK's regulatory regime.

Investors, issuers of securities, and members of RBs all have an interest in RBs having rules which strike a balance appropriate to that body between the benefits of the restrictions, particularly in terms of investor protection and the impacts on issuers, members and other stakeholders. Such a balance is vital to ensuring exchanges play their role in creating deep and liquid capital markets which promote economic growth. In this respect, the Government believe it is essential that changes of ownership of RBs should not put at risk the achievement of such a balance by RBs.

Our current regulatory regime for RBs is based on high-level legislative principles supplemented by FSA guidance. Within this framework, RBs have the freedom to develop their own rule books in consultation with their members.

I have discussed these issues widely in recent months and made clear that I would expect any potential new owners of the LSE to want to provide certainty and reassurance to the exchange's stakeholders. I welcome the statement which the US's Securities and Exchange Commission issued on 16 June. This provided a helpful clarification of how the SEC sees the current position in respect of the scope of US securities laws.

However, as the FSA pointed out in its statement of 12 June, there is a degree of uncertainty about how overseas ownership of the LSE would affect its regulatory regime. It depends on exactly how any owner would attempt to integrate the LSE with its existing business and the legal framework in other countries—both of which can be subject to change.

It is important that there is certainty that the rules of RBs in the UK will continue to be proportionate, balancing the benefits of restrictions with the impacts on stakeholders.

The Government will now legislate to enhance the FSA's powers in this area. This will confer power on the FSA to veto changes to the rules of an RB in defined circumstances. The aim would be to enable the FSA to stop RBs making rule changes whose effects on issuers and others were likely to be disproportionate to the public benefits. The Government will provide further details in due course.

The purpose of such a change to legislation is not to involve the FSA in the day-to-day commercial judgments of the RBs. The power will be a right of veto and not a right of approval of rule changes. It will provide a back stop to ensure that the RBs stakeholders can be certain about the proportionality of the rules of the RBs going forward.

This new provision will ensure that UK RBs remain open to overseas ownership. It makes the permissible outer limits of the RB rules blind to the nationality of their ownership by entrenching better regulation principles in respect of those rules.

It should also be clear that we will not allow this legislation to be evaded through abuse of our recognised overseas investment exchange and clearing house regimes.

[1] Under section 18 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 there are seven recognised investment exchanges (the London Stock Exchange, London International Financial Futures Exchange, EDX London, Virt-X, ICE Futures, the London Metal Exchange and NYMEX Europe) and two recognised clearing houses (CREST, and LCH. Clearnet Ltd).

Home Reversion Plans and Home Purchase Plans

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): The Treasury is today laying before Parliament the secondary legislation to introduce Financial Services Authority regulation of activities relating to these products. Copies will be available in the Vote Office and the Library of the House, and will be accessible on the Treasury website at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Counter Narcotics

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): Following the launch of the National Drug Control Strategy at the London Conference on Afghanistan in January, the UK continues, as partner nation, to support the Government of Afghanistan's counter narcotics effort. This year's planting season pre-dated the launch of that strategy and, although last year saw

a 21 per cent. decline in opium poppy cultivation across Afghanistan, this year it is likely that there will be a significant rise in cultivation. This is worrying and is due, in part, to a substantial increase in planting of opium poppy in the south of Afghanistan, including in Helmand Province. But in areas where governance, security and levels of development have improved, there are signs that last year's cultivation reductions will be sustained. At the same time, the Government of Afghanistan's eradication effort has been more effective than in previous years.

The Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy offers the best means to tackle the opium trade at its source. We are determined to work with the Government and people of Afghanistan to sharpen delivery in order to achieve sustained impact on the ground. In particular they will be focusing their efforts on targeting the traffickers and their accomplices who profit most from the trade. We will be assisting by helping to establish the rule of law across Afghanistan, which is essential to counter narcotics efforts and to the success of the broader reconstruction process. The UK is working with the Government of Afghanistan and with other donors to develop new intelligence structures and to build the capacity of counter narcotics law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. These efforts are starting to show results. Since August 2005 we have seen the conviction of over 190 traffickers, and a significant increase in drugs related seizures and the destruction of laboratories. These actions are helping to disrupt the trade, forcing traffickers to move and store drugs in smaller quantities.

The Department for International Development also continues to support Afghan National Programmes focused on strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods, including in Helmand Province where my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development recently announced that the UK would contribute £30 million to livelihoods activity over the next three years. Since April 2003 over 12 million labour days have been provided and over 8,000 km of roads rehabilitated. Almost US$70 million micro-finance loans have been disbursed over the last two years and US$180 million in grants approved to some 10,000 Community Development Councils. In addition, since September 2005, over 500,000 farmers have been provided with seeds and fertiliser.

On 5 September last year I announced, in a joint press conference with Afghan Counter Narcotics Minister Qaderi, that the UK would spend a total of £270 million in support of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy between 2005-08. This includes £130 million of DfID funding. In 2005-06 the UK spent the following in support of the eight pillars in the National Drugs Control Strategy:

Pillar 1: Public Awareness—£649,000 in support of Afghan efforts to inform members of the population about counter narcotics policies, legislation, operations and alternatives to poppy cultivation and to persuade farmers not to grow poppy.

Pillar 2: Demand Reduction—£1,112,000 on treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction programmes.

Pillar 3: Law Enforcement—£20,787,000 on building the capacity and equipping the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan and the Afghan Special Narcotics Force.

Pillar 4: Criminal Justice—£1,112,000 to establish a counter narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force of 84 judges, prosecutors and investigators and high security detention facilities.

Pillar 5: Institution Building—£5,177,000 to establish and staff a fully operational Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) and to build capacity within the counter narcotics division of the Ministry of Interior.

Pillar 6: Alternative Livelihoods—£37,520,000 to strengthen and diversify legal rural livelihoods.

Pillar 7: Eradication—£5,709,000 to support survey, monitoring, and verification of eradication to target it where legal livelihoods exist.

Pillar 8: International and Regional Cooperation—£2,006,000 to support border control and other regional projects focused on disrupting the flow of illicit drugs and precursor materials across Afghanistan's borders.

The UK also contributed £9,000,000 to the Government of Afghanistan's Counter Narcotics Trust Fund and a further £1,500,000 to the Law and Order Trust Fund established to cover the cost of police salaries and equipment. A further £2,970,000 was spent on strategy, research and reviews, including support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's annual poppy survey.

Situation in the Middle East

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Margaret Beckett): I welcome this chance to update the House on the situation in the Middle East since I wrote to Members of Parliament on 14 August.

Since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 on 11 August, the Government have been focused on turning the cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hizbollah into a durable cease-fire and a long-term solution. And we have been working hard with key partners and the parties to re-energise the Middle East Peace Process, an issue of vital importance to the region and wider world. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister visited Lebanon (the first ever visit by a British Prime Minister), Israel and the Occupied Territories from 9 to 11 September and I visited Egypt from 7 to 9 September.

Lebanon

As the Prime Minister said during his visit to Lebanon, we must ensure the full implementation of UNSCR 1701 to support the Lebanese people's desire for a stable, prosperous and democratic future for Lebanon.

Following the ceasefire, one of our immediate priorities has been to address the humanitarian and reconstruction situation in Lebanon. We have seen an easing of the humanitarian situation. Most of the Lebanese displaced population have now been able to return home or are on their way home. Food and other essentials are now available. A worsened humanitarian crisis has been averted. After intensive efforts by the UK and other international partners, Israel announced the lifting of its blockade on Lebanon on 7 September. But life in Lebanon remains difficult for many.

The UK continues to play its part in the humanitarian and recovery efforts. The UK will contribute a total of over £40 million to Lebanon, including £22.3 million

for humanitarian assistance and early recovery projects. UK funding has so far helped to provide and deliver shelter, healthcare, food, water and sanitation. We have provided over £1.5 million to clear spent and unexploded munitions. Our funds will also contribute towards emergency bridges to help open critical humanitarian supply routes to those isolated in southern Lebanon. The first three prefabricated bridges provided by the UK arrived in Beirut on 1 September.

The other immediate priority has been to stabilise the peace. Urgent work has been undertaken to strengthen the UN Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), in order to carry out the range of important new tasks set out in UNSCR 1701. The force will be led by France until February 2007, and then by Italy. On 25 August, EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels pledged up to 7,000 troops and a range of sea, air and specialist assets.

Due to our current operational commitments elsewhere, we will not be able to provide ground troops. But the UK has sent HMS York to participate in the Interim Maritime Force and we would consider providing, in addition, two E3 AWACS and six Jaguar aircraft if needed. We are willing to respond positively to requests to use our Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus. We are also paying our share of the costs of the UN operation, on which we pay a premium as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

During his visit to Beirut, the Prime Minister made clear that the UK intends to play a major role in Security Sector Reform (SSR). The Lebanese armed forces have a crucial role in the country and the UK has set aside £2.5 million to support efforts to ensure that the Lebanese armed forces take in control of all parts of the Lebanon. We will work with the Lebanese Government in terms of training and equipment and any other help that we can give.

We must also work to address the underlying root causes of this conflict. This means strengthening the ability of the democratically-elected Lebanese Government to be in sole charge of Lebanon, and ensuring that militias, supported and supplied from outside Lebanon, can never again plunge the region into crisis.

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

We must not lose sight of the fact that the conflict in Lebanon arose out of the continuing impasse in Palestine. This issue is of fundamental importance, not just to Israelis and Palestinians but to the whole of the region and the wider world. As the Prime Minister made clear in Los Angeles on 1 August there is an urgent need to re-energise the Middle East Peace Process. We have been working hard to bring the parties back to the Road-Map.

To achieve this goal it is imperative that the violence on the ground stops. As a result of the current situation in Gaza more than 220 Palestinians have died, including more than 60 children. Three Israeli soldiers have been killed and one abducted. We continue to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Corporal Shalit. We also condemn the continued rocket attacks on Israeli civilians. We call on Israel to exercise restraint and to do everything possible to avoid civilian casualties. As the European Council said on 18 July, those elected members of the Palestinian Government and legislature detained by Israel should be released.

We remain seriously concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The "Temporary International Mechanism" (TIM) is now operational. The TIM is paying allowances to 10,000 officials in the health sector. It is also paying for fuel to reach hospitals across the Occupied Territories. It has supported the continuation of health services in the current difficult environment. The International Development Secretary has announced £6 million so far for the TIM, for essential health supplies and to support water, sanitation and electricity services. The UK will contribute up to £12 million. The EC has already paid an allowance to 43,000 of the poorest Palestinians.

The Prime Minister used his visit to exchange ideas and identify a way for the parties to re-engage. Both Prime Minster Olmert and President Abbas agreed to meet with each other without conditions and made clear their commitment to a political process. The Prime Minister also discussed the formation of a National Unity Government with President Abbas. President Abbas subsequently announced on 11 September that agreement had been reached to form a National Unity Government. We await details on the programme to which this Government are committed. But, as the Prime Minister said when he was with President Abbas, such a Government, if based on the Quartet requirements, offers the possibility of re-engagement by the international community.

As I made clear to President Mubarak and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Aboul Gheit, we fully support Egyptian efforts to mediate between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and the militants currently holding Corporal Shalit. I also discussed with them and the Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, the need to re-energise the MEPP. Egypt and the Arab League share this goal.

Update on Sudan

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Margaret Beckett): Sudan remains a top priority for the UK Government. The Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are jointly supporting parties in Sudan to deliver the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed on 5 May, and to promote development in Sudan. The UK played a leading role in securing UN Security Council Resolution 1706, which was passed on 31 August. This resolution expands the mandate of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to Darfur in support of the early and effective implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the N'djamena Agreement, and strengthens the military personnel and civilian component of UNMIS to do this.

The passage of Resolution 1706 demonstrates the international community's continued commitment to peace in Darfur. In the interests of the safety and welfare of its civilians, we continue to press the Sudanese Government, at the highest level, to give consent to its implementation. We are concerting with others in the international community, including the UN, US and key Arab states, to achieve this. I raised this with Egyptian President Mubarak and the

Secretary General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, in Cairo last week. And both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and my noble Friend the Minister for Africa (Lord Triesman of Tottenham), have been engaging key interlocutors in the Government of Sudan and beyond.

In the meantime we will continue to support the African Union's efforts while a transition is under-way. The African Union is doing an important job in the most difficult of circumstances and it is most important that they stay until a UN force is able to deploy. On 18 July, the international community in Brussels promised further support of around $200 million, including the £20 million that the UK is providing this year.

The continuing violence in Darfur is having devastating effects. It must stop immediately. We condemn the continuing violations of the ceasefire by all parties, particularly the violence directed at civilians and attacks on humanitarian agencies. Because of this insecurity the UN and NGOs are unable to reach 470,000 people whom they believe to be in need of their assistance.

We are also gravely concerned by the recent military build-up in Darfur and reports of Sudanese Government military attacks as part of its "stabilisation plan for Darfur". As the UN Secretary-General has said, this plan is inconsistent with the DPA. Any attempt to take renewed military action and any continued rebel activity would further undermine the prospects of achieving peace and could lead to a further humanitarian catastrophe.

A broad-based and inclusive implementation of the DPA, signed in Abuja on 5 May 2006, remains the basis for stability, peace and reconciliation in Darfur. The UK played a leading role in negotiations in Abuja: the Secretary of State for International Development attended the final days of negotiations in support of the AU mediation to help secure a deal. All parties should work to put its provisions into effect. More rapid progress by the Government of Sudan in disarming the Janjaweed is key. It is also important for the signatories to the DPA to work to bring the non-signatories on board. To this end, the efforts of the SPLM are most welcome.

In the meantime the non-signatories need to be fully involved in the effective monitoring of the ceasefire and investigation of violations through existing ceasefire mechanisms. In this way, they should be fully held to account for fulfilling their obligations as set out in the 2004 N'djamena Agreement on Humanitarian Ceasefire on the Conflict in Darfur.

The UK remains committed to peace in Darfur, and the wider Sudan. We will continue to seek a solution to the conflict there. As part of this, we have appointed a new special representative for Darfur, William Patey, a former ambassador in Khartoum, to replace Rod Pullen, who has retired from the Diplomatic Service.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Office of Fair Trading Report "Opium Derivatives: A Review of Undertakings Given by Macfarlan Smith"

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): We welcomed this Office of Fair Trading report, which was published on 7 March 2006. As part of its statutory role, the OFT regularly reviews undertakings given by organisations following earlier competition investigations. In this case, the OFT reviewed the undertakings by MSL following a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), and concluded that competition was being impeded by the impact of Government policy in the licensing of imports for opium derivatives. It made the recommendation that Government consider competition when setting licensing policy for the import of opium derivatives.

The OFT recommendation is in line with the Government's commitment to encourage and enhance the competitive process to bring the wider benefits to the UK economy. Preventing abuse of market power is a key element of this, and it is important to ensure that regulation which affects such market power is operated in a transparent manner. It is therefore clear that Government should regularly review policy decisions such as this to ensure that the detrimental impact on competition is prevented, or, where other objectives intervene, limited. The OFT report has provided an excellent catalyst for such a review, and the Government will commit to repeating the process of review every five years.

During discussion with MSL and other parties while developing the response, a consistent complaint was the lack of a level playing field between the UK and other European countries (something recognised in the original MMC report). Currently, the UK is the only major European producer to allow imports.

There has been limited discussion of this at European level, and the Government are committed to raising this issue again with the European Commission, to develop options for the creation of a single market for these products.

The full Government action plan and copies of OFT's report will be placed in the Members' Library. In preparing this response, we have worked closely with the relevant Government Departments, in particular the Home Office, which is responsible for licensing policy and the Department of Health.

Written Ministerial Statements

The following statements were received between Thursday 14 September and Monday 18 September 2006

CABINET OFFICE

Sickness Absence (Civil Service)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Pat McFadden): The report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Home Civil Service 2005" prepared for my Department by RED Scientific Limited shows that the headline figure for the average level of sickness absence was 9.8 days per staff year. The report contains a comprehensive analysis of the 2005 figures by Department/Agency.

The Cabinet Office is continuing to work with other Departments and agencies as they work to reduce sickness absence and progress with their implementation of the recommendations of the "Managing Attendance in the Public Sector" report published by the Ministerial Task Force on Health, Safety and Productivity.

The increase in the number of working days lost was primarily due to a change in the methodology used for analysing data. If the 2004 methodology had been used for the 2005 report, the adjusted average working days lost figure would have been 8.8 days per staff year, a drop of 0.3 days.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Employment Mobility Services (moveUK)

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): The Government have decided to terminate their agreement with Scout Solutions Projects Limited to deliver mobility services for social tenants.

The new services to be provided under the contract were a new website providing access to existing schemes such as LAWN and Seaside and Country Homes, and a link to the Jobcentre Plus Internet Job Bank. The cost for the development of the new software and IT infrastructure was £1.2 million and the Department has paid £1.06 million to date.

The Department has decided to terminate this agreement in the interests of the public and the taxpayer because of serious concerns about the performance and fitness for purpose of the software developed by SSPL to provide those services. The software was delivered by the contractor in final form more than a year behind schedule; and independent final testing which replicated SSPL's own test criteria discovered an unacceptable level of faults. Departmental officials worked with the company throughout the contract to address shortcomings, but came to the conclusion that this strong course of action was the only one available. This decision was communicated to SSPL on 20 July 2006. The Department will be seeking to recoup the £1.06 million spent on the development of the new software as well as the associated costs.

Scout Solutions Projects Limited have also been providing existing mobility services alongside the development of the new services. They will continue to be paid to provide these services under the terms of the contract for a transitional period. The funding for these existing services which were delivered has been £9.7 million. Mobility services are important to tenants, and the Department will be seeking to put alternative provision in place building on the success of choice-based letting schemes.

Throughout this period, social housing applicants and tenants have continued to use direct methods to move within social housing. For example in 2004-05 alone over 15,500 LA tenants completed mutual exchanges.

The matter is now the subject of discussions between DCLG and the contractor.

DEFENCE

Naval Base Review

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The Defence Industrial Strategy published in December 2005 set out a challenge to the UK maritime industry to reduce its overheads and invest in the facilities and skills needed to meet the demands of the Royal Navy's future warship programme. The same challenges apply to the naval bases as we look to the future. The naval bases exist to support the Royal Navy's front line. They are complex and expensive organisations. We need to ensure that their capacity is no more and no less than we need to support the needs of the fleet now and in the years to come. I wish to announce therefore our intention to conduct an in-depth review of naval base infrastructure requirements. The aim of the review is to ensure that we have the right naval base infrastructure to meet the needs of the future fleet. The review will assess future requirements and examine a range of options, including some that could lead to radical reductions in overheads and naval base capacity. The recommendations from the review, which will be undertaken by the Defence Logistics Organisation, are expected to be finalised in spring 2007.

The trade unions have been consulted on the terms of reference for the review and, while it is too early to predict the impact on jobs, the Department will continue to engage with them and other stakeholders as the review is taken forward. Final decisions on the recommendations from the review will be subject to full trade union consultation.

World War 1 Veterans (Pardons)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): On 16 August I announced that the Government plan to seek parliamentary approval for a statutory pardon for service personnel executed for a range of disciplinary offences during the First World War. I am now taking this opportunity to confirm these plans to the House and to provide some further information on our intentions.

I have reviewed carefully the case for granting pardons and concluded that although this is a difficult issue it is right to recognise the exceptional circumstances that gave rise to these executions and to show compassion to the families who have had to live with the associated stigma over the years.

Given the paucity of records for the courts martial of those executed, I have taken the view that it would not be appropriate or fair to consider individual pardons under the Royal Prerogative but that a statutory pardon for all members of the group should be introduced. This approach removes the risk of individual cases failing to meet the criteria for a pardon under the Prerogative simply because of lack of evidence.

It is the Government's intention to introduce an amendment to the current Armed Forces Bill during the Lord's Committee Stage to give effect to this. Rather than naming individuals, the amendment will pardon all those executed following conviction by court martial for a range of offences likely to have been strongly influenced by the stresses associated with this terrible war; this will include desertion, cowardice, mutiny and comparable offences committed during the period of hostilities from 4 August 1914 to 11 November 1918. Over 300 individuals from the UK, her dominions and colonies were executed under the 1881 Army Act. We will also seek pardons for those similarly executed under the provisions of the 1911 Indian Army Act, records of whose identities we have not been able to locate. We consider that it would not be appropriate to include in the pardon all capital offences and specifically the offences of murder and treason will be excluded.

In each case, the effect of the pardon will be to recognise that execution was not a fate that the individual deserved but resulted from the particular discipline and penalties considered to be necessary at the time for the successful prosecution of the war. We intend that the amendment should so far as possible remove the particular dishonour that execution brought to the individuals and their families. However, the pardon should not be seen as casting doubt on either the procedures and processes of the time or the judgment of those who took these very difficult decisions.

The pardon would apply to those sentences of execution confirmed and carried out but convictions would not be quashed. The amendment will not create any right to compensation and the Royal Prerogative of Mercy will remain unaffected.

As the amendment would affect the cases of personnel who were serving in the armed forces of a number of dominions and colonies, we are consulting with the Governments of those states or their successors on our plans. We are expecting to receive their responses shortly but I can confirm that our decision has already been welcomed by one of those principally affected. I anticipate the Government's proposal will also be warmly welcomed by the public at large and particularly by the families concerned.

Harrier GR7a Deployment (Afghanistan)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): Both the International Security Assistance Force and coalition forces in Afghanistan are experiencing a surge in their requirement for air support. To help meet that need, I have decided temporarily to deploy a seventh Harrier GR7a aircraft and a small number of additional personnel to Kandahar Airfield. As with any operational commitment, the duration of this deployment will be kept under constant review.

HEALTH

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): The Department has consulted on proposed changes to the process for the selection of topics for the work programme of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Some responses were received from a wide variety of organisations, including patient and professional groups, healthcare professionals, industry and the NHS. An analysis of the responses has been undertaken and we have reached the following decisions: the administration of the early stages of the topic selection process will be the responsibility of NICE. Responsibility for the administration of the later stages of the process will remain with the Department; the criteria used in the selection of topics will be revised, with a single set of criteria used for the selection of both clinical and public health topics; there will be wider and better representation of the NHS and public health throughout the process, to help ensure that the topics being proposed represent the needs of professionals and their patients. This representation will be secured via the new panels which will replace the Advisory Committee for the Selection of Topics (ACTS); and finally the timelines for the selection of topics will be reduced. This will mean that clinical topics which are a priority issue for the NHS will be referred to NICE sooner.

Full details of the consultation responses and the analysis of the comments has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/ResponsesToConsultations/ResponsesToConsultationsDocumentSummary/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4139043&chk-5Sr3mH

A new programme of work is being established by NICE to help the NHS identify and stop ineffective interventions. This will potentially allow the NHS to reinvest millions of pounds on drugs and other treatments that improve patient care.

The three products that NICE will be developing are: commissioning guides: these will help NHS commissioners to make the case for moving to concordance with NICE guidance and shift resources away from ineffective care; recommendation reminders: these will highlight recommendations from published NICE guidance which reduce ineffective practice; and specific guidance aimed at reducing ineffective practice: this guidance will use existing methodologies to give advice on the use of technologies or approaches to care currently employed by the NHS where evidence of effectiveness that exists suggests that it is a poor use of resources.

NICE expects to issue the first commissioning guides and recommendation reminders in autumn 2006 and the first guidance on ineffective treatments in 2007.

Children's Palliative Care Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): I am announcing a review of the longer term funding arrangements for palliative care services for children and young people who have a life limiting or life threatening condition.

On 5 June I was pleased to announce new funding of £27 million spread over three years for children's hospice services. We have drawn up eligibility criteria for the grants in consultation with key stakeholders and I am delighted to say that applications for the Children's Hospice and Children's Hospice at Home Grant are now being made. The application form can be found on the Department of Health website at

http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidanceArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4138727&c hk=91DtzU.

The closing date for applications is 20 September 2006.

At the same time I also announced a review of children's hospice services and their funding arrangements. Children's hospices provide a valuable service for children and young people but they represent only one part of the range of palliative care services. I have therefore decided that the review should be extended to cover palliative care services for children and young people more generally. I expect the review to commence in the autumn.

We are drawing up the terms of reference for the review, in consultation with key stakeholders, and will publish these and announce the name of the person who will undertake the review when we can.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration

The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Liam Byrne): The Home Secretary has today published the Government response to the Home Affairs Committee's Report into Immigration Control, copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of the House and are also available from the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Lambert Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): On 16 September 2004, my hon. Friend the Member for Wythenshawe and Sale, East (Paul Goggins), the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary with responsibility for correctional services, announced the appointment of David Lambert, a former Assistant Chief Inspector of Social Services, to examine the operational issues raised by the tragic death of Joseph Scholes at Stoke Heath Young Offender Institution in 2002.

David Lambert completed his report in October 2005. The Government have considered it and responded to its recommendations. I am placing copies of the report and of the Government's response in the Library of the House. Both documents can also be accessed at

http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/lambert-report-180906 and http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/lambert-report-govt-response.

As well as identifying procedures and practices that require further development, the report notes the positive steps that have been taken since Joseph's death to improve assessment, placement and safeguarding of young people in custody.

WORK AND PENSIONS

DWP Office Support Services

The Minister for Pensions Reform (James Purnell): After completing a detailed commercial and tendering exercise, I wish to announce that Haden Building Management are to be awarded a seven year contract for the delivery of a suite of office services to the Department for Work and Pensions.

In January 2005, following a wide-ranging review of support services, senior officials in my Department, with the support of Ministers, concluded that bids for the future provision of all our office support services should be invited from specialist external suppliers in the private sector. Inviting bids for a single national contract for the supply of office services from the private sector would allow us to harness the benefits afforded by new technology, organisational efficiencies and the agility to respond to our changing needs as the Department is modernised and reformed.

These office support services, which include post opening and despatch, messengerial work, switchboard operations, typing and secretarial services, are currently delivered through a range of external suppliers and in-house teams as well as forming part of the tasks of staff who serve the public directly. These arrangements have served us well in the past, but the review concluded that these methods of delivery no longer provided best value for money and that, in their current state, would not provide the best service in the future.

Since the review, officials have been undertaking a competitive tendering exercise, in accordance with EU procurement rules, to select a supplier who can provide the services we require and offer best value for money. Following a rigorous evaluation of bids, the contract has been awarded to Haden Building Management with the new supply arrangements expected to commence on 1 March 2007.

This decision will mean that some jobs currently undertaken by DWP staff and our existing external providers will transfer to the new supplier. In total around 700 DWP staff nationally may transfer. Greatest numbers of DWP staff affected are based in Scotland, Wales and north-west England with other smaller groups in London and the north-east. We recognise that some staff may not wish to transfer and for these we will, where possible, offer the opportunity to re-deploy within DWP or other Government Departments although we cannot guarantee this. Given the general unavailability of suitable alternative posts however, the likelihood is that many staff engaged in support services will transfer to the new contractor under the protection of TUPE.

Proposals put forward by Haden provide more efficient ways of working and take account of the Departmental modernisation programme. This is likely to result in a reduction of staff required to deliver office service contract arrangements over a period of time.

Officials have been meeting with trade unions, and keeping staff affected by these changes informed of progress on an ongoing basis. Over the coming months they will continue to consult with trade unions and work with managers and HR advisors on all matters relating to the transfer of staff.

I will keep Members with significant numbers of affected constituents updated on our progress over the next few months. I am confident that these plans, for the future delivery of office services, will help support our overall goal of moving to a leaner and fitter organisation delivering world-class services to our customers.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 17 July 2006

TRANSPORT

A127

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for improving the A127; what improvements have been made to the A127 between Basildon and Southend-on-Sea during 2005; and if he will make a statement. [85169]

Dr. Ladyman: The A127 is not a trunk road and so is the responsibility of local highway authorities; these are Southend on Sea borough council for the section of the road within the borough boundary and Essex county council for the section beyond to Basildon. Plans for future improvements to the road, and details of any which have already been carried out, are therefore matters for these authorities.

A2 Roadworks

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effect on holiday and business traffic of the proposed roadworks to be carried out on the A2 at Boughton Green between 17 July and 8 September; and why it is necessary for the roadworks to be carried out at the peak of the summer holiday season. [85319]

Dr. Ladyman: When assessing the effect on holiday and business traffic of the essential safety works on the A2 at Boughton, the Highways Agency has considered average daily traffic flows and the variation of traffic flows in the peak and off peak hours.

No material differences in average daily flows were found for July, August and September, with August flows being some 3 per cent. lower than July and September. This indicates that there is no significant summer peak in traffic flows.

In terms of the variation of traffic flows in the peak and off-peak hours, after 9.30 am until 4 pm one lane will provide sufficient capacity, enabling one lane to be closed for the roadworks.

A3 Tunnel (Hindhead)

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the Inspector's Report following the Public Inquiry into the A3 Tunnel at Hindhead; and whether he has accepted the recommendations of the Inspector. [84871]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* The Inspector's report will be published with the decision on the scheme taken jointly by the Secretary of State for Transport, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This will be issued soon and convey whether the Inspector's recommendations have been accepted.

Car Journeys

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Department's working assumption is about the number of car journeys a year generated by each new house built. [84931]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* The number of car trips generated by each new house built is considered to be the same as the number of car trips generated by existing houses and, in Great Britain, is approximately nine trips per week.

Underlying this average are trip rates for different categories of households using information from the National Travel Survey. A key determinant of trip rate is the number of cars owned and the location of the household. For existing households in Kettering and Great Britain, the averages for households by numbers of cars owned is tabled as follows:

Number of cars owned by household	*Average car trips made in Kettering per week*	*Average car trips made in Great Britain per week*
0	4	4
1	7	8
2 plus	14	15

It should be noted that households with no car can still have a car available to travel. For example, they can hire a car or have access to a company car.

Clifton Suspension Bridge

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the Department was of the most recent inquiry into the toll levels on the Clifton Suspension Bridge; how many people lodged objections which led to the calling of that inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [85044]

Dr. Ladyman: Since the coming into force of the Clifton Suspension Bridge Act 1952, toll charges at the Clifton Suspension Bridge have been revised three times: in 1976, 1982 and most recently 2003. The Department has no record of whether inquiries were held for the 1976 and 1982 toll revisions. The 2003 toll revision application received no objections and was considered and approved without the need for a local inquiry.

The operator of the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Trustees of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, applied to the Secretary of State Department in October 2005 for an order to revise the maximum tolls for using the bridge. Five objections have been received to this application. The trust has been advised that if it wishes to continue with its application, there will have to be an inquiry. No date, as yet, has been set for this inquiry.

High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the high occupancy vehicle lane on the M1 will be the *(a)* outside and *(b)* inside lane of the motorway. [84833]

Dr. Ladyman: It is currently anticipated that the dedicated high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on the M1 would be positioned in the outside lane, i.e. adjacent to the central reservation in both directions. However, the final decisions on how the proposals for HOV lanes at this location will be taken forward will be made only once the Highways Agency has completed further work to elaborate the details of the proposed scheme.

Highways Agency

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by the Highways Agency in using trenchless technology for cabling, ducting and underground service installation in each year since 2001; and what proportion this represents of the overall spending for this work in each year. [85053]

Dr. Ladyman: A single figure for how much has been spent is not held centrally.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to what extent the Highways Agency uses minimum dig or trenchless technology when undertaking works for the installation of cables, ducts and underground services on the road network; and what technology it uses. [85055]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency's use of minimum dig or trenchless technology is limited to thrust-boring beneath carriageways where existing cross-carriageway ducts are unserviceable. When undertaking works for the installation of cables, ducts or underground services in the verges of its roads, it installs armoured cables or ducts in trenches in accordance with BS7671, at a sufficient depth to avoid cables or ducts being damaged by any reasonably foreseeable disturbance of the ground.

M6

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has granted funding to the Heysham M6 Link, subject to planning approval. [85031]

Dr. Ladyman: The Heysham scheme does not yet have scheme approval but Ministers have agreed with the region's recommendation that it may receive funding in the next three years.

The Department's provision of funding will, of course, be subject to the scheme securing all necessary statutory powers, demonstrating sufficient value for money, and being supported by a satisfactory business case in line with the departmental requirements.

Pavement Parking

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislation proscribes vehicle parking on pavements; and what penalties the legislation provides. [85790]

Gillian Merron: There is no specific national legislation which proscribes vehicle parking on pavements. However, local traffic authorities can make traffic regulation orders, under powers in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to both ban pavement parking in certain areas and also allow specific exemptions from the ban.

Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980 makes it an offence to obstruct a highway without lawful authority. The pedestrian footway is part of a highway. The police may issue a fixed penalty notice for such obstruction. However, in London, by virtue of section 8 of the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003, authorised officers of borough councils and Transport for London are also empowered to issue a fixed penalty notice for the offence of obstruction under section 137 of the 1980 Act.

Speed Limits

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will increase the discretion to local highways authorities in respect of the installation of national speed limit signs at the end of any zone where a lower speed limit is in operation. [84960]

Gillian Merron: Local highway authorities have the power to set speed limits at an appropriate level. All changes of speed limit are required by law to be clearly signed to allow drivers ample time to adjust their speed accordingly and drivers are required to know the speed limit in force at any given time. It is important to retain national consistency.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Cabinet Committees

Derek Conway: To ask the Leader of the House which Minister chaired the Cabinet Sub-Committee which considered including the Armed Forces Discipline Bill in the current legislative programme; and which Ministers were members of the Sub-Committee. [83841]

Mr. Straw: All Bills are considered by the Ministerial Committee on the Legislative Programme (LP), whose terms of reference are "to consider legislation and related matters". Membership at the time was as follows:

Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons (Chair)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland

Secretary of State for Defence

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip

Home Secretary

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales

Minister without Portfolio

Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council

Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Minister for the Cabinet Office)
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Chief Whip, Lords, Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentleman-at-Arms
Attorney-General
Advocate-General
Deputy Leader of the House of Commons.

Parliamentary Questions

Anne Main: To ask the Leader of the House if he will ensure that all Ministers comply with the Resolution of the House of 18 December 1972 as it applies to the timeliness of answers to parliamentary questions. [85902]

Mr. Straw: All Ministers recognise the obligation, deriving from the decisions of the House of 18 December 1972, that a written question tabled for a named day should receive an answer on that day and an ordinary written question should receive a substantive response within a working week of it being tabled. I attach great importance to the timeliness of responses to parliamentary questions tabled in the House and, as I have indicated to the House, I have raised the matter directly with ministerial colleagues.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1560W.

Prime Minister's Questions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many Prime Minister's questions sessions there were in each year since 1990; [85010]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of Prime Minister's question sessions likely to be held in 2006. [85071]

Mr. Straw: The information is available by parliamentary session. The number of days on which oral questions to the Prime Minister were taken in each session is given in the following table. The figures for sessions for the period before 1997 to 98 are not comparable with those subsequently. The arrangements for Prime Minister's questions were changed at that time, with twice weekly fifteen minute slots being replaced by one weekly thirty minute slot so that no less time is spent in the Chamber. To make a more accurate comparison a table of the approximate hours involved is also given.

Before 1997 to 98

Session	*Number of sessions*	*Approximate number of hours involved*	*Total sittings days*
1989-90	62	15.5	167
1990-91	61	15.25	160
1991-92 (short session)	32	8	83
1992-93 (long session)	89	22.25	240
1993-94	59	14.75	154
1994-95	65	16.25	159
1995-96	61	15.25	146
1996-97 (short session)	35	8.75	86

After 1997 to 98

Session	*Number of sessions*	*Approximate number of hours involved*	*Total sittings days*
1997-98 (long session)	50	25	241
1998-99	32	16	149
1999-2000	35	17.5	170
2000-01 (short session)	17	8.5	83
2001-02 (long session)	42	21	201
2002-03	37	18.5	162
2003-04	36	18	157
2004-05 (short session)	14	7	65

The number for the 2005-06 session so far (up to and including Wednesday 12 July) is 41 (20.5 hours). Given the planned dates for further sittings so far announced, four more Prime Minister's questions days can be expected up to the end of October. The number of such days for the remainder of the session, and for the beginning of the next session, will be dependent on the dates for prorogation and the Christmas recess.

Sitting Days

Mr. Bone: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many days the House sat in each year since 1990; and how many days were allocated to Private Members' business; [85009]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of days the House is likely to sit in 2006; and how many days are expected to be allocated for private Members' Bills. [85072]

Mr. Straw: The information is available by parliamentary Session. The number of days on which the House sat in each Session, together with the number of private Members' days, is given in the table. Private Members' days include days allocated to private Members' Bills and (up to 1993-94) balloted private Members' motions. (Balloted private Members' motions were ended after that Session, in favour of greater opportunities for Back-Bench adjournment debates).

Session	*Private Members' days*	*Total sitting days*
1989-90	24	167
1990-91	22	160
1991-92[1]	12	83
1992-93[2]	24	240
1993-94	23	154
1994-95	13	159
1995-96	13	146
1996-97[1]	7	86
1997-98[2]	13	241
1998-99	13	149
1999-2000	13	170
2000-01[1]	8	83
2001-02[2]	13	201
2002-03	13	162
2003-04	13	157
2004-05[1]	4	65

[1] Short Session.
[2] Long Session.

The number of sitting days for the 2005-06 Session up to and including 14 July is 182, of which 12 have been allocated to private Members' Bills. Given the planned dates for further sittings so far announced, 21 more sitting days can be expected up to the end of October, of which one would be allocated to private Members' Bills. The number of sitting days for the remainder of the Session, and for the beginning of the next Session, will be dependent on the dates for prorogation and the Christmas recess.

Summer Recesses

Mr. Bone: To ask the Leader of the House how many days there were in the summer recess in each year since 1990. [85011]

Mr. Straw: The total number of days (including weekends and bank holidays) between the rise of the House in July and the return in October in each year since 1990, excluding sitting days, was as follows:

	Number of days
1990	[1]78
1991	80
1992	[2]92
1993	82
1994	87
1995	88
1996	81
1997	87
1998	[3]77
1999	83
2000	86
2001	[4]83
2002	[5]81
2003	[6]77
2004	[7]70
2005	75
2006	[8]75

[1] Excludes sittings on 6 and 7 September.
[2] Excludes sittings on 24 and 25 September.
[3] Excludes sittings on 2 and 3 September.
[4] Excludes sittings on 14 September and 4 and 8 October.
[5] Excludes sitting on 24 September.
[6] Excludes September sitting 8 to 18.
[7] Excludes September sitting 7 to16.
[8] Planned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Accommodation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what average square metreage of office space is allocated per person to *(a)* all hon. Members, *(b)* hon. Members who are Ministers, *(c)* hon. Members who are not Ministers, (d) hon. Members' staff based on the estate and *(e)* senior House officials; and if he will make a statement. [84429]

Nick Harvey: Evidence on office space allocation and occupancy was submitted to the Administration Committee's inquiry into House of Commons Accommodation earlier this year. This evidence is published with that Committee's Third Report of the Session, HC 1279. The answer that follows is based on that information, which represents a sample at a given moment in time.

(a) The Accommodation Whips have approximately 14,800 sq m of office space available to allocate to Members, an average of 22.9 sq m per Member. In practice, however, some of this accommodation is unoccupied or occupied by Members' staff. Of the office space currently used by Members, the average area available for each Member is 14.3 sq m.

(b) and *(c)* Of the total office space available to the Accommodation Whips, 1,300 sq m is designated ministerial accommodation, an average of 16.9 sq m per Minister. This leaves 13,500 sq m of office space not designated ministerial accommodation which the Accommodation Whips have available to allocate to other hon. Members. However, Ministers also occupy some Members' accommodation not designated for Ministers, while some ministerial rooms are occupied by Members' staff.

(d) The average space available to individual Members' staff is estimated at 9.2 sq m per person, based on 1,230 desk spaces in areas allocated by the Serjeant at Arms and in Members' accommodation.

(e) 1,735 staff of the House, 1,257 of whom are desk-based, occupy 13,140 sq m of office space, giving an average density of 7.6 or 10.5 sq m per person depending on the method of calculation used. Disaggregated information is not held on space occupied by senior staff of the House.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what consideration has been given to turning accommodation at 2 and 3 Parliament Street and 4 Canon Row into further office space for hon. Members and their staff. [84440]

Nick Harvey: The houses are structurally unsuitable for use as offices.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 823W, on Officers of the House (Accommodation), what the estimated annual rental value is of the properties concerned. [84441]

Nick Harvey: No estimate of the annual rental value of these properties has been made. Because they are physically part of the secure Parliamentary Estate, it would not be feasible to offer the properties for rent.

Senior Staff Appointments

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the procedure is for the appointment of *(a)* the Clerk of the House and *(b)* other senior House staff; and if he will make a statement. [85353]

Nick Harvey: The Clerk of the House is appointed by the Crown under letters patent on the recommendation of the Speaker and the Prime Minister. The posts of Clerk Assistant and Serjeant at Arms are also Crown appointments. Under section 2(1)

of the House of Commons (Administration) Act 1978, all other appointments (other than Mr. Speaker's personal staff) are made on the authority of the House of Commons Commission. The Commission has delegated these powers of appointment to Mr. Speaker in relation to posts of head of Department (and, in some cases, their deputies) and to heads of Department for the remainder. These appointments are made on the basis of internal or external competition, as appropriate.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Building Regulations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will assess the merits of including the inspection of the cavity wall insulation required under the building regulations as part of the statutory inspections carried out on properties by a building control officer. [84604]

Mr. Hanson: The building regulations require statutory notice of certain works to facilitate inspection of such works. However, they do not require the statutory inspection of those works. Building control officers have the powers to inspect the construction of a building at any reasonable time to ensure compliance with the building regulations.

Dangerous Driving

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many drivers in Northern Ireland were found guilty of dangerous driving in 2005; and how many of that total were restricted drivers. [84605]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics on the number of persons convicted of dangerous driving in 2005 are not yet available.

In 2004, 349 persons were convicted of 'dangerous driving'; an additional 18 were convicted of grievous bodily harm by dangerous driving and a further six of death by dangerous driving. It is not possible to determine how many of these related to restricted drivers.

Dentistry

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the gross cost was of *(a)* dental fees for items of service and *(b)* dental treatments in each of the last five years; and how much of the cost was borne by patients (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of the overall cost in (A) Northern Ireland and (B) in each board area. [83949]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided in the following tables. Information broken down by Health and Social Services Board can only be given for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

	Gross cost of items of service (£000)	*Gross cost of treatments (£000)*	*Patients contributions (£000)*	*Percentage cost borne by patients*	*Net fees payable (£000)*
2000-01					
Total	47,602.0	48,019.4	15,145.7	31.5	32,873.7
2001-02					
Total	49,805.5	50,254.7	16,041.0	31.9	34,213.8
2002-03					
HSS Board					
Eastern	21,338.3	21,601.1	7,360.1	34.1	14,241.0
Northern	12,822.0	12,907.1	4,820.7	37.3	8,086.4
Southern	9,208.1	9,267.4	3,013.7	32.5	6,253.8
Western	7,865.2	7,946.2	1,634.0	20.6	6,312.1
Total	51,233.6	51,721.8	16,828.5	32.5	34,893.3
2003-04					
HSS Board					
Eastern	21,223.2	21,762.0	7,299.0	34.0	14,463.0
Northern	12,648.4	12,691.0	4,711.0	37.0	7,980.0
Southern	9,306.9	9,369.0	3,047.0	33.0	6,322.0
Western	8,350.5	8,500.0	1,570.0	18.0	6,930.0
Total	51,529.1	52,322.0	16,627.0	32.0	35,695.0
2004-05					
HSS Board					
Eastern	22,030.7	22,646.0	7,485.0	33.0	15,161.0
Northern	12,756.2	12,948.0	4,753.0	37.0	8,195.0
Southern	9,329.0	9,439.0	3,112.0	33.0	6,327.0

2000-01	Gross cost of items of service (£000)	Gross cost of treatments (£000)	Patients contributions (£000)	Percentage cost borne by patients	Net fees payable (£000)
Western	7,439.7	7,595.0	1,446.0	19.0	6,149.0
Total	51,555.7	52,627.0	16,797.0	32.0	35,830.0

Notes:
1. Gross cost of treatments will include management fees such as treatment on referral fees and as such will differ from gross cost of items of service.
2. The patient, unless exempt, pays 80 per cent. of the cost of treatment, up to a maximum of £384.

Source:
Central Services Agency

Dessie O'Hare

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Police Service of Northern Ireland has any outstanding warrants for the arrest of Dessie O'Hare. [71690]

Paul Goggins: PSNI confirms that there are no formal investigations ongoing in relation to this individual although he remains the subject of attention by the PSNI Historical Enquiries Team (HET) and their ongoing process.

Elections (Public Expenditure)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public expenditure was incurred in organising the 2005 *(a)* local government and *(b)* general elections. [19545]

Mr. Hanson: £3.6 million public expenditure was incurred in organising the 2005 local government and general election in Northern Ireland. £1.8 million was spent by district councils and £1.8 million by the Electoral Office.

Electronic Listening Devices

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has authorised the use of electronic listening devices in each of the last five years. [65355]

Paul Goggins: The hon. Member should be aware that it is not Government policy to comment on specific national security and intelligence matters.

Environment and Heritage Service

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of bringing court cases by the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and how much was recouped in fines. [84309]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Public Prosecution Service prosecutes cases submitted to it by the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland. No figures are available for the total cost of bringing such cases.

In those cases prosecuted by the PPS over the last three years, the total of fines imposed were:

	£
2003	23,125
2004	32,525
2005	29,625

Festivals

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public money has been allocated to the *(a)* West Belfast Festival and *(b)* Gasyard Feile in Londonderry in each of the last two years. [82877]

Maria Eagle: Details of the public monies allocated to the *(a)* West Belfast Festival and *(b)* Gasyard Feile in Londonderry in each of the last two years is given in the following table:

Financial year	West Belfast Festival (£)	Gasyard Feile
2004-05	360,037.95	0
2005-06	273,768.01	0

Historical Enquiry Team

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of the cases reviewed by the Historical Enquiry Team in Northern Ireland have resulted in prosecutions. [84936]

Paul Goggins: I am advised by the Historical Enquiry Team, which only became operational in January 2006, that to date there have been no prosecutions resulting from the review of unresolved deaths undertaken since then and that due to the reinvestigation process, where relevant, it is too early to tell if any prosecutions are likely.

It has always been acknowledged that given the time that has passed for a number of cases, the number of prosecutions expected from the review of unresolved deaths is likely to be small. However the aim of the Historical Enquiry Team is to work with the families of victims to answer their questions and provide resolution, where possible, whether it is through judicial or non-judicial means.

Independent Treatment Centres

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many operations, by type, were carried out in independent sector treatment centres in Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available. [68980]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not held centrally and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member with the relevant information as soon as it becomes available and place a copy in the Library.

Substantive answer from Shaun Woodward to Lady Hermon:

The number of operations, by type, which were carried out in independent sector treatment centres in Northern Ireland is not available. However, the number of operations, by specialty, carried out in independent sector treatment centres in Northern Ireland during the financial year 2005-06, is shown in the table as follows.

Specialty	*Number of patients*
Dermatology	<5
ENT	14
General Surgery	141
Gynaecology	<5
Neurosurgery	40
Ophthalmology	321
Paediatric Surgery	46
Plastic Surgery	653
Trauma and Orthopaedics	212
Urology	172
NI total	1,603

Notes:
Figures are for the financial year 2005-06.
Includes patient transferred for both in-patient and day case.
Figures include Board Transfers, Group 2 Transfer and Special measures (NTPOC).
Please note that cell sizes that have a value of less than five have been masked in order to help protect confidentiality.
Source:
Health and Social Services Boards

Landfill Sites

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions during 2005 landfill sites in Northern Ireland were found to contain hazardous or toxic materials for which they were not approved. [84753]

David Cairns: In 2005, there were 74 licensed landfill sites in Northern Ireland. No sites were allowed to accept hazardous waste, although there are 58 hazardous waste facilities where such material can be processed for off-site shipping, but not landfilled. In 2005, none of the 74 licensed landfill sites in NI were licensed to bury hazardous waste.

Of the 32 licensed landfill sites inspected by officials from the Environment and Heritage Service, none were found to have accepted hazardous or toxic waste.

Medical Services

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* GP practices, *(b)* dental practices, *(c)* ophthalmic practices and *(d)* pharmacies there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [83939]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is detailed in the following table.

General practices, dental, ophthalmic and pharmaceutical practices in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years

	General practices	*Dental surgeries*	*Ophthalmic practices*	*Number Pharmacies*
2001	[1]359	n/a	n/a	[1]509
2002	[1]367	n/a	[2]23 1	[1]508
2003	[3]364	n/a	[2]235	[1]509
2004	[1]366	[3]362	[2]231	[1]511
2005	[1]364	[1]363	[2]236	[1]510

n/a = Not available.
[1] October.
[2] March.
[3] November.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacies there were per 100,000 resident population in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, (i) in total and (ii) broken down by health board. [83940]

Paul Goggins: The information requested for parts (i): *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* is detailed in Table 1. The information for (i): *(d)* is not available as the Central Services Agency does not hold information on the number of pharmacists in Northern Ireland. The information requested for (ii): *(a)* and *(b)* is available for a restricted number of years and is detailed in Tables 2 and 3 respectively. The information for (ii): *(c)* and *(d)* is not available.

Table 1: Total number of GPs, dentists and optometrists per 100,000 population in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years

	General practitioners	*Dentists*	*Optometrists*
2001	[1]62.81	[2]239.84	[1]24.03
2002	[1]63.42	[2]40.61	[1]26.23
2003	[3]63.20	[2]40.88	[1]26.14
2004	[1]63.03	[1]42. 80	[1]27.30
2005	[1]63.38	[1]44.61	[1]29.35

[1] October.
[2] April.
[3] November.
Notes:
1. NISRA population mid-year estimates have been used to calculate total number per 100,000 population.
2. Population mid-year estimate for 2004 was used for 2004 and 2005 calculation.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

Table 2: GPs per 100,000 population in Northern Ireland by health board area in each of the last three years

	Eastern board	*Northern board*	*Southern board*	*Number Western board*
November 2003	64.62	58.68	63.63	66.24
October 2004	64.60	59.18	62.54	65.76
October 2005	65.21	59.64	63.16	65.07

Notes:
1. The number of GPs by board area is not available for 2001 and 2002.
2. NISRA population mid-year estimates have been used to calculate total number per 100,000 population.
3. Population mid-year estimate for 2004 was used for 2004 and 2005 calculation.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

Table 3: Dentists per 100,000 population in Northern Ireland by health board area in each of the last two years

	Eastern board	Northern board	Southern board	Western board
				Number
October				
2004	48.8	44.0	44.5	40.5
2005	50.6	44.7	48.2	41.9

Notes:
1. The number of dentists by board area is not available for 2001, 2002 and 2003. Dentists can work in more than one board area, so may be counted more than once.
2. NISRA population mid-year estimates have been used to calculate total number per 100,000 population.
3. Population mid-year estimate for 2004 was used for 2004 and 2005 calculation.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacists were (i) male and (ii) female in each of the last five years. [83943]

Paul Goggins: The information requested for general practitioners, dentists and optometrists is detailed in the following table. The information requested is not available for pharmacists.

Gender split of GPs, dentists and optometrists in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years

	GP		Dentists		Optometrists	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
						Percentage
2001	68	32	n/a	n/a	46	54
2002	66	34	n/a	n/a	46	54
2003	[1]66	[1]34	n/a	n/a	[2]49	[2]51
2004	65	35	[1]58	[1]42	49	51
2005	64	36	56	44	49	51

n/a = Not available.
[1] November.
[2] July.
Notes:
1. The Central Services Agency does not hold this information on the number of pharmacists in Northern Ireland.
2. All figures are as at October unless otherwise indicated.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacists in Northern Ireland were (i) under 40, (ii) 40 to 54 and (iii) over 55 years in each of the last five years. [83944]

Paul Goggins: The percentage of GPs (i) under 40, (ii) 40 to 54 and (iii) 55 and over for 2003, 2004 and 2005 is detailed in Table 1. This information is not available for 2001 and 2002.

The percentage of dentists (i) under 40, (ii) 40 to 54 and (iii) 55 and over for 2004 and 2005 is detailed in Table 2. This information is not available for 2001, 2002 and 2003.

The information requested for optometrists and pharmacists is not available.

Table 1: Percentage of GPs aged under 40, 40 to 54, and 55 and over in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years

	Under 40 (Percentage)	40 to 54 (Percentage)	55 and over (Percentage)	Total (Headcount)
November 2003[1]	25.8	58.8	15.1	1,076
October 2004	25.0	57.9	17.1	1,078
October 2005	23.9	56.5	19.6	1,084

[1] 0.3 per cent. unknown age group.
Note:
The age of GPs is not available for 2001 and 2002.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

Table 2: Percentage of dentists aged under 40, 40 to 54, and 55 and over in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years

	Under 40 (Percentage)	40 to 54 (Percentage)	55 and over (Percentage)	Total (Headcount)
2004	60.1	32.3	7.6	734
2005	58.4	34.5	7.1	760

Note:
The age of dentists is not available for 2001, 2002 and 2003.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total number of eye tests claimed for in Northern Ireland was in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of those who had eye tests subsequently received *(a)* spectacles for the first time and *(b)* replacement or repairs of spectacles. [83952]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 shows the total number of eye tests claimed for in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. The percentage of those who had eye tests that subsequently received spectacles for the first time is not available, however we do know the total number of spectacle vouchers issued (Table 2). The percentage of those who had eye tests that subsequently received replacement or repair of spectacles is not available, however we do know the total number of repairs or replacements of spectacles in the last seven years. This information is provided in Table 3.

Table 1: Number of Health Service Sight Tests

1995-96	196,731
1996-97	212,000
1997-98	227,000
1998-99	235,603
1999-2000	305,148
2000-01	306,503
2001-02	325,998
2002-03	333,928
2003-04	345,966
2004-05	346,925

Notes:
Health Service sight tests are restricted to certain groups of the population such as children and those with particular medical conditions. In addition, from 1 April 1999, patients aged 60 and over were eligible for Health Service sight tests.
Source:
Central Services Agency

Table 2: Number of Spectacle Vouchers Issued

1995-96	146,113
1996-97	153,000
1997-98	159,000
1998-99	158,520
1999-2000	157,709
2000-01	160,372
2001-02	165,198
2002-03	167,792
2003-04	169,209
2004-05	167,151

Source:
Central Services Agency

Table 3: Number of Replacements or Repairs of Glasses

1998-99	31,659
1999-2000	29,439
2000-01	28,762
2001-02	19,612
2002-03	26,796
2003-04	29,158
2004-05	26,719

Notes:
Vouchers towards the cost of spectacles are restricted to particular categories of patients as are replacements or repairs to spectacles.
Source:
Central Services Agency

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* general practitioners, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacists there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [83961]

Paul Goggins: The information requested for general practitioners, dentists, optometrists and the number of pharmacy contractors is detailed in the following table. The number of pharmacists is not available.

Total number of GPs, dentists, optometrists and pharmacy contractors in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years

	General practitioners	*Dentists*	*Optometrists*	*Pharmacy contractors*
2001	1,061	[1]673	406	320
2002	1,076	[1]689	445	297
2003	[2]1,076	[1]696	445	284
2004	1,078	732	490	282
2005	1,084	760	511	267

[1] April
[2] November
Notes:
1. Central Services Agency does not hold information on the number of pharmacists in Northern Ireland. They hold information on the number of pharmacies and pharmaceutical contracts.
2. Figures are as at October unless otherwise indicated.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on the Northern Ireland Police Fund, whether the finances of the Northern Ireland Police Fund are subject to *(a)* monthly, *(b)* quarterly, *(c)* six monthly and *(d)* annual returns to his Department. [84759]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Police Fund is required to provide financial monitoring information on a monthly basis and after the end of each financial year to provide its audited accounts to the Department.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who ordered the internal audit by his Department of the Northern Ireland Police Fund which followed the breach of security at the fund; whether they did so under instruction by a Government Minister; and whether the audit uncovered any *(a)* systems failures and *(b)* financial irregularities. [84761]

Paul Goggins: In respect of the alleged breach of security at the Northern Ireland Police Fund a full police investigation has been carried out within the fund. This investigation has now been completed and involved a comprehensive programme of interviews. No persons have been prosecuted as a result of this investigation. It would not be appropriate to comment on the operational detail of the investigation as such issues are a matter for the Chief Constable.

The board of directors asked the NIO internal audit to complete a review of the Northern Ireland Police Fund. All matters relating to the report are a matter for the fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish in full the initial internal audit of the Northern Ireland Police Fund conducted by his Department after the 2003 breach of security at the fund. [82923]

Paul Goggins: In respect of the alleged breach of security at the Northern Ireland Police Fund a full police investigation has been carried out within the fund. This investigation has now been completed and involved a comprehensive programme of interviews. No persons have been prosecuted as a result of this investigation.

The audit report referred to was requested by the Northern Ireland Police Fund. Any matters relating to the report are a matter for the fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the internal audit of the Northern Ireland Police Fund conducted by his Department after the 2003 breach of security at the fund was accepted by the Board of Directors of the fund; and whether a second audit was conducted. [82924]

Paul Goggins: The audit report referred to was requested by the Northern Ireland Police Fund. Any matters relating to the report are a matter for the fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the internal audit of the Northern Ireland Police Fund conducted by his

Department after the 2003 breach of security at the fund was classed as restricted by any *(a)* senior officer and *(b)* member of staff of the fund. [82925]

Paul Goggins: The audit report referred to was requested by the Northern Ireland Police Fund. Any matters relating to the report are a matter for the fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the internal audit of the Northern Ireland Police Fund conducted by his Department after the 2003 breach of security at the fund was completed. [82926]

Paul Goggins: All matters relating to the internal audit report on the Northern Ireland Police Fund are a matter for the fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1179W, on the Northern Ireland Police Fund, on what date *(a)* Ms A. Paisley, *(b)* Mrs. F. Reid, *(c)* Lord Rogan, *(d)* Mr. R. Wilson and *(e)* Sir John Semple ceased to be directors of the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [84750]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Police Fund has advised me that the following Directors of the fund resigned with effect from the dates listed:

Director	*Date of resignation*
Ms A. Paisley	3 March 2006
Mrs. F. Reid	31 January 2005
Lord Rogan	31 March 2005
Mr. R. Wilson	31 March 2004
Sir J. Semple	31 January 2005

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1179W, on the Northern Ireland Police Fund, what percentage of staff at the fund are employed by his Department; and what that percentage was on 31 December 2003. [84751]

Paul Goggins: Currently 60 per cent. of the staff of the fund are seconded from the Northern Ireland Civil Service. At 31 December 2003 this figure was 12.5 per cent.

Paramilitary Paraphernalia

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of offences involving the (i) wearing and (ii) display of items associated with paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland in each year since 2001; and how many related to (A) Loyalist and (B) Republican displays in each case. [71115]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland have confirmed that they have no records of anyone being charged with these offences since 2001.

The NIO Statistics and Research branch have confirmed that they have no record of convictions for these offences between the years 2001 and 2003.

Data that might detail convictions from 2004 to present time will not be available until late summer.

Police

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how frequently the list of organisations of which members of the Police Service Northern Ireland must notify the authorities of their membership is reviewed. [84588]

Paul Goggins: Section 51(2) of the Police (NI) Act 2000 provides the Chief Constable with the power to give guidance to officers on any membership which a police officer believes he has, or not, of an organisation which may be regarded as affecting that officer's ability to discharge his duties effectively and impartially. I am advised by the PSNI that all General Orders are reviewed on an annual basis and that during this annual review, the list of organisations will also be revisited. This review of the list of organisations will then be placed before the Chief Constable's Forum for final decision.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers in Northern Ireland have been suspended from duty as a result of investigations by the policing ombudsman in each of the last three years. [70429]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI has advised that two police officers in Northern Ireland have been suspended from duty as a result of investigations by the Police Ombudsman in 2003 and three officers were suspended in 2004. No officers were suspended in 2005 or 2006 as of 7 July 2006.

Post Office Contracts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for which services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81538]

Mr. Hanson: The following table lists all current contracts with Post Office Ltd held by Northern Ireland Departments and their associated public bodies.

Department	Service	Start date	End date
Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland (LMC):	"Presstream" and "Mailsort" services for delivery of weekly LMC bulletin.	29 October 2006	Open ended (seven days notice by either party)
Driver And Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland	Processing motor vehicle licensing renewals	1 April 2002	31 March 2007
Social Security Agency	Post Office card account (POCA) banking services	1 April 2003	31 March 2010

Rates

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what formula is used to calculate the average rate for households in Northern Ireland. [82598]

Mr. Hanson: The average domestic rate for households in Northern Ireland consists of the average of the 26 district council domestic rates plus the domestic regional rate.

The formula for calculation of the average rate for households is as follows: Each year, district councils' estimated net expenditure is reduced by anticipated general grant payments and any balance that councils have indicated they wish to apply, to determine the net amount to be raised from district rates. This figure is divided by the total penny product (the income from one penny in the rates) to give the average non-domestic rate. The average non-domestic rate is then multiplied by the Northern Ireland growth factor to determine the average domestic rate. The average domestic rate for 2006-2007 is 157.33 pence

The regional domestic rate is a single rate applied uniformally across Northern Ireland. It is determined by dividing the domestic rate revenue required in the Budget by the domestic tax base, currently defined in rental values.

The average domestic rate in 2006-07 is 355.50 pence, which is the sum of the uniform regional domestic rate of 198.17p and the average district rate of 157.33p.

Redundancy

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how redundancy packages are calculated for *(a)* the Northern Ireland Office and *(b)* Northern Ireland Police Fund staff. [82990]

Paul Goggins: All benefits payable on redundancy terms which apply to staff in the Northern Ireland Office who are members of the Home Civil Service are determined under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

All benefits payable on redundancy terms which apply to staff in the Northern Ireland Office who are members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service are determined under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (Northern Ireland).

The terms and conditions for the employment of staff in the Northern Ireland Police Fund are a matter for the fund.

Road Improvements

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the major planned roadworks on the A2 between Limavady and Coleraine will *(a)* begin and *(b)* be concluded. [85726]

David Cairns: The acting chief executive of roads service Mr. Geoff Allister has written to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Geoff Allister, dated 17 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about when the major planned roadworks on the A2 between Limavady and Coleraine will (a) begin and (b) be concluded. As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

It is assumed that you are referring to the planned improvements for the A37, the main route between Limavady and Coleraine.

Roads Service plans to carry out a major improvement scheme to provide a 2.3 kilometre long climbing lane to improve overtaking opportunities for Coleraine-bound traffic on the A37 west of Keady mountain.

It was expected to commence construction work on this scheme during this financial year, however this has had to be deferred because of land acquisition difficulties. We are hopeful that construction will commence in 2007/2008.

We are mindful of the elevation of the site and propose to programme the works to commence in the spring and be completed by the autumn to avoid the need to divert traffic onto other less suitable mountain roads during winter conditions.

Sectarian Attacks

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many sectarian attacks there were in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland in each of the first four months of 2006. [71214]

Paul Goggins: The statistics have been split by police District Command Unit and have been provided for the months of Jan, Feb and Mar 2006-April 2006 statistics are not yet available.

	Violent crimes				Non-violent crimes			
	January 2006	February 2006	March 20006	January to March 2006	January 2006	February 2006	March 2006	January to March 2006
Antrim	3	2	1	6	1	3	0	4
Ards	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
East Belfast	1	2	0	3	4	2	0	6
North Belfast	12	7	4	23	6	3	2	11
South Belfast	2	0	5	7	1	0	1	2
West Belfast	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Carrickfergus	4	1	0	5	0	0	1	1
Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Larne	3	0	0	3	3	1	0	4
Lisburn	2	3	0	5	0	0	1	1
Newtownabbey	3	2	4	9	2	2	1	5
North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ballymena	7	5	1	13	3	3	1	7
Baltymoney	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Banbridge	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Coleraine	3	2	0	5	5	1	2	8
Cookstown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	0	10	1	11	0	3	1	4
Down	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	3
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1
Foyle	6	4	1	11	9	4	18	31
Limavady	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sex Offenders

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons on the Sex Offenders Register in Northern Ireland have re-offended whilst on licence in each of the last five years. [81810]

Mr. Hanson: Probation Board for Northern Ireland have responsibility for the post-release supervision of persons subject to life licences and sex offender licences. Of the 17 persons released in the last five years who are subject to a life licence or sex offender licence, and who are also subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, one person has been reconvicted.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons on the Sex Offenders Register in Northern Ireland on licence have had their licence revoked in each of the last five years. [81811]

Mr. Hanson: The Probation Board for Northern Ireland has responsibility for the post-release supervision of persons subject to life licences and sex offender licences. In the last five years, three offenders on sex offender licences who were also subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 were returned to prison for breach of licence conditions, two in 2001 and one in 2002. There have been no licences revoked in any of the last five years in respect of those subject to a life licence or sex offender licence who are also subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Victims March (Dublin)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on the Victims March (Dublin), what assurances he sought from Ministers of the Irish Republic *(a)* about the safety of Northern Ireland citizens while in Dublin in the future and *(b)* regarding the prosecution of people identified as being involved in the attacks upon citizens of Northern Ireland in Dublin on 25 February 2006. [84760]

Mr. Hain: This was an unfortunate but isolated incident. I understand 41 people were arrested during the disorder that occurred on 25 February: the decision to prosecute is a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions. The safety of Northern Ireland citizens, whether in Dublin or Belfast or anywhere else, remains paramount for me and of course I discussed this and keep in touch with Ministers of the Irish Republic.

Westminster Election (Expenditure)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on the running of the 2001 Westminster election in Northern Ireland. [19580]

Mr. Hanson: The spend in relation to the parliamentary general election held on 7 June 2001 in Northern Ireland was £1.65 million.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Cars

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abandoned cars were recorded in each local authority in England in each year since 1997. [82909]

Mr. Bradshaw: Numbers of abandoned vehicles for each local authority were primarily collected from 2000-01 to 2003-04 from the DEFRA Municipal Waste Management Survey and from WasteDataFlow in 2004-05. Results from authorities that responded have been placed in the Library of the House. Numbers were not collected prior to 2000-01 and results for 2005-06 are not yet available.

Air Quality

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will visit the London borough of Bexley to discuss air quality with residents. [85990]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans at present to visit the London borough of Bexley.

Carbon Islands

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has evaluated on carbon islands as a preventive measure for climate change. [84744]

Ian Pearson: I understand carbon islands to mean the production of biomass grown by hydroponics on artificial islands in tropical seas. My Department has not evaluated any research on this idea as a way to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Energy Efficiency

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what targets have been set for Government departments' consumption of *(a)* gas, *(b)* electricity and *(c)* all power from renewable sources. [82420]

Ian Pearson: On 12 June the Prime Minister and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced new sustainable operations targets for the Government estate. They replace the previous targets in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate, and will drive improvements in the way Departments manage their land and buildings sustainably.

These new commitments do not set a separate target for gas and electricity consumption on the Government estate. Instead Government have set targets on overall energy efficiency, carbon emissions and carbon neutrality, all of which will apply from April 2006. A table of the new targets follows as annex A. In addition, the existing commitment that Government Departments should source at least 10 per cent. of their electricity from renewables will remain in place until 2008.

Departmental performance against Government estate targets, including carbon emissions and energy efficiency, has been published in annual Sustainable Development Government Reports. The last report was produced by the Sustainable Development Commission, the independent watchdog, in December 2005. It covered the reporting period April 2004 to March 2005 and is available at: http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/watchdog.

Annex A: Targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate[1]

Priority area	*Targets*
Climate change and energy	
Carbon emissions from offices	Reverse the current upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007
	Reduce carbon emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels
	Reduce carbon emissions by 30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels
Carbon emissions from road vehicles	Reduce carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations by 15 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 2005-06 levels
Carbon neutral	Central Government's office estate to be carbon neutral by 2012
Energy efficiency	Departments to increase their energy efficiency per sq m by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels.
	Departments to increase their energy efficiency per sq m by 30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels
Sustainable consumption and production	
Waste arisings	Departments to reduce their waste arisings by 5 per cent. by 2010, relative to 2004-05 levels
	Departments to reduce their waste arisings by 25 per cent. by 2020, relative to 2004-05
Recycling	Departments to increase their recycling figures to 40 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2010
	Departments to increase their recycling figures to 75 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2020
Natural resource protection	
Biodiversity	Departments to meet or exceed the aim of having 95 per cent. of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in sole ownership or control in target condition by 2010

Annex A: Targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate[1]

Priority area	*Targets*
Water consumption	Reduce water consumption by 25 per cent. on the office and non-office estate by 2020, relative to 2004-05 levels
	Reduce water consumption to an average of $3m^3$ per person/year for all new office builds or major office refurbishments
Government to mandate	Departments to adopt the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme—involves the proactive management to the risks and opportunities relating to climate change mitigation
	The application of BRE's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) excellent standards, or equivalent, to all new builds and major refurbishments
	Accepted elements from the Sustainable Procurement Task Force National Action Plan
	OGC's Property Benchmarking Scheme—aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of corporate estate management
	All Departments to have Environmental Management Systems based, or modelled upon, a recognised system
	Data collection and reporting—identification of core data to be reported against the new targets
	All Departments to encourage staff to take an active role in volunteering in the community
	All Departments to conduct sustainability appraisals of office relocations
Existing Sustainable Operational Commitments (to continue until completion)	Departments to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewables (31 March 2008)
	Departments to source at least 15 per cent. of electricity from Combined Heat and Power (2010)

[1] Vision for the Government estate: A sustainably managed estate which is modern, resource efficient, with low energy buildings; well conserved and managed land; efficient use of space and ways of working; and where the principles of sustainable development are embedded into our working practices.

Note

The above sustainable operational targets to apply for the reporting period April 2006-March 2007

Environmental Directives

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* letters of warning, *(b)* infringement notices and *(c)* prosecutions have been instigated by the European Commission against his Department since May 1997 in relation to environmental directives, including failure to meet transposition dates; and what the circumstances were of each case. [84963]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA was created in June 2001. Between 1 June 2001 and 30 June 2006 the Department was the lead Department for 60 environmental infringement proceedings initiated by the European Commission. The following table lists these by year:

	Number
1 June to 31 December 2001	10
2002	7
2003	20
2004	12
2005	4
2006	7

A member state can be infracted for a number of different reasons falling into the following categories: late transposition, poor transposition and implementation issues. The infraction procedure begins with an initial pre-litigation stage, during which the Commission issues first a letter of formal notice (article 226 letter).

A list of all infringements, including environmental ones, initiated by the European Commission against the UK can be found on the European Commission website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/eulaw/index_en.htm-infractions

Greenhouse Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms exist to ensure the accuracy of *(a)* national and *(b)* international reporting of greenhouse gas emissions. [85231]

Ian Pearson: Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol are required to submit Greenhouse Gas Inventories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) every year. These inventories are compiled using methodologies devised by the International Panel on Climate Change and agreed by the UNFCCC. Once submitted, the inventories are scrutinised by international experts to ensure their completeness and accuracy.

In the UK, inventory data are subject to an audited quality control and assurance programme. This ensures that the data sources are reliable and quality checked, that the choice of methodologies is transparent, and that data are consistent over time, complete, comparable, and assessed for uncertainties. When required, methodological changes are made to take account of new data sources, new guidance from the IPCC, relevant work by other international organisations, new research, or specific research programmes sponsored by DEFRA. Such improvements to the methodology are applied retrospectively to ensure a consistent time series of emissions.

DEFRA periodically tests the accuracy of key source sector estimates in the national inventory by undertaking independent peer review. Reviews completed to date include carbon dioxide from fossil fuel combustion and agriculture. DEFRA also funds independent verification of the reliability of the emissions estimates by combining measurements of the concentrations of selected greenhouse gases at Mace Head in Ireland and a model of atmospheric transport developed by the Met Office.

Methyl Bromide

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in the UK towards the Montreal Protocol aim of phasing out the use of methyl bromide. [84511]

Ian Pearson: Under the Montreal Protocol, methyl bromide use was phased out in developed countries from 2005, except for quarantine and pre-shipment purposes, and critical uses agreed by the parties to the Protocol and (in the EU) licensed by the European Commission.

In 2006, agreed UK critical uses amount to up to 33 tonnes. This shows a significant downward trend of less than half the previous amount licensed for 2005 (some 70 tonnes). 2006 is the last year that methyl bromide will be used by the agricultural sector in soil. UK nominations of 11 tonnes for critical uses in 2007 continue the downward trend.

Methyl bromide is an ozone depleting substance and the Government's policy is to support further critical uses only where lack of availability would cause significant market disruption and there are no technical or economically feasible alternatives.

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department *(a)* provides assistance for and *(b)* promotes the development of alternatives to (i) sulphuric acid in the cultivation of potatoes and (ii) methyl bromide as a pesticide in agriculture. [84512]

Ian Pearson: The Department does not generally seek to find alternatives to specific uses of chemicals such as those listed, since this is a matter for the industry sectors concerned. However, it is funding a small number of projects, some jointly with industry, on the development of alternatives to methyl bromide, particularly in the horticulture sector.

Additionally, our pesticides research and development programme includes alternative crop protection technologies projects which aim to support Government policy directed at the minimisation of conventional chemical pesticide use. DEFRA's Pesticides Safety Directorate administers a research budget of about £5.5 million per year, of which over £1 million is applied to support this objective.

Radioactive Waste

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent on 16 June 2006 to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the future of Nirex and policy on the management of radioactive waste. [84951]

Ian Pearson: No. It is inappropriate to place private ministerial correspondence in the Library of the House.

However, it might be helpful to explain and put into context the current role of Nirex in the management of radioactive waste.

Responsibility for securing the safety of the public and the environment rests with the independent regulators—the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the environment agencies (the Environment Agency, EA, in England and Wales and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, SEPA, in Scotland).

The nuclear operators are required to demonstrate to the regulators that the risks to the public and the environment from their activities, including the management of radioactive waste, are reduced as low as reasonably practicable. In support of their safety cases for the packaging and disposal of radioactive waste, the operators may seek advice from Nirex.

Nirex is not a regulator. It is a company that is jointly owned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) that advises nuclear site operators on the preparation of the industry's safety case submissions to the regulators for the conditioning and packaging of waste.

It is the independent regulators who take decisions on the acceptability of waste conditioning and packaging safety cases submitted to them. The environment agencies have teams that scrutinise Nirex's contribution to the safety case process. It is regulators who are responsible for applying and determining the statutory safety requirements of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 and the Radioactive Substances Act 1993.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is the strategic UK-wide body with responsibility for securing the clean-up and decommissioning of public sector nuclear liabilities and the treatment, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials including radioactive waste. It is the owner of most of the UK's radioactive waste.

The majority of Nirex's current funding—over 90 per cent.—comes from a contract with the NDA. The remainder comes through an agreement with the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The company also receives payment from nuclear site operators for supply of their waste conditioning and packaging advice.

Rights of Way

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many rights of way have been *(a)* reopened and (b) established in (i) Southend-on-Sea, (ii) Essex and (iii) Hertfordshire in the last five years for which figures are available. [85306]

Barry Gardiner: Responsibility for improving the rights of way network, and ensuring that routes are properly recorded and maintained, rests with individual local highway authorities.

Data on how many new routes have been re-opened and established is not collected centrally by DEFRA.

Rural Life

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the rate of closure of *(a)* village halls, *(b)* village shops and *(c)* rural pubs since 1980; and if he will make a statement. [84637]

Barry Gardiner: Information from Action for Communities in Rural England shows that, of the 9,000 village halls on Rural Community Council databases, just five are known to have closed in the past few years. The Department does not hold information on the rate of closure of village shops or rural pubs.

The Government recognise that village halls, shops and pubs can all play a part in helping rural communities to thrive. That is why, among other things, we have extended mandatory rate relief at 50 per cent. to include sole village public houses, petrol stations and village food shops under the village shop scheme.

Special Protection Areas

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent guidance English Nature has published on *(a)* mitigation and *(b)* avoidance measures in relation to special protection areas; and what plans it has for publishing future guidance. [85616]

Barry Gardiner: English Nature has published a draft Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Plan. This is designed to provide a means of mitigating against the potential adverse effects of increased housing around the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

The Government Office for the South East is working with English Nature to explore the practicalities and flexibilities in the delivery plan approach, and to provide advice to local authorities and developers.

The delivery plan, along with other research evidence, will be considered at the Examination in Public of the South East Plan in November.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which civilian individuals on the ground are responsible for overseeing reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. [84198]

Hilary Benn: Afghanistan is a sovereign nation which has an elected Parliament and President. The Government of Afghanistan are therefore the civilian body responsible for overseeing the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Compact signed at the London Conference in January 2006, commits the Government of Afghanistan to lead on the reconstruction process in Afghanistan over the next five years, with support from the international community. The Government's plans are described in the interim Afghan National Development Strategy (iANDS), also launched at the London Conference. The UN has a Special Representative of the Secretary General in Kabul (currently Tom Koenigs). It is the responsibility of this person to help co-ordinate the international community's efforts. He is the joint chair of the Joint Co-ordination Monitoring Body (JCMB) which helps to make sure progress is seen against the targets set in London.

As far as DFID civilian staff are concerned, I refer the hon. Member for Mid Norfolk to the response I gave on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1405W to the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

African Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on progress in providing aid to Africa following the G8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005. [84519]

Hilary Benn: Important progress has been made since Gleneagles on delivering G8 commitments to support development in Africa. This includes an increase in international aid of around 25 per cent. between 2004 and 2005 to over $100 billion, putting us well on track to reach the target of $130 billion in global aid by 2010. Half of this extra money will go to Africa, so that by 2010 it will be receiving $50 billion a year—double the aid it received in 2004. DFID met its pledge to provide £1 billion in aid to Africa through its country programmes in 2005-06 and is on track to double its bilateral programme by 2010-11. The Gleneagles pledges represent a long-term agenda and the Government remain committed to ensuring that all 2005 promises are fully implemented.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81493]

Mr. Thomas: DFID periodically engages temporary staff, both administrative and professional, through employment agencies. Only some information on agency hourly rates is held centrally; for those agencies who supply staff to DFID regularly. The average hourly rate for these agencies, who supply mainly junior administrative grades, is as follows:

Grade C2 - £7.30 Glasgow, Margaret Hodge Recruitment Agency £7.46 Glasgow, TempTeam

Grade C1 - £8.75 - Glasgow, Margaret Hodge Recruitment Agency £10.95 - London, Josephine Sammonds

Other agencies are used on an ad hoc basis but information about these agencies is not held centrally and could be secured only at disproportionate cost.

DFID will be joining an existing arrangement, set up by the Prison Service, this year and once this comes into force information will be more readily available.

Child Labour

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work his Department is undertaking on *(a)* reducing and *(b)* preventing child labour in (i) Asia, (ii) Africa and (iii) Latin America. [84473]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is committed to the elimination of child labour wherever it occurs. DFID is funding projects worth more than £20 million around the world, which aim to address the plight of those

children already in work as well as to prevent further child labour. Many of these projects also tackle the trafficking of children for work. In addition, many of DFID's broader poverty reduction programmes are also helping to get children out of work and into education and are protecting children from having to take on harmful jobs to survive.

In Asia, DFID is supporting the work of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). For example, in India, DFID is currently providing over £2.5 million for their programme in the state of Andhra Pradesh. DFID is also providing nearly £9 million to the ILO's programme in the Greater Mekong Region to end trafficking of women and children for exploitative labour.

In Africa, DFID is supporting many countries to provide free universal primary education. Many of the most vulnerable cannot afford school fees or seek work to pay for schooling. In Tanzania, DFID is providing £110 million this year for the implementation of the Government's national strategy for growth and poverty reduction. Child labour is a key challenge that this strategy seeks to address and free primary education is part of the response.

In Latin America, support is focused on street children. In Brazil, Peru, and Central America, DFID has funded projects aimed at reducing the numbers of children living and working on the streets by providing them with realistic alternatives.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the UN and *(b)* UK-based humanitarian charities about child labour in developing countries. [84476]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is in regular contact with both the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF, the lead UN agencies working to eliminate child labour. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's recent discussions with these organisations have not focused specifically on child labour. DFID is a major funder of both organisations, with a current commitment of over £15 million to the ILO's programmes to combat child labour and the trafficking of children. DFID also provided £19 million in core funding to UNICEF programmes in 2005, including support to their Child Protection programme.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development regularly holds meetings with UK-based non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which often have issues relating to child labour on their agenda. However there has been no specific discussion of child labour in recent meetings. DFID funds a number of UK-based NGOs, including Save the Children Fund (SCF) and World Vision, to implement projects addressing child labour issues, including trafficking and street children.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations his Department is making on reducing the need for child labour. [84570]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's overarching mission is to address extreme poverty which is the underlying cause of most child labour. DFID supports many activities which will enable children and families to survive without depending on income from child labour.

In the White Paper published last week, the Government restate their commitment to the elimination of child labour and the development of social protection measures to ensure that poor families and vulnerable children do not need to depend on child labour.

A number of DFID programmes already support social protection. For example, DFID is supporting the development of the Ghana Social Protection Strategy. One of the flagship projects of this strategy is the provision of cash payments to families living in chronic poverty, some of whom currently depend on their children's income. In Zimbabwe, DFID is providing £30 million to the Protracted Relief Programme which is supporting food security for £1.5 million households in extreme poverty and will mean that many children, including those orphaned by AIDS, will not have to undertake harmful work to survive.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the extent of child labour in *(a)* Mexico, *(b)* Belize, *(c)* Argentina, *(d)* Bolivia, *(e)* Brazil, *(f)* Chile, *(g)* Columbia, *(h)* Cuba, *(i)* Ecuador, *(j)* El Salydor, *(k)* Guatemala, *(l)* Guyana, *(m)* Haiti, *(n)* Honduras, *(o)* Nicaragua, *(p)* Panama, *(q)* Paraguay, *(r)* Peru, *(s)* Surinam, *(t)* Uruguay and *(u)* Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [84883]

Mr. Thomas: DFID uses data from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF to estimate the extent of child labour. Between 2000 and 2004, the number of children at work in Latin America and the Caribbean fell by two thirds. Just over 5 per cent. of children in the region are now working. According to the ILO, the levels of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean are now similar to those of some developed and transition economy countries.

The datasets on child labour available from the ILO and UNICEF differ and are not available for all countries. The Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme from the ILO collate estimates on the number of working children based on national survey data. UNICEF estimates the percentage of children (aged five to 14) who are in child labour.

The data available for the countries requested are as follows:

	Data
Mexico	According to UNICEF, 16 per cent. of children aged 5 to 14 are involved in child labour. No data are available from the ILO
Belize	According to the ILO, 9,000 children between 5 and 17 years are working. No data are available from UNICEF
Argentina	No data available from either the ILO or UNICEF
Bolivia	According to the ILO there are 313,000 children between the ages of 7 and 17 in work. UNICEF estimates that 21 per cent. of children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working

	Data
Brazil	According to the ILO, there are 2.2 million child workers in Brazil. UNICEF estimates that 7 per cent. of children aged between 5 and 14 are involved in child labour
Chile	According to the ILO there are 196,104 working children between the ages of 5 and 17 in Chile. This figure represents approximately 5 per cent. of children. No data from UNICEF available
Colombia	According to the ILO, there are 1.5 million working children between the ages of 5 and 17 in Colombia. UNICEF estimates that 5 per cent. of children aged between 5 and 14 are involved in child labour
Cuba	No data from available from the ILO or UNICEF
Ecuador	UNICEF estimates that 6 per cent. of children aged between 5 and 14 are involved in child labour. No recent ILO data available
El Salvador	According to the ILO, there are 222,000 working children between the ages of 5 and 17. No data from UNICEF available
Guatemala	According to the ILO, there are 938,000 working children between the ages of 5 and 17. UNICEF estimates that 24 per cent. of children aged between 5 and 14 are involved in child labour
Guyana	UNICEF estimates that 19 per cent. of children aged between 5 and 14 are involved in child labour. No data available from the ILO
Haiti	No data from either the ILO or UNICEF available
Honduras	According to the ILO, there are 356,000 working children between the ages of 5 and 17. No data from UNICEF available
Nicaragua	According to the ILO, there are 253,000 working children between the ages of 5 and 17. UNICEF estimates that 10 per cent. of children aged between 5 and 14 are involved in child labour
Panama	According to the ILO, there are 48,000 working children between the ages of 5 and 17. No data from UNICEF available
Paraguay	UNICEF estimates that 8 per cent. of children aged between 5 and 14 are involved in child labour. No data available from the ILO
Peru	No data from UNICEF or the ILO available
Surinam	No data from UNICEF or the ILO available
Uruguay	No data from UNICEF or the ILO available
Venezuela	UNICEF estimates that 7 per cent. of children aged between 5 and 14 are involved in child labour

Clean Water

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to improve access to clean water and sanitation in the developing world. [84880]

Hilary Benn: I refer the hon. Member for Bosworth to the response I gave on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1406W.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Treasury and *(b)* Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82750]

Hilary Benn: I have had, and will continue to have, regular discussions with the Chief Secretary about preparations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, as a matter of great importance to the Department for International Development's medium and long term planning.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 768W, on departmental staff, why no record is maintained of the number of periods of sick absence by staff of less than five days. [84033]

Mr. Thomas: Since October 2004, when an electronic absence recording system was introduced, records of sick absences have been held centrally by DFID. This has afforded better management control of frequent and long-term sick absences. However, we are still in the process of defining the types of reports we will require on a regular basis. To provide the information in the format requested requires intensive manual manipulation of the data. We have also changed the basis of recording working patterns from days to hours, which compounds the problem of producing ad hoc reports. We are working with an external consultant towards implementing a simpler process for extracting information from existing systems, but we are unlikely to be able to produce the data until later this year.

Departmental Travel Costs

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his Answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1408W, on departmental travel costs, (1) what the average cost of flights was in each month; and if he will make a statement; [85622]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the *(a)* cost and *(b)* number of internal flights for his staff; and if he will make a statement; [85718]

(3) what the total cost was of these flights in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [85678]

Mr. Thomas: The average cost of flights in each month in 2005 was as follows:

	Average cost (£)
January	215.84
February	222.83
March	203.66
April	241.70
May	242.61
June	231.66
July	207.54
August	227.53
September	218.33
October	239.41
November	224.88
December	122.87

DFID's domestic travel policies ensure that staff travel only when necessary, to minimise cost and environmental impact from carbon emissions. Only top management staff may buy business class tickets. However, DFID benefits from an arrangement used by a number of Government Departments whereby

travellers on flexible economy tickets may be upgraded to business class at no extra cost. We are keen to reduce the number of internal flights and time spent travelling. We instruct staff to consider whether meetings are essential, and we have invested in modern communication systems, including video conference facilities, to reduce the need for travel.

Disability Policy

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to implement its public sector duty in respect of disability policy; and what steps are taken to include *(a)* disabled people and *(b)* their representative organisations in this process. [84303]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has started its preparations for the implementation of the Disability Equality Duty, which comes into effect on 1 December 2006. We are currently developing a DFID-specific equalities screening tool, and an equalities impact assessment tool, to allow for the effective identification and assessment of policies and functions relevant to the Disability Equality Duty.

We will shortly be mapping out our Disability Equality Scheme and preparing our Disability Action Plan. At this stage we will involve disabled people's organisations as well as development organisations with a disability focus—both in the UK and in our partner countries.

DFID is already taking a number of steps to address disability issues in its approach to development. For example, DFID commissioned a Disability Knowledge and Research programme, and we have since been adopting a twin track approach to disability research. This involves mainstreaming disability into existing research initiatives and working directly towards the establishment of an emancipatory model of research with an umbrella Disabled Peoples' Organisation in Southern Africa.

DFID is also consulting disabled people's organisations, and development organisations with a disability remit, about the development of a good practice note for its staff on Inclusive Development. This will have a strong focus on the involvement of disabled people and their representatives in partner countries to ensure that disability issues are taken into account across DFID's programmes.

Disabled Children

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department has allocated to ensure that children with disabilities in developing countries receive an education in each of the last five years; and how much he plans to allocate for this purpose over the next three years; [85361]

(2) how much his Department has spent on ensuring schools in developing countries have adequate facilities to meet the needs of children with disabilities in each of the last three years. [85360]

Hilary Benn: DFID has committed some £2 billion to education over the last 10 years. In April, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pledged to increase this sum to £8.5 billion over the next 10 years, and last month the Prime Minister promised to increase DFID's annual budget for education to £1 billion a year by 2010.

Most of this funding will be channelled to the Governments of developing countries to invest in long term, comprehensive investment plans for the education sector. We will be working with our partners to ensure that access to education by children with disabilities is part of these plans. For example, in India, DFID has supported the District Primary Education Programme, which promotes inclusive education and has helped states integrate disabled children into mainstream schools.

We will also continue to fund discrete civil society projects focused on children with disabilities. DFID has partnership agreements with a number of organisations that support disability-focused activities, such as World Vision, HelpAge International, Save the Children and VSO, among others. In addition, through our partner Action on Disability and Development, with whom we have a six-year Programme Partnership Agreement, we work to promote greater participation and inclusion of disabled people and their organisations in decision-making processes, particularly on partner Governments' Poverty Reduction Strategies.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the percentage of children with disabilities in developing countries who receive an education. [85362]

Hilary Benn: The Global Monitoring Report, which we regard as the most reliable source of education data, estimates that only 2 per cent. of children with disabilities in developing countries are enrolled in school. Civil society organisations working in this field make similar estimates.

All children, including those with disabilities or living in difficult circumstances, should have equal access to a good-quality basic education. DFID is committed to working with the Governments of developing countries towards the education of all children, including those with disabilities.

DFID's policy paper, 'Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion', which has been deposited in the Libraries of the House, sets out our broad-based approach to tackling social exclusion across all sectors. The paper outlines how DFID will build on the work that is already under way and some practical actions that DFID is taking to tackle social exclusion and make a real difference to the lives of excluded people.

EU Economic Partnership Agreements

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on UK international development strategies of EU Economic Partnership Agreements. [85126]

Hilary Benn: The negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the EU and

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries are continuing and are due to be finalised by the end of 2007.

Based on our strategy on development and trade as outlined in the Trade and Investment White Paper 2004 (in which we supported improved trade opportunities for developing countries in line with their broader development strategies), the Government have responded to the EPA negotiations. We published a policy statement in March 2005 on how we think EPAs should be designed if they are to help the ACP countries develop. This policy determines how we will influence the EPA negotiations and assess their outcome.

Secondly, at ACP countries' request, DFID has provided substantial financial and independent technical assistance to help inform their positions in the negotiations. This includes support for the west African, eastern and southern African and Caribbean countries as well to the regional bodies which negotiate on their behalf. The UK is the largest bilateral donor in the EU providing such assistance for EPAs.

Thirdly, UK international development assistance will also respond to the needs and priorities of the ACP arising from EPAs in order to help them develop their ability to trade. DFID will provide funding through the European Development Fund. Support for developing countries, including the ACP, will also be provided through our own bilateral initiative, Aid for Trade, to which we have committed £100 million per year by 2010.

Fast Track Initiative

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what ways his Department is supporting the Fast Track Initiative for education in developing countries. [85358]

Hilary Benn: The UK is supporting the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) as part of our overall approach to speeding up progress towards primary education for all children by 2015. Earlier this year, I announced an additional UK contribution of £100 million to the FTI Catalytic Fund, bringing our total support to £150 million. Our contribution over the next two years will cover nearly a quarter of the funding gap in the FTI.

In addition, the UK is calling for other donors, especially G8 countries, to increase their support for an expanded FTI. We have urged other G8 countries to increase their support to education within the FTI framework, either directly through the FTI Catalytic Fund or by increasing their support for education in FTI endorsed countries.

Health Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on health services development in developing countries in each year since 1997, broken down by country. [81832]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* I attach details of our bilateral general health sector spend by country for the financial years 1997-98 to 2004-05. This totalled nearly £267 million in the financial year 2004-05. We are still in the process of validating expenditure data for 2005-06 and cannot release this under National Statistics Protocols.

DFID also supports work to improve health through our regional and central programmes (including research programmes) that complement the work of our country programmes. In 2004-05, this additional support brought our total bilateral spend on the health sector to some £363 million.

In addition, we provide funding to UN agencies such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF, and bodies such as the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, which are all primarily concerned with helping countries improve their health services. In 2004-05, expenditure on multilateral organisations that have a significant focus on health was £108.6 million.

DFID also provides general Poverty Reduction Budget Support to several developing countries to help build basic services. Some of this funding goes on health services, but is not captured within our sector specific spending figures which therefore somewhat underestimate our overall contribution to improving health in developing countries.

DFID bilateral spend on health 1997-98 to 2004-05

GBP £

Country	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Afghanistan	200,000	—	132,167	—	—
Albania	38,930	188,398	151,338	107,814	296,881
Algeria	4,362	—	—	—	—
Angola	1,274,663	963,376	617,035	257,381	29,829
Anguilla	8,201	77,665	111,147	83,808	248,543
Antigua and Barbuda	118	33,787	576,013	529,333	—
Armenia, Republic of	—	8,612	110,163	100,000	—
Azerbaijan, Republic of	12,926	—	40,000	40,000	—
Bahamas	—	—	—	—	—
Bangladesh	7,864,076	10,576,683	12,146,258	18,203,254	16,794,134
Barbados	11,755	3,332	—	—	—
Belarus, Republic of	—	4,800	4,772	14,552	15,185
Benin, Peoples Republic	—	87,952	81,647	8,316	—
Bolivia	604,453	808,630	1,333,854	2,300,908	3,188,656

DFID bilateral spend on health 1997-98 to 2004-05

Country	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	GBP £ 2001-02
Bosnia	245,320	427,928	613,522	243,557	77,457
Botswana	16,394	27,960	32,307	18,155	14,269
Brazil	812,485	625,719	754,713	746,557	1,192,809
Bulgaria	52,473	—	—	—	—
Burkina Faso	84,602	134,980	70,775	25,371	29,986
Burma	17,379	262,095	175,915	99,252	4,144
Burundi	—	—	—	—	—
Cambodia	2,306,696	2,485,202	2,116,258	1,899,004	1,718,249
Cameroon	18,946	34,690	70,296	12,871	—
Caribbean	109,216	136,977	254,216	74,452	415,141
Chile	164,374	322,899	145,625	—	—
China	144,798	471,529	1,895,663	2,681,681	3,784,647
Colombia	14,753	69,324	61,014	43,703	4,405
Congo, Dem Republic	41,278	52,545	141,460	49,721	—
Congo, Peoples Republic	23,005	6,018	23,540	—	—
Croatia	15,952	42,657	84,418	5,863	6,719
Cuba	111,401	66,634	49,094	87,480	49,038
Cyprus	—	—	538	—	—
Dominican Republic	17	—	—	—	—
Ecuador	76,096	90,242	26,179	114,481	82,837
Egypt, Arab Republic	10,559	—	—	—	—
El Salvador	49,340	107,371	75,788	115,745	97,469
Eritrea	—	—	—	—	—
Estonia	342	—	—	—	—
Ethiopia	444,264	267,151	241,957	212,408	9,326
Fiji	88,705	—	—	194	—
Gambia, The	298,553	318,524	99,034	183,185	276,647
Georgia	110,081	134,189	183,697	293,871	615,553
Ghana	3,533,964	9,941,984	6,165,425	8,570,308	11,414,003
Guatemala	143,502	96,000	96,400	37,933	54,159
Guinea	—	—	64,825	68,648	31,501
Guyana	183,345	131,930	61,102	17,432	3,653
Haiti	—	—	—	21,530	71,951
Honduras	—	—	126,802	152,961	122,604
Hong Kong	5,325	809	—	—	—
Hungary	4,463	24,679	61,873	90,540	114,898
India	21,351,855	20,295,078	35,486,879	30,586,585	29,560,090
Indonesia	11	164,453	32,583	38,198	118
Iraq	368,000	—	530,582	—	—
Jamaica	—	—	—	—	—
Kazakhstan, Republic of	453,362	270,565	258,822	420,692	322,795
Kenya	4,372,218	9,884,658	7,524,589	8,008,104	9,151,998
Kyrgyzstan, Republic of	99,412	157,066	341,676	550,017	446,835
Laos	222,058	192,878	61,896	68,893	66,758
Lesotho	233,911	142,080	220,406	129,886	74,000
Liberia	—	173,244	393,721	1,136,057	362,107
Madagascar	—	—	—	—	—
Malawi	4,857,793	3,392,773	6,995,995	11,888,179	6,892,694
Malaysia	3,250,000	—	25,016	26,877	17,626
Mali	92,986	30,194	38,609	24,565	79,536
Malta	18,045	20,972	20,785	15,170	1,695
Mauritius	42,149	22,884	18,338	4,815	—
Mexico	182,452	413,926	310,896	142,357	55,709
Middle East	29,847	40,863	32,134	32,294	—
Moldova, Republic of	7,524	2,653	—	—	11,960
Montserrat	11,008,453	8,950,343	8,770,595	4,117,418	644,272
Mozambique	596,329	547,725	613,395	8,119,134	8,640,202
Namibia	693,694	329,226	316,170	577,113	410,039
Nepal	1,666,631	2,582,387	2,038,442	3,646,826	7,256,920
Nicaragua	350,661	214,310	365,931	228,749	89,580

DFID bilateral spend on health 1997-98 to 2004-05

Country	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	GBP £ 2001-02
Niger	60,000	89,842	100,000	100,000	78,210
Nigeria	4,310,965	6,244,925	7,125,469	6,844,552	7,507,481
Pakistan	6,451,560	5,952,187	7,373,423	4,074,751	10,318,693
Panama	—	—	18,255	1,473	—
Papua New Guinea	44,066	30,933	17,886	—	—
Peru	1,680,287	1,526,543	2,061,625	1,594,336	1,509,490
Philippines	144,448	115,038	37,099	19,516	—
Pitcairn Islands	—	—	—	—	—
Romania	140,937	193,566	66,804	29,882	217,949
Russian Federation	2,777,722	2,305,030	2,876,347	2,214,351	2,107,051
Rwanda	—	—	261,679	34,223	23,364
Senegal	23,470	—	44,806	118,988	147,442
Serbia and Montenegro	—	—	—	213,495	1,021,768
Sierra Leone	74,752	743,429	1,397,690	1,332,327	1,378,128
Slovak Republic	16,730	—	—	—	—
Slovenia	1,501	—	—	—	—
Solomon Islands	183,715	55,347	34,520	7,658	3,074
Somali Democratic Republic	—	27,601	43,203	52,351	5,678
South Africa, Republic of	3,946,036	6,026,802	4,594,120	5,965,406	3,573,262
Sri Lanka	331,939	452,821	447,962	200,849	182,181
St. Helena	578,808	492,616	478,522	355,793	852,514
St. Lucia	—	—	—	—	248
Sudan	27,883	151,609	107,182	140,092	143,580
Swaziland	118,817	70,063	84,722	151,867	94,240
Tajikistan, Republic of	—	10,409	20,000	60,396	30,780
Tanzania	5,898,613	5,462,371	6,391,140	9,337,450	12,508,228
Thailand	24,645	44,859	4,206	—	—
Togo	80,207	124,147	114,375	172,767	47,285
Tonga	12,430	14,290	5,570	—	5,337
Trinidad and Tobago	4,251	—	—	—	—
Tristan da Cunha	291,625	123,387	149,457	112,520	184,852
Turkmenistan	48,597	100,047	30,000	30,747	—
Turks and Caicos Islands	48	13,791	132,818	89,684	10,317
Uganda	8,676,854	8,537,985	9,160,803	54,019,083	38,711,758
Ukraine	62,533	18,931	209,095	112,379	52,141
Uzbekistan, Republic of	33,449	93,772	248,572	262,906	256,740
Vanuatu	—	—	—	—	10,223
Vietnam	152,383	190,173	229,208	58,350	82,746
West Bank and Gaza	368,541	543,481	1,515,131	1,916,678	1,751,244
Windward Islands	—	17,686	—	—	—
Yemen, Republic of	—	—	—	—	—
Yugoslavia	43,070	—	5,350,846	1,187,375	300,000
Zambia	4,432,521	3,607,646	3,498,394	4,949,194	813,859
Zimbabwe	3,867,411	2,791,817	3,500,968	4,267,535	3,219,267
Totals	107,455,315	123,034,688	151,126,188	207,303,175	191,996,756

Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	1997-2005 Total
Afghanistan	71,913	160,023	63,657	627,760
Albania	405,235	417,831	271,459	1,877,886
Algeria	—	—	—	4,362
Angola	—	34,800	422,970	3,600,054
Anguilla	44,963	23,195	214,569	812,092
Antigua and Barbuda	131,928	—	—	1,271,179
Armenia, Republic of	—	—	—	218,775
Azerbaijan, Republic of	—	—	—	92,926
Bahamas	3,034	912	—	3,946
Bangladesh	16,356,777	11,576,883	7,120,246	100,638,311
Barbados	—	—	—	15,087

Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	1997-2005 Total
Belarus, Republic of	6,000	33,423	97,646	176,378
Benin, Peoples Republic	—	54,426	—	232,341
Bolivia	2,553,235	1,206,039	898,533	12,894,310
Bosnia	—	—	—	1,607,785
Botswana	8,543	—	—	117,627
Brazil	1,734,181	1,212,617	879,439	7,958,519
Bulgaria	—	—	—	52,473
Burkina Faso	30,095	16,051	—	391,860
Burma	3,581,449	2,868,746	4,154,258	11,163,239
Burundi	—	—	—	—
Cambodia	1,520,188	4,370,537	5,821,983	22,238,116
Cameroon	—	—	—	136,803
Caribbean	166,757	478,902	1,008,116	2,643,776
Chile	—	—	—	632,899
China	11,962,737	9,151,283	9,156,735	39,249,073
Colombia	2,238	—	—	195,437
Congo, Democratic Republic	274,251	2,317,507	5,815,521	8,692,283
Congo, Peoples Republic	—	—	—	52,563
Croatia	115,872	18,128	—	289,610
Cuba	65,160	66,204	37,522	532,532
Cyprus	—	—	—	538
Dominican Republic	—	—	—	17
Ecuador	84,722	—	—	474,557
Egypt, Arab Republic	—	—	—	10,559
El Salvador	150,942	84,448	2,507	683,610
Eritrea	—	500,000	—	500,000
Estonia	—	—	—	342
Ethiopia	62,789	3,905,402	3,901,535	9,044,831
Fiji	—	—	—	88,900
Gambia, The	40,035	1,661	—	1,217,640
Georgia	265,309	605,622	776,229	2,984,551
Ghana	7,524,897	11,727,091	14,599,713	73,477,385
Guatemala	73,490	65,738	14,354	581,575
Guinea	311,251	59,835	—	536,060
Guyana	—	—	—	397,462
Haiti	81,669	73,699	—	248,849
Honduras	72,352	—	—	474,719
Hong Kong	—	—	—	6,134
Hungary	94,053	—	—	390,506
India	33,811,687	35,883,728	74,895,144	281,871,047
Indonesia	2,310	—	75,932	313,606
Iraq	—	—	—	898,582
Jamaica	12,239	730	—	12,969
Kazakhstan, Republic of	259,405	147,270	—	2,132,910
Kenya	15,139,169	10,417,915	17,665,328	82,163,979
Kyrgyzstan, Republic of	273,549	329,441	524,263	2,722,258
Laos	86,795	37,784	—	737,062
Lesotho	—	—	339,516	1,139,800
Liberia	37,893	586,419	836,521	3,525,962
Madagascar	54,435	119,296	—	173,731
Malawi	13,090,485	14,780,123	12,544,271	74,442,313
Malaysia	6,551	—	—	3,173,930
Mali	24,716	138,485	—	429,091
Malta	15,457	3,250	—	95,375
Mauritius	—	—	—	88,186
Mexico	50,630	70,791	64,251	1,291,012
Middle East	—	—	—	135,138
Moldova, Republic of	—	60,284	92,116	174,537
Montserrat	814,059	229,599	11,121	34,545,859
Mozambique	7,726,032	9,990,827	9,565,394	45,799,038

Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	1997-2005 Total
Namibia	627,655	87,383	—	3,041,279
Nepal	5,748,756	4,816,752	5,506,638	33,263,351
Nicaragua	106,830	64,161	154,061	1,574,282
Niger	21,790	—	—	449,842
Nigeria	13,342,712	14,220,421	19,100,411	78,696,937
Pakistan	5,710,661	19,763,895	18,454,129	78,099,299
Panama	—	—	—	19,728
Papua New Guinea	—	—	—	92,885
Peru	191,750	224,531	831,523	9,620,084
Philippines	—	—	81,604	397,705
Pitcairn Islands	—	—	9,063	9,063
Romania	263,865	187,055	86,563	1,186,620
Russian Federation	5,520,263	5,746,922	2,819,130	26,366,816
Rwanda	64,812	77,876	491,604	953,558
Senegal	191,527	176,902	52,878	756,013
Serbia and Montenegro	395,037	20,498	—	1,650,797
Sierra Leone	1,470,743	2,474,677	410,592	9,282,338
Slovak Republic	—	—	—	16,730
Slovenia	—	—	—	1,501
Solomon Islands	70	—	—	284,385
Somali Democratic Republic	60,738	373,584	791,006	1,354,161
South Africa, Republic of	4,962,862	5,849,554	6,881,227	41,799,268
Sri Lanka	426,346	73,538	26,646	2,142,284
St. Helena	681,089	1,061,986	983,638	5,484,965
St. Lucia	—	—	—	248
Sudan	24,377	2,364,000	6,989,879	9,948,602
Swaziland	68,483	11,516	—	599,707
Tajikistan, Republic of	51,429	18,805	—	191,819
Tanzania	12,893,487	6,082,347	1,835,021	60,408,657
Thailand	—	—	—	73,709
Togo	219,672	196,555	36,626	991,634
Tonga	12,928	—	—	50,555
Trinidad and Tobago	—	—	—	4,251
Tristan da Cunha	163,781	12,029	—	1,037,651
Turkmenistan	743	—	—	210,133
Turks and Caicos Islands	8,882	—	—	255,539
Uganda	20,107,168	31,750,624	3,124,761	174,089,035
Ukraine	62,246	127,796	148,266	793,387
Uzbekistan, Republic of	334,191	558,484	72,524	1,858,637
Vanuatu	—	—	—	10,223
Vietnam	46,678	775,742	2,061,950	3,597,230
West Bank and Gaza	1,900,907	2,192,092	1,086,903	11,274,976
Windward Islands	—	—	—	17,686
Yemen, Republic of	—	485,900	220,850	706,750
Yugoslavia	—	36,534	488,240	7,406,064
Zambia	9,824,217	6,610,710	4,692,756	38,429,297
Zimbabwe	5,593,554	9,961,352	17,624,652	50,826,556
Totals	210,301,723	240,231,163	266,933,990	

[1] YAR to May 1990.

Note

Date 29 June 2006.

Source

SRSG database DFID Bilateral and Broad Sector.

Inclusive Education

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what ways his Department is supporting *(a)* inclusive education and *(b)* inclusive education in teacher training in developing countries. [85359]

Hilary Benn: DFID is committed to inclusive education and teacher training related to this, being part of education sector investment plans. In addition, DFID provides targeted support; for example in Vietnam, DFID has co-financed with the Government of Vietnam, the World Bank and other donors the Primary Education for Disadvantaged Children programme, a £243 million project which was launched

in October 2003 and includes a strong focus on inclusive education. In Kenya, DFID is supporting an innovative pilot project with Sightsavers and the Ministry of Education to provide assistive technology to all totally blind and severe low-vision students at Kenyatta University and three Teacher Training Colleagues.

Iraq

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of internally displaced people in Iraq. [84201]

Hilary Benn: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) published figures in June 2006, which give an overall estimate of 1.3 million people internally displaced in Iraq.

Of these, the IOM believes that nearly 100,000 people have been displaced in Iraq's central and southern governorates since the bombing of the shrine at Samara on 22 February.

The IOM add that numbers are estimates only and are continually changing. More information and updates are available on the IOM website (http://www.iom.int).

Since the 2003 conflict, DFID has provided £85 million humanitarian assistance for Iraq, to help avert a major humanitarian crisis and to assist in the restoration of essential services. DFID has also contributed £32 million to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement in Iraq, and provided £7.2 million to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for humanitarian work, including work to assist displaced people.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the availability of medicine in hospitals in Iraq. [85873]

Hilary Benn: In 2003, following increasing concerns regarding drug shortages in Iraq, the World Health Organisation (WHO) set up a task force to look at of the problem.

Since then WHO has been working with the Ministry of Health in Iraq to improve drug supply systems. In addition to training staff, WHO is working with Iraqis to build new systems, monitor and plan the supply of essential drugs, establish quality control, and assist emergency planning. This has included direct supply of some essential medicines to Iraq.

Shortages remain and WHO advises that the national drug supply management system is still in need of technical and logistical assistance.

DFID has given most of its assistance to the Iraqi health sector through financial contributions to international organisations, including WHO, that have particular expertise in health. These contributions include:

£5 million to WHO, which has helped to fund the delivery of emergency medical supplies, supported clinics and hospitals in Baghdad and Basra, and supports the Iraqi Government's Health Sector Working Group. More information can be found at: http://www.who.int/en

£32 million to the International Red Cross for immediate humanitarian assistance

£70 million to the United Nations and World Bank multi-donor trust funds for Iraq. These trust funds finance reconstruction in a number of areas including health. The UN trust fund has approved 10 health and nutrition projects, in total valued at $96 million. The World Bank trust fund also has a $25 million health rehabilitation project which finances priority emergency services, including basic medical equipment and essential drugs. More information on both trust funds can be found at: http://www.irffi.org

Kosovo and Somalia (Aid)

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department *(a)* has given in each of the last three financial years and *(b)* plans to give in each of the next three financial years to (i) Kosovo and (ii) Somalia; and what percentage (A) was and (B) is planned to be allocated (1) as bilateral aid, (2) as multilateral aid via the EU, (3) as multilateral aid via the UN, (4) as multilateral aid via Bretton Woods institutions and (5) through non-governmental organisations and other voluntary and charity sector organisations. [84128]

Mr. Thomas: In the three financial years from 2002-03, DFID spent £3.1 million, £2.5 million and £2.12 million in Kosovo, all on technical assistance. Our allocation for 2005-06 was £2.7 million. Expenditure figures are being finalised. We intend to provide approximately £3 million in 2006-07 and expect this level to continue for the next two financial years. Virtually all EC support to Kosovo is given through the European Agency for Reconstruction which provided €63 million in 2003, €73 million in 2004 and €77 million in 2005. The UK's share of this assistance is 19 per cent. Data for future years are not available. We do not have disaggregated data for expenditure on Kosovo by UN agencies and the World Bank.

DFID's programme of funding for Somalia for the last three financial years and by percentage is set out in the following table. Official figures for the financial year 2005-06 have yet to be published but the allocation was provisionally £13.2 million. Planned programme allocations for the next two financial years are as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	15.5
2007-08	21

It is currently not possible to disaggregate spending to institutions as our programme is developing in light of the ongoing Joint Needs Assessment.

Future allocations beyond 2007-08 will be announced next year following completion of the current Spending Round.

DFID Bilateral Aid and Imputed UK Share of Multilateral Aid to Somalia

£ million

	Total DFID Bilateral Programme	*Percentage*	*Imputed UK share via EC*	*Percentage*	*Imputed UK share via UN*	*Percentage*	*UK share via WB*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2002-03	3.1	52	1.9	32	0.9	16	0.0	0	5.9
2003-04	4.0	53	2.8	36	0.8	11	0.0	0	7.6
2004-05	5.3	56	3.6	38	0.6	6	0.0	0	9.5

Note
Imputed multilateral shares are available by calendar year only so these taken as proxy for financial years.
Date: 10 July2006
The majority of our bilateral aid in 2002-03 and 2003-04 was channelled through either non-governmental organisations or humanitarian agencies
Source
Statistics on International Development 2005 and Imputed Multilateral Shares

Oxfam Offices (Darfur)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications of the decision of Oxfam to close two of its offices in Darfur because of the lack of security there; and if he will make a statement. [85095]

Hilary Benn: We share Oxfam's concern that the declining security situation in one area of North Darfur has forced them to close two of their local offices there. They hope their withdrawal will only be temporary, and are doing everything they can to reduce the humanitarian impact. Part of Oxfam's work is building local capacity to manage emergency water and sanitation systems, and they are confident that the water supply will not deteriorate significantly in the immediate term.

We continue to press all parties in Darfur to implement the May 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and the 2004 N'Djamena ceasefire to which the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) as a whole and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) agreed.

Palestinian Territories

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 772W, on the Palestinian Territories, if he will place in the Library a copy of the UN's updated consolidated appeal for humanitarian assistance of 31 May. [84179]

Hilary Benn: I have arranged for the document entitled "Revised Emergency Appeal, 31 May 2006: Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP); Occupied Palestinian Territory", to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

This report can also be accessed via the Humanitarian Information Centres website at http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/opt/docs/UN/OCHA/CAP06_Revised_emergency_30May06.pdf.

Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what UK Government representation there is at the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility; what UK involvement there is in its decision-making; and if he will make a statement; [82471]

(2) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the value for money supplied from UK public funds of the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility and *(b)* whether the facility provides quality development assistance which has positive impacts on citizens in developing countries by helping to relieve poverty; and on what evidence those assessments are based; [82472]

(3) when the Government last reviewed their involvement in the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility; and what the results were of the review; [82473]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* role and *(b)* value of the consensus-building activities of the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility; and if he will make a statement; [82474]

(5) what the timetable is for decision-making on the annual allocation of funds to the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility; and what public consultation will take place prior to any decision on this allocation. [82749]

Hilary Benn: Improving infrastructure is essential for achieving economic growth in developing countries. There is also a pressing need to increase the efficiency of infrastructure to give greater access to the poor and better value for money. Current investment flows are insufficient to fund these additional needs and the public sector alone cannot bridge the financing and efficiency gaps. A significant contribution from the private sector will be required. However, attracting private capital and participation is difficult—according to World Bank figures, private investment in developing country infrastructure fell from US$ 49.6 billion in 1997 to US$ 12.5 billion in 2003.

Among the main constraints to successful private sector participation in infrastructure are the lack of appropriate policies, laws, regulations and institutions and the weak capacity of the public sector to effectively manage private sector involvement. The PPIAF is a global technical assistance facility managed by the World Bank to address these constraints and, where requested to do so by developing country governments, facilitate and, where appropriate, raise the quality of private sector involvement in infrastructure. The PPIAF is a good example of successful donor harmonization in development. It is supported by 14 donors with a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience. As of April 2006, it had approved US$ 108.7 million funding for 495 activities in 101 countries. This funding mobilised an additional US$ 59.8 million co-financing from Governments and other donors.

A particular strength of the PPIAF is its open and transparent systems of governance. These include procedures governing the application for, and allocation of, activity funds. As a partner in a multilateral facility, DFID abides by the endorsed systems and governance arrangements.

DFID fully endorses the PPIAF's objective to help developing countries to improve the quality of their infrastructure to the benefit of the poor through effective public-private partnerships. In practice, this is largely achieved by helping Governments improve their policies, laws, regulations and institutions (their "enabling environment"). Our other objectives are to encourage greater donor coordination in designing solutions to meet the demands of developing countries, reducing transaction costs for developing countries and effective dissemination of lessons learned.

DFID does not earmark its contribution to the PPIAF. Funding is pooled with that of other donors. The breakdown of total PPIAF expenditure in US$ by sector for each of the last three years is provided in the table. Future allocations will depend on demand from Governments of developing countries.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*
Energy			
US$	792,010	2,229,500	3,663,675
Percentage	6	16	21
Water			
US$	3,452,122	2,700,118	3,171,640
Percentage	34	19	18
Telecom			
US$	2,745,040	1,536,218	796,600
Percentage	19	11	5
Transport			
US$	3,624,750	1,701,270	3,361,993
Percentage	25	12	19
Multi-sector			
US$	3,690,383	6,053,654	6,409,295
Percentage	26	43	37
Total			
US$	14,304,305	14,220,760	17,403,203
Percentage	100	100	100

As a partnership arrangement, the PPIAF is jointly governed. The PPIAF has four policy and administrative organs. DFID is represented on the first two:

The Program Council is the governing body of the PPIAF, composed of representatives of the 14 donors contributing resources to the PPIAF, and chaired by the World Bank. The Program Council, which meets once a year around June time, is responsible for defining programme policies and priorities, approving an annual work plan and financial plan, reviewing PPIAF performance and overseeing other PPIAF organs.

The Donor Steering Group provides strategic direction to the Program Council. Membership of this group is on a voluntary basis and decided in consultation with the full Program Council.

The Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), comprises six international experts. It provides independent advice on strategy and evaluates the impact of the PPIAF programme by carrying out evaluations of a sample of PPIAF projects.

The PPIAF Program Management Unit (PMU) is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the facility with a focus on reviewing proposals, arranging delivery of PPIAF programmes and activities, and proposing and administering the work plan and budget.

Further details on these organs and the PPIAF governance structure are provided in the PPIAF Program Charter, dated May 2001, as amended from time to time, available from its website:

www.ppiaf.org

All project proposals are assessed for value for money and their potential for impact by the PPIAF. Once approved, all activities follow World Bank procurement rules that require open and transparent competition to ensure value for money. A sample of activities are systematically evaluated by the Technical Advisory Panel of independent experts that reports to the Programme Council. PPIAF evaluations have confirmed that 84 per cent. of its activities have satisfactorily achieved their original objectives.

In 2004, PPIAF donors also commissioned an independent evaluation—the 'Strategic Review', of the first five years of PPIAF's operations. The objective was to evaluate PPIAF's progress against its original objectives and identify ways for improving its performance. The report, issued in the final quarter of 2004, was very positive, concluding that the PPIAF is making an important contribution to development.

A number of recommendations were made that the PPIAF has since implemented. The recommendations included strengthening the strategic direction of the programme; increasing stakeholder involvement in the Program Council, more focus on outcomes rather than outputs; enhancing PPIAF's identity as an autonomous multi-donor facility and improving impact measurement.

Changes facilitated by the PPIAF often take a few years to deliver the anticipated improvements to the enabling environment. This has made it difficult to assess direct poverty impact to date. Improving impact measurement is an issue that is currently being addressed. One proposal is that PPIAF activity should be more closely anchored to planned infrastructure projects. Further work is in hand to gauge the impact of PPIAF activity on the International Financial Corporation's national 'doing business' ratings that address various aspects of the enabling environment.

Country-specific activities may be undertaken only where governments seek the assistance of the PPIAF.

Consensus building is essential if reforms are to be successful. Governments are responsible for leading the process. The PPIAF has played an important supporting role. For example, the PPIAF has supported the development of a series of training courses on utility regulation and finance that have been targeted at key stakeholder groups including Ministers and senior Government officials, journalists and consumer associations. The aim of the training courses is to equip stakeholders with a sound knowledge with which to appraise reforms. Two training workshops have also been held for stakeholders. The first workshop was held in South Africa in June 2005 and the second was held in Costa Rica in February 2006. Feedback provided to PPIAF on the workshops has been very positive.

DFID last reviewed its involvement with the PPIAF in July 2005, when considering a request for continued support. This review drew heavily on the findings of the independent strategic review and progress on implementing its recommendations. The strategic review reported that the PPIAF has a comparative advantage over other facilities by demonstrating clear focus, global reach, strong donor support and efficient management. It confirmed that demand for PPIAF services by Governments of developing countries is growing and that continued DFID support is critical to growth and increasing the leverage of funds required for scaling up. On this basis, DFID agreed to continue its contribution to PPIAF for a further three-year period—July 2005 to June 2008.

Donors are asked annually to consider a financial plan incorporating an estimate of future calls on donors based on the anticipated demand by Governments. The PPIAF then considers requests for funding from Governments once a quarter in light of available funds and donor pledges. DFID has agreed an indicative biannual payment schedule for meeting our commitment to the PPIAF based on the financial plan. DFID funds are only ever released on evidence of need and good performance.

DFID consults with members of the public, NGOs and other stakeholders when setting the UK policy for international development. It is not practical to consult the public on the many individual funding decisions that DFID takes to deliver this policy.

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment the Government have made of the likely impact on poverty alleviation in donor countries of the private infrastructure advisory facility; and if he will make a statement; [82582]

(2) what assessment the Government have made of the value for money of the UK's involvement with the public private infrastructure advisory facility; and if he will make a statement; [82583]

(3) how the Government seeks to influence the activities of the public private infrastructure advisory facility; what recent representations the Government have made; and if he will make a statement; [82584]

(4) what the objectives are of UK involvement in the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility; what UK funding has been provided in each year to the Facility for *(a)* energy production, *(b)* the water industry and *(c)* other functions; and what UK funding has been allocated in each of the next three years. [82585]

Hilary Benn: Improving infrastructure is essential for achieving economic growth in developing countries. There is also a pressing need to increase the efficiency of infrastructure to give greater access to the poor and better value for money. Current investment flows are insufficient to fund these additional needs and the public sector alone cannot bridge the financing and efficiency gaps. A significant contribution from the private sector will be required. However, attracting private capital and participation is difficult—according to World Bank figures, private investment in developing country infrastructure fell from US$ 49.6 billion in 1997 to US$ 12.5 billion in 2003.

Among the main constraints on successful private sector participation in infrastructure are the lack of appropriate policies, laws, regulations and institutions and the weak capacity of the public sector to effectively manage private sector involvement. The PPIAF is a global technical assistance facility managed by the World Bank to address these constraints and, where requested to do so by developing country Governments, facilitate and raise the quality of private sector involvement in infrastructure. The PPIAF is a good example of successful donor harmonization in development. It is supported by 14 donors with a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience. As of April 2006, it had approved $US 108.7 million funding for 495 activities in 101 countries. This funding mobilised an additional US$ 59.8 million co-financing from governments and other donors.

A particular strength of the PPIAF is its open and transparent systems of governance. These include procedures governing the application for, and allocation of, activity funds. As a partner in a multilateral facility, DFID abides by the endorsed systems and governance arrangements.

DFID fully endorses the PPIAF's objective to help developing countries to improve the quality of their infrastructure for the benefit of the poor through effective public-private partnerships. In practice, this is largely achieved by helping governments improve their policies, laws regulations and institutions (their "enabling environment"). Our other objectives are to encourage greater donor coordination in designing solutions to meet the demands of developing countries, reducing transaction costs for developing countries and effective dissemination of lessons learned.

DFID does not earmark its contribution to the PPIAF. Funding is pooled with that of other donors. The breakdown of total PPIAF expenditure in US dollars by sector for each of the last three years is provided in the table below. Future allocations will depend on demand from Governments of developing countries.

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Total			
US$	14,304,305	14,220,760	17,403,203
Percentage	100	100	100

The PPIAF has good systems for assessing outcomes. The following table provides broad details of these by main category since the PPIAF's inception in 1999 to December 2005.

PPIAF activities 1999-2005

Category	*Completed activities*
Facilitating transactions	54
Creating/strengthening regulatory institutions	34
New legislations and regulations	24
Public Private Sector Strategies	26
Workshops concerned with the above	176

All project proposals are assessed for value for money and their potential for impact by the PPIAF. Once approved, all activities follow World Bank procurement rules that require open and transparent competition to ensure value for money. A sample of activities are systematically evaluated by the technical advisory panel of independent experts that reports to the Program Council, which is composed of representatives of the 14 donor members. PPIAF evaluations have confirmed that 84 per cent of its activities have satisfactorily achieved their original objectives.

In 2004, PPIAF donors also commissioned an independent evaluation the 'Strategic Review', of the first five years of PPIAF's operations. The objective was to evaluate PPIAF's progress against its original objectives and identify ways for improving its performance. The report, issued in the final quarter of 2004, was very positive, concluding that that PPIAF is making an important contribution to development. A number of recommendations were made that the PPIAF has since implemented. The recommendations included strengthening the strategic direction of the programme; increasing stakeholder involvement in the PPIAF's Program Council; more focus on outcomes rather than outputs; enhancing PPIAF's identity as an autonomous multi-donor facility, and improving impact measurement.

Changes facilitated by the PPIAF often take a few years to deliver the anticipated improvements to the enabling environment. This has made it difficult to assess direct poverty impact to date. Improving impact measurement is an issue that is currently being addressed. One proposal is that PPIAF activity should be more closely anchored to planned infrastructure projects. Further work is in hand to gauge the impact of PPIAF activity on the International Financial Corporation's national 'doing business' ratings that address various aspects of the enabling environment.

DFID is an active member of the PPIAF's Program Council and we are involved in discussions about the strategic direction of the PPIAF. Over the past couple of years, DFID and other donors have sought to encourage the PPIAF to make better progress on measuring the impact of its activities on poverty alleviation and to better co-ordinate its activity with others.

Rotavirus

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has *(a)* allocated in each of the last three financial years and *(b)* plans to allocate in each of the next three financial years to tackling rotavirus. [84127]

Mr. Thomas: DFID supports partner countries to strengthen the health system to address all major causes of disease including the prevention and management of childhood diarrhoea.

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI) alliance board recently approved US$15 million for the completion of clinical trials of rotavirus vaccines in Africa and Asia during the period 2006-09. Furthermore, the board requested the development of an 'investment case' for the introduction of rotavirus vaccine, to be submitted to the November 2006 joint meeting of the GAVI alliance and GAVI fund boards. If approved, GAVI would finance rotavirus vaccine in GAVI-eligible countries (those with GNI of below $1000 p.a). The request for an investment case clearly signals GAVI's interest in supporting rotavirus vaccine.

DFID is a strong supporter of GAVI. We have committed £68.5 million between 2000-08. Our main approach to financing GAVI over the next decade is through the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm). The IFFIm is expected to provide GAVI with $4 billion over 10 years and DFID has committed to provide one third of the finance required to deliver this (approximately £1.38 billion to 2025).

DFID plans to sign a memorandum of understanding with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh for £7.5 million core funding for five years. This includes funding their work on a new oral vaccine for rotavirus.

DFID also supports Unicef and WHO; much of their work supports the management of common childhood illnesses

Street Children (Central America)

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will meet representatives of Casa Alianza and other international development organisations to discuss assistance for street children in central America. [84930]

Hilary Benn: On 26 May 2006, my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for International Development responded to a letter from Casa Alianza, forwarded by my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) outlining recent DFID assistance to street children in Central America. He would be happy to meet with representatives of Casa Alianza to discuss further the situation of street children and how DFID works in Central America.

Tobacco Control

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control since it entered into force on 27 February 2005; and if he will make a statement. [84873]

Mr. Thomas: The UK was one of the first to ratify the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC): 168 countries have now done so. Since the adoption of the convention, the WHO FCTC secretariat has been working to ensure that as many countries as possible sign and ratify the treaty through awareness-raising among politicians, policy-makers, health professionals and society at large. Regional and national consultations to assist

countries in preparing for the ratification and implementation of the WHO Framework FCTC have taken place. The WHO Tobacco-Free Initiative is also providing technical support to countries to assist them with implementation.

In order to support the development of a strong FCTC and combat tobacco industry disinformation, an alliance of non-governmental organizations from around the world has been formed. Now comprising more than 200 groups from more than 90 countries, the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) is playing a key role in educating policymakers and strengthening cooperation across borders.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what action the Government are taking to help reduce tobacco use in the developing world. [84874]

Mr. Thomas: The health impacts of tobacco use in developing countries are of increasing concern. By 2030, tobacco will be responsible for ten million deaths per year, and 70 per cent. of these deaths will be in the developing world. The UK is taking action to address this problem.

Firstly, the UK played a key role in negotiating and ratifying the WHO'S Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which sets international standards on tobacco price and tax increases, tobacco advertising and sponsorship, labelling, illicit trade and second-hand smoke among others. Secondly, we have recently given the International Development Research Centre a £1.1 million grant over 3 years for research into effective tobacco control policies and programmes that will minimize the threat of tobacco production and consumption to health and human development in developing countries. Thirdly, we provide advice to tobacco-dependent poor countries on constraints to their economic development and the livelihoods of their citizens.

As a final point, DFID's focus on improving health systems will impact on the adverse health effects of tobacco. We are currently revising our health strategy and looking at whether we should be doing more on tobacco control. As part of developing our strategy, we are specifically commissioning some work to help guide us in this area.

Trade Matters

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of *(a)* producing and *(b)* distributing the booklet, "Trade Matters". [84373]

Mr. Thomas: Freer and fairer trade is vital for poverty reduction, and "Trade Matters" is DFID's most popular downloaded publication. So far 150,000 copies have been printed in hard copy at a cost of around 64p a copy, totalling some £96,214. It would incur a disproportionate cost to disaggregate specific costs of distribution from the general costs of distributing all DFID publications. However, DFID has spent £26,928 on the promotion of Trade Matters, with flyers in *The Independent, New Statesman, Big Issue in the North, Sunday Herald, The Grocer, SAGA* magazine, and the full publication in the Women's Institute magazine.

Yugoslavia

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many internally displaced people there are in the former Republic of Yugoslavia, broken down by *(a)* current state boundary and *(b)* ethnic group; and if he will make a statement. [84137]

Mr. Thomas: According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the following numbers of people were internally displaced (IDPs) in the former Republic of Yugoslavia as of the end of 2005. The UNHCR does not have data on ethnic origin.

Country	*Refugees*[1]	*Asylum seekers*[2]	*Returned Refugees*[3]	*IDPs*[4]	*Returned IDPs*[5]	*Stateless Persons*[6]	*Various*[7]	*Total*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10,568	215	1,273	182,747	5,164	—	—	199,967
Croatia	2,927	8	5,261	4,804	2,736	20	—	15,756
Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo)	148,264	33	5,828	246,391	2,482	—	85,000	487,998
Slovenia	251	185	—	—	—	445	—	881
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,274	723				2,200	123	4,320

[1] Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection.
[2] Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the procedure.
[3] Refugees who have returned to their place of origin during the calendar year.
Source:
Country of origin and country of asylum.
[4] Persons who are displaced within their country and to whom UNHCR extends protection and/or assistance.
[5] IDPs of concern to UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during the calendar year.
[6] Persons who are not considered nationals by any country under the operation of its laws.
[7] Persons of concern to UNHCR not included in the previous columns (in the case of Serbia, local residents deemed at risk by UNHCR).
Source
UNHCR 2005 Global Refugee Trends.

WALES

NHS Operations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 798, on NHS operations, on what date figures showed that 768 Welsh patients had been waiting for more than six months for treatment in an English hospital. [85165]

Mr. Hain: Statistics Wales released figures on 28 June 2006 relating to NHS hospital waiting times as at 31 May 2006. These figures show that 768 Welsh patients were waiting for more than six months for inpatient and day care treatment at non-Welsh NHS Trusts.

Further information can be found at http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 571W, on sickness absence, how many staff in his Department have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [84032]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not collect this information in this way, and obtaining this information could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Human Trafficking

4. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plan to sign the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings. [85248]

Mr. Coaker: The UK is currently considering whether to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Human Trafficking. The Government are examining how the convention's approach could best be harmonised with effective immigration controls. The responses to the recent consultation paper on a proposed UK Action Plan on trafficking in humans will assist the Government in taking a decision on signature.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency, together with the new UK Human Trafficking Centre, is at the forefront of tackling human trafficking within Europe. We have today launched a consultation paper setting out a further package of measures, such as increased data sharing and organised crime civil orders, aimed at helping law enforcement agencies better target and disrupt the activities of organised criminals.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken through *(a)* education programmes and *(b)* public campaigns to raise awareness of human trafficking. [82669]

Mr. Coaker: One of the aims of the recent police led multi-agency operation (called Operation Pentameter) which aimed at tackling trafficking for sexual exploitation was to raise awareness of the issue among the public and key stakeholders to be followed by a series of enforcement campaigns across the country. Examples of materials produced by Pentameter include posters in ports of entry in a variety of different languages and leaflets handed out to passengers at ports highlighting the dangers of trafficking.

Work abroad is also undertaken by the Home Office, in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development to prevent trafficking by investing in projects in key source and transit countries to raise awareness of trafficking.

In the recent consultation on proposals for a UK Action Plan on Human Trafficking views were invited on how to raise awareness among potential trafficking victims about the risks of being trafficked. A summary of responses was published on 21 June and the suggestions put forward will be considered in developing the final UK action plan to be published later in the year.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding will be allocated to the UK Human Trafficking Centre in each of the next five years. [82667]

Mr. Coaker: The total amount of funding for UK policing, provided directly from the Home Office (Project Reflex) amounts to £5.7 million per annum and is allocated until 2008. The UK Human Trafficking Centre will be funded from within this.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to be ratified by the UK. [77174]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is undertaking a review to determine the extent to which the United Kingdom complies with the Articles set out in the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

The Government is keen to ratify the Optional Protocol as soon as possible but also wants to ensure that there are no gaps in the measures which exist to protect children in the way the Protocol intended. Once the Government are confident that the United Kingdom is fully compliant, the Optional Protocol will be ratified.

Community Support Officers

22. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to fill the projected budgetary shortfall between his Department's grant to fund extra police community support officers in Northamptonshire and the cost of employing them. [85268]

John Reid: The delivery of 16,000 police community support officers nationally by next April, with 138 of

these in Northamptonshire, will be a significant boost to neighbourhood policing and tackling the Respect Agenda. The funding of PCSOs comes from general police funding, pooled Government grant in the Neighbourhood Renewal and Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, funding by partners in community safety and specific grant from the Home Office, not simply the latter as the hon. Gentleman has mentioned. Even so, we will be giving Northamptonshire Police Authority nearly £1.6 million of new money this year in the Neighbourhood Policing Fund.

Alcohol Exclusion Zones

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of alcohol exclusion zones in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [85260]

Mr. Coaker: No research has been undertaken into the effectiveness of designated public place orders (DPPOs) as they tend to form just one part of a wider local strategy for tackling alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. However, of the 184 local authority areas that have adopted DPPOs, 72 have more than one in place suggesting that the orders are helping police deal with the problem of alcohol misuse.

A series of alcohol misuse enforcement campaigns have targeted alcohol-related crime and disorder since 2004 through the use of fixed penalty notices and test-purchasing operations. Antisocial behaviour orders, contracts and dispersal powers are also powerful tools in dealing with antisocial behaviour or alcohol related disorder on our streets.

Biometric Passports

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to allow people to pay for the new biometric passport in instalments. [85263]

Joan Ryan: Identity fraud costs the UK economy at least £1.7 billion each year and we have set up a public-private sector work programme to tackle all aspects of this problem. Our plans for a National Identity Scheme will also provide people with a highly secure means of protecting their identity.

Crime Reporting

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether arrangements are in place for the public *(a)* in Redbridge, *(b)* in Waltham Forest and *(c)* in England and Wales to report a crime to a third party for onward communication to the police; and if he will make a statement. [78555]

Mr. McNulty: Members of the public can report "non-emergency" crime and hate crime/incidents to a third party online via the national Police Portal (www.police.uk). Incident specific forms are available that seek information from the public. The information is then sent to the force in whose area the alleged crime is committed. Visitors to the portal are advised to dial 999 in an emergency.

Doctors

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many doctors have applied for work permits to complete their medical training in compliance with the newly introduced requirement; and if he will make a statement. [85259]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that up to 13 July 2006 there have been 495 work permit applications for doctors to undertake medical training under the newly introduced requirement.

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made in West Lancashire under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 since its introduction. [83656]

Mr. Coaker: The sections within the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act are being introduced gradually and as resources become available.

There have been no arrests in West Lancashire under section 5 of the Act, which came into force in March 2005 and creates an offence of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult.

The new powers of arrest, which were created under section 10(1) of the Act were repealed in January 2006 by the introduction of section 110 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, which made all offences arrestable. As section 10(1) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act had not been implemented, data on the number of arrests for domestic violence related incidents under these powers are not available centrally.

However, data from January 2006 to March 2006 on domestic violence arrests for all police forces, covering the extended powers of arrest, will be published this autumn and data from April 2006 to March 2007 will be published in autumn 2007.

Dorset Constabulary

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much central funding has been given to the Dorset constabulary since 1997. [84739]

Mr. McNulty: The information is set out in the following table.

Government funding for Dorset 1997-98 to 2006-07

£ million

	General grant[1]	*Capital provision, specific grants and special formula grant*	*Total*
1997-98	54.1	1.4	55.4
1998-99	54.9	3.7	58.6
1999-2000	56.6	4.4	61.0
2000-01	58.4	2.0	60.4
2001-02	60.0	5.5	65.4
2001-[illegible][2]	58.3	5.5	63.8
2002-03	59.7	5.7	65.4
2003-04	61.6	6.8	68.3

Government funding for Dorset 1997-98 to 2006-07

£ million

	General grant[1]	*Capital provision, specific grants and special formula grant*	*Total*
2004-05	63.6	6.6	70.1
2005-06	66.0	7.2	73.2
2005-06[3]	58.2	15.0	73.2
2006-07[4]	60.0	16.4	76.4

[1] Total government grants includes general grant (Home Office police grant, DCLG/Welsh Assembly Government Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates). It also includes specific grants: Crime Fighting Fund, Rural Policing Fund, Basic Command Unit funding, Community Support Officers funding, Neighbourhood Policing Fund, Airwave, DNA Expansion Programme, Special Priority Payments and capital grants. Pensions deficit grant and Dedicated Security Posts funding is included for 2006-07. Special formula grant in 2006-07 comprises the former specific grants Rural Policing Fund, Special Priority payments, DNA grant and South East/London allowances.

[2] Figures 2001-02 not directly comparable with 2002-03 due to transfer of funding for NCS/NCIS from police authorities to Home Office. Adjusted figures are comparable with subsequent years.

[3] Figures for 2006-07 are not directly comparable with 2005-06 owing to the transfer from general to specific grant of pensions' and security grant. The adjustments to 2005-06 render them comparable with those for 2006-07.

[4] General grant allocations are net of Amending Report adjustments for 2004-05 and 2005-06 that took account of ONS population data changes and some pensions' data changes.

Drug Classification Review

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department will put the drug classification review document out for consultation; and if he will make a statement. [85418]

Mr. Coaker: Since coming into post the Home Secretary has not had the opportunity to decide how to proceed with the matter. In any event, it is sensible to take into account the conclusions drawn by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee in its inquiry into "Scientific advice, risk and evidence: how Government handles them" which is using the classification of illegal drugs as one of its case studies.

Firearms

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure is followed to dispose of firearms seized by police officers in the course of their duties. [85312]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* There are no central guidelines on the disposal of firearms except where firearms seized in respect of criminal offences. In such cases an order for their disposal are normally sought from the trial judge or magistrate. In these circumstances, the forfeiture and/or destruction order (as applicable) is actioned locally, at force level.

Disposal is also undertaken locally in cases where firearms are seized by the police from licensed firearms holders as a result of a breach of licence conditions or where the person is no longer considered to be fit and proper to hold the weapon; or where members of the public surrender firearms voluntarily to the police.

The only exception is where firearms are considered to have historical significance or instructional value for training. In such cases the weapons may be retained in liaison with a museum or the Royal Armouries or by the police in secure conditions as instructional aids.

Fox Hunting Ban (Scotland)

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the use of English police constabularies to enforce the fox hunting ban in Scotland. [81976]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for chief officers.

Gun Crime

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shooting incidents there have been in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Hertfordshire, *(d)* the Metropolitan police area of London, *(e)* City of London police area and *(f)* England and Wales in each year since 1986 in which (i) legally held and (ii) illegally held weapons were used against the police. [82556]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data is not in a form suitable for publication.

Handling Centres

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the development of police investigation and detainee handling centres. [57759]

Mr. McNulty: The Policing Bureaucracy Taskforce recommended in its report published in July 2002 that greater use should be made of prisoner processing units (PPUs) to handle and interview suspects and to complete initial case preparation with a view to freeing up patrol officer time.

The use of PPUs, also referred to as Investigation and Detainee Handling Centres (IDHCs) helps provide an appropriate level of expertise in dealing with volume crime arrests and to enable designated police staff to be employed flexibly within such units. The performance drive and focus is in line with Office for Criminal Justice Reform's objective to bring more offences to justice through a more modern and efficient justice process by supporting all criminal justice agencies in working together to provide an improved service for the public.

The provision of detention facilities within each force area is an operational matter for the chief officer of the force concerned. Information is not held centrally on the number of units or centres. objective to bring more offences to justice through a more modern and efficient justice process by supporting all criminal justice agencies in working together to provide an improved service for the public. The provision of detention facilities within each force area is an operational matter for the chief officer of the force concerned. Information is not held centrally on the number of units or centres.

Haringey Coroner Services

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which pathologists in Haringey Coroner Services *(a)* are and *(b)* are not accredited by his Department; and how many of these pathologists are over the normal retirement age. [61875]

Joan Ryan: The Home Office does not hold information on *(a)* the pathologists instructed by specific coroners, *(b)* the coroners instructing forensic pathologists on the Home Office Register or *(c)* the age of the pathologists on the Home Office Register. I am therefore unable to provide the information requested.

Knives

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of reported knife crimes in Wales resulted in a conviction in each year since 1996. [79629]

Mr. Coaker: Although the homicide figures record where a knife or other sharp instrument has been used, other crimes specifically involving the use of a knife cannot be separately identified in the recorded crime statistics or the court proceedings data.

Mohammed Siddique Khan

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an electronic tracking device was fitted to Mohammed Siddique Khan's car at any time prior to 7 July 2005. [81893]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* It is the Government's policy not to comment on speculation about specific intelligence.

Murders

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the murders committed in England and Wales over each of the last 10 years were committed within the extended family; and what estimate he has made of the numbers of murders in which alcohol was a contributory factor. [83785]

Mr. McNulty: The information available centrally relates to homicides recorded by the police in England and Wales for each year between 1995 and 2004-05 where there was a family relationship between victim and suspect. Figures are also provided for this period where the suspect was known to be intoxicated at the time of the offence, but as they are based on information notified to the Home Office, rather than the actual case files held by the police or the court records, it may understate the true position. Figures are contained in the table.

Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by the police in England and Wales, 1995 to 2004-05

	Extended family relationship[2]	*Alcohol related[3]*
1995	232	107
1996	218	87
1997	226	84
1997-98	214	74
1998-99	194	75
1999-2000	186	48
2000-01	247	61
2001-02	232	[3]161
2002-03	230	172
2003-04	206	181
2004-05	213	170

[1] As at 28 November 2005; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] From the information notified to the Home Office, the relationship between victim and suspect is known to be within the following categories:
Son, daughter (including adopted)
Stepson, stepdaughter (including child of suspect's cohabitant/lover
Spouse
Ex-spouse, estranged spouse
Cohabitant, common law spouse
Ex-cohabitant, ex-common law spouse
Lover, mistress
Ex-lover, ex-mistress
Lover's spouse, spouse's lover, cohabitant's spouse or lover, lover's lover
Homosexual/ex-homosexual relationship—long-term
Homosexual relationship—casual
Other family (including foster children).

[3] From the information notified to the Home Office, the suspect is known to have been intoxicated at the time of the offence, or on drink and drugs. The drink and drugs related cases may include those where drink was not the primary factor. The figures are affected by recording changes, most notably in 2001-02 when some forces introduced a new notification system.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many murders were committed in each London borough in each of the last five years. [82897]

Mr. McNulty: Available figures relate to the number of homicides recorded by the Metropolitan police in each London borough from 2000-01 to 2004-05 and are contained in the following table.

Offences initially recorded[1] by the Metropolitan police as homicide by London borough 2000-01 to 2004-05

	Period offence initially recorded				
	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Barking and Dagenham	4	2	3	4	8
Barnet	8	4	5	2	5
Bexley	3	2	2	0	2
Brent	6	12	6	10	18
Bromley	7	3	4	2	3
Camden	7	10	16	1	8
City of Westminster	8	8	9	6	5
Croydon	3	7	6	12	10
Ealing	8	9	9	6	8
Enfield	2	6	6	6	12
Greenwich	4	5	4	12	8
Hackney	14	14	6	20	9

Offences initially recorded[1] by the Metropolitan police as homicide by London borough 2000-01 to 2004-05

	Period offence initially recorded				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	10	6	4	4
Haringey	9	7	17	12	10
Harrow	3	3	0	3	0
Havering	5	3	1	6	0
Heathrow	0	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	2	2	5	6	2
Hounslow	5	6	2	7	6
Islington	11	9	3	5	7
Kensington and Chelsea	4	3	3	1	9
Kingston upon Thames	1	3	0	1	2
Lambeth	13	17	15	12	10
Lewisham	6	7	5	9	5
Merton	3	2	3	2	0
Newham	11	7	14	15	10
Redbridge	5	3	5	8	4
Richmond upon Thames	2	0	2	3	3
Southwark	15	11	11	13	9
Sutton	3	2	3	1	1
Tower Hamlets	4	9	11	11	8
Waltham Forest	4	5	7	9	5
Wandsworth	3	11	6	2	4
Total	189	202	195	211	195

[1] This measure is the one used generally for recorded crime statistics. It differs from the more commonly used 'currently recorded' homicide measure, which excludes cases where a suspect has been acquitted or convicted of a lesser offence. Figures using this measure are not available below police force area level.

Parking (Lancashire)

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parking tickets were issued by Lancashire police in each of the last five years. [82744]

Mr. McNulty: Available information on fixed penalty notices relating to all offences of obstruction, waiting and parking within the Lancashire police force area during the calendar years 2000 to 2004 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Information for 2005 will be available early in 2007.

Fixed penalty data for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[1], Lancashire police force area, 2000-04

	Number of tickets	
	Endorsable	Non-endorsable
Fixed penalty notices issued		
2000	6	64,900
2001	6	56,000
2002	4	47,700
2003	8	31,800
2004	9	17,700

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.22; Transport Act 2000 ss. 173 (5); 173 (6); 173 (7); 174 (3); 175 (2); 175 (3); 175 (4); 190 Highway Act 1835 ss 72 & 78; RTA 1988 ss. 19 & 21; Highways Act 1980 s. 137 (1); Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss. 5 (1), 8, 32-36 and 45-53; Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 Regs. 101 and 103; Transport Act 2000 Part III.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many written parliamentary questions tabled to the Department before 5 May remained unanswered on 25 May. [75160]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* Internal management information shows that 565 parliamentary questions tabled before 5 May remained unanswered on 25 May.

Police

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of each police force's budget in England and Wales in 2006-07 is derived from the police precept; whether he expects this proportion to change under the proposals for police force restructuring; and if he will make a statement. [73244]

Mr. McNulty: The proportion of each police authority's budget met from the police precept on council tax in 2006-07 is set out in the table. There are clearly differentials in precepts between a number of neighbouring police authorities.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1057.

Proportion of police authority budgets met from police precepts on council tax in 2006-07

Police authority	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	31.4
Bedfordshire	26.8
Cambridgeshire	33.2
Cheshire	26.2
Cleveland	21.9
Cumbria	31.3
Derbyshire	29.7
Devon and Cornwall	30.1
Dorset	41.6
Durham	17.9
Essex	29.8
Gloucestershire	40.1
Hampshire	29.4
Hertfordshire	32.5
Humberside	25.3
Kent	28.7
Lancashire	21.8
Leicestershire	27.3
Lincolnshire	32.3
Norfolk	35.3
Northamptonshire	34.1
North Yorkshire	42.4
Nottinghamshire	25.0
Staffordshire	32.5
Suffolk	32.8
Surrey	45.6
Sussex	31.2
Thames Valley	33.7
Warwickshire	35.3
West Mercia	36.4
Wiltshire	34.5
Total Shires	31.1

Proportion of police authority budgets met from police precepts on council tax in 2006-07

Police authority	*Percentage*
Greater Manchester	17.0
Merseyside	17.4
Northumbria	11.7
South Yorkshire	18.3
West Midlands	13.6
West Yorkshire	19.3
Total Mets	16.2
Total England (exc. London)	26.5
Metropolitan	25.0
(Total England (inc London)	26.1
Dyfed-Powys	37.4
Gwent	28.4
North Wales	37.9
South Wales	25.4
Total Wales	30.6
Total England and Wales	26.4

Source:
English Police Authorities—Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Welsh Police Authorities—Welsh Assembly Government

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many formal complaints were made against police officers working in each constabulary in England in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what percentage of such complaints have resulted in disciplinary action being taken against the police officer in each constabulary area. [85516]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to you directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in *(a)* Lancashire police and *(b)* Cumbria police were involved in preparation work for the voluntary merger of the forces; and how many hours were devoted to this work. [86379]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the police forces concerned and the information is not held centrally.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many traffic police, excluding those trained also to act as firearms response team members, were operating on the roads in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police authority area. [82444]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the following table.

Police officers FTE whose main function is "Traffic"[1] (1995-2005)

Full-time equivalent

	1994-95	*1995-96*	*1996-97*[2]	*1997-98*[2]	*1998-99*[2]	*1999-2000*[2]	*2000-01*[2]	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2005-05*
Avon and Somerset	213	206	—	—	—	—	—	216	222	228
Bedfordshire	87	88	—	—	—	—	—	75	80	80
Cambridgeshire	95	90	—	—	—	—	—	85	99	101
Cheshire	187	191	—	—	—	—	—	194	200	194
Cleveland	88	87	—	—	—	—	—	64	73	2
Cumbria	116	116	—	—	—	—	—	107	110	108
Derbyshire	147	141	—	—	—	—	—	107	121	116
Devon and Cornwall	219	219	—	—	—	—	—	192	198	211
Dorset	98	94	—	—	—	—	—	91	86	82
Durham	113	114	—	—	—	—	—	111	119	108
Dyfed Powys	100	111	—	—	—	—	—	136	105	141
Essex	277	269	—	—	—	—	—	241	242	243
Gloucestershire	81	82	—	—	—	—	—	62	66	67
Greater Manchester	441	437	—	—	—	—	—	406	392	359
Gwent	93	90	—	—	—	—	—	93	95	96
Hampshire	265	268	—	—	—	—	—	248	246	244
Hertfordshire	159	156	—	—	—	—	—	150	151	149
Humberside	157	166	—	—	—	—	—	123	119	225
Kent	179	169	—	—	—	—	—	104		122
Lancashire	273	273	—	—	—	—	—	198	187	190
Leicestershire	105	87	—	—	—	—	—	92	95	85
Lincolnshire	104	101	—	—	—	—	—	90	89	96
London, City of	32	32	—	—	—	—	—	24	24	28
Merseyside	345	223	—	—	—	—	—	125	119	115
Metropolitan police	1,005	922	—	—	—	—	—	583	592	1029
Norfolk	109	111	—	—	—	—	—	120	121	107
Northamptonshire	93	91	—	—	—	—	—	70	71	65
Northumbria	225	221	—	—	—	—	—	245	253	165

Police officers FTE whose main function is "Traffic"[1] (1995-2005)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97[2]	1997-98[2]	1998-99[3]	1999-2000[3]	2000-01[3]	2002-03	Full-time equivalent 2003-04	2005-05
North Wales	131	127	—	—	—	—	—	115	114	76
North Yorkshire	132	126	—	—	—	—	—	151	138	101
Nottinghamshire	154	154	—	—	—	—	—	26	121	133
South Wales	188	174	—	—	—	—	—	243	245	243
South Yorkshire	205	204	—	—	—	—	—	180	127	134
Staffordshire	238	227	—	—	—	—	—	50	49	58
Suffolk	76	70	—	—	—	—	—	68	72	76
Surrey	192	198	—	—	—	—	—	108	110	107
Sussex	23[1]	202	—	—	—	—	—	164	163	163
Thames Valley	335	288	—	—	—	—	—	259	259	245
Warwickshire	123	117	—	—	—	—	—	103	103	93
West Mercia	134	178	—	—	—	—	—	292	115	117
West Midlands	417	417	—	—	—	—	—	384	405	393
West Yorkshire	343	341	—	—	—	—	—	320	318	317
Wiltshire	118	108	—	—	—	—	—	91	96	93
Total	8,423	8,084	—	—	7,525	7,238	7,005	6,902	6,706	7,104

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities(or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. This does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.
[2] Data is unavailable for 1996-97 and 1997-98
[3] Data by police force area is not available centrally.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidelines are issued on informing a parent or guardian when a minor is stopped and searched by the police; [62590]

(2) what guidelines are followed when a minor is stopped and searched by the police; [62591]

(3) what guidelines his Department has issued on the length of time before stop and search records should be deleted; [62594]

(4) what guidelines his Department has issued on how long a stop and search record is retained in the case of an underage minor where there has been no further action after the initial stop and search; [62595]

(5) procedures are followed when an underage minor is stopped and searched by the police; and if he will make a statement; [69783]

(6) long the record is kept for a minor who is stopped and searched where no further action is taken; and if he will make a statement. [69796]

Mr. McNulty: Code of practice A issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 regulates contacts with the police and the public in the exercise of police powers to stop and search.

Code A requires that a record of the stop or stop and search must be made at the time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If the record is not given at the time, the person must be notified by the officer of their entitlement to a record if requested within 12 months and informed how a copy can be obtained. The decision to retain records after that period is a matter for individual chief officers, irrespective of whether the record relates to an adult or a juvenile and the outcome of the stop or stop and search.

Code A does not make special provision for the handling of a stop or stop and search involving a person under the age of 17 years old. Officers exercising these powers must do so fairly, responsibly and with respect for people being stopped or stopped and searched. It would be an operational matter for the officer concerned to determine whether any additional support or action would be required owing to the vulnerability of the individual; and guidance due for publication this summer by the National Centre for Policing Excellence highlights the need for officers to take account of the person's age and vulnerability .

Probation

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he expects to publish in draft legislation to introduce market forces into the provision of probation services; and if he will make a statement. [85250]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We set out our plans for the probation service in "Working with probation to protect the public and reduce re-offending" which was published on 30 March. We will introduce the necessary legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows. The precise timing and form of that legislation has yet to be decided.

Prisons

Mr. Sutcliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the use of the "inner change" programme in prisons. [85254]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The programme was introduced as a pilot only at HMP Dartmoor.

Following a review under Prison Service Order 4350 (Effective Regimes Interventions) the programme is currently being withdrawn. The Review Panel identified a range of concerns, the most significant being:

Poor quality of the manuals which did not demonstrate a structured and coherent programme

Lack of consistency and clarity about the primary aims of the programme

Lack of understanding and appropriate sensitivity to the diversity agenda of HM Prison Service

Lack of protocols for the management of the mentor system, making it unsafe

Inability of the programme to satisfy the Chaplaincy in a number of areas.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he uses of the improvement in *(a)* literacy, *(b)* numeracy and *(c)* health, including drug and alcohol addiction, of (i) adult, (ii) young offenders and (iii) juveniles in custody. [83350]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

At present, improvement in literacy and numeracy for adults in custody is measured by reference to their overall contribution towards the Government's Skills for Life targets by counting the qualifications achieved. For young offenders and juveniles in custody, the Youth Justice Board measures improvement by those serving custodial sentences of more than six months through an assessment at the start and end of the sentence that shows what they have achieved, and whether or not they have gained a qualification.

As new Learning and Skills Council-led delivery arrangements for offender learning are introduced across England from 31 July, data on individual achievement by offenders will start to become available for adults, young offenders and juveniles in custody, and on those serving sentences in the community.

A system of star ratings exists for prison health services. This is based on a framework of measures, including prison self-assessments, external inspection reports and prisons' performance against key areas such as mental health and dental waiting times.

Since April 2006, HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and the Healthcare Commission have worked in partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding. HMIP continues to inspect and report on the health outcomes for prisoners in all public sector establishments. The Healthcare Commission now assesses the effectiveness of primary care trusts' commissioning arrangements.

Public Pensions (Transferability)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures the Department has put in place to assist pension transferability of public pensions for *(a)* police and *(b)* probation service personnel. [79766]

Mr. McNulty: All public service schemes pay cash equivalent transfer values to other pension schemes in respect of accrued rights in compliance with pensions law. Under the Fair Deal for Staff Pensions there is a requirement to transfer pension rights when employments are transferred to the private sector under Public Private Partnerships or Public Finance Initiatives and subsequent transfers for former public servants. Public service scheme members can also transfer accrued pension rights by way of the Public Sector Transfer Club. The club is a network of public and private sector occupational pension schemes which makes it easier for employees who move between employers covered by separate participating schemes to transfer their accrued pension rights.

Scottish Criminal Records Office

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice he has issued on fingerprint identification following the misidentification in the case of Shirley McKie and David Asbury. [74299]

Joan Ryan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department has not issued any advice in response to this case. However, The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) National Fingerprint Board has issued a document dated 4 April 2006 entitled 'Erroneous and disputed identifications: Learning from experience elsewhere'. This document is for guidance only and is not a policy document; it was circulated to all fingerprint bureau in police forces in England and Wales.

The ACPO report referred to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland's inspection of the Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO) that commenced on April 2000. The key recommendations of the inspection report were that the SCRO should:

Move towards a non-numeric standard;

Reform management and scope demands for staff levels;

Consider moving to a centralised model for a national fingerprint service;

Have external provision and management of competency testing for experts to provide a sustainable and defensible programme;

Move towards a competency-based standard for expert qualification that all fingerprint experts within the SCRO should undergo;

Provide a common procedure to deal with failure in the course of competency testing; introduce an improved automated manual system of case tracking.

Produce national guidance on fingerprint standards and procedures and issue it to all fingerprint staff;

Establish a national policy which encapsulates an independent review process to deal with all erroneous and disputed fingerprints.

ACPO and the Home Office place a strong emphasis on ensuring forensic standards in fingerprinting. The Home Office will shortly be consulting about the creation of a forensic regulator (in accordance with the evidence given by the then Minister of State, the hon. Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham), before the Science and Technology Committee on 23 November 2005). The creation of the National Policing Improvement Agency through the Police and Justice Bill will also be very significant in providing an Agency dedicated to continuous improvement of policing, including the area of forensic science.

Terrorist Attacks (Compensation)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what compensation *(a)* the Government and *(b)* other Governments paid to the families of the British victims of the terrorist attacks on (i) 11 September 2001 in New York, (ii) 7 July 2005 in London and (iii) 12 October 2002 in Bali; [82098]

(2) what compensation payments the Government have made to the families of victims of the Bali bombings in 2002. [82114]

Mr. McNulty: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) awarded a total of £66,708 in compensation to 26 claimants in respect of the New York incidents of 9/11. The payments were made to them for the mental trauma they suffered from seeing their loved ones killed in the USA on live television here. No compensation payments have been made in respect of the Bali bombings. Through the Foreign Commonwealth Office's 'Aftercare Plan for victims of terrorism overseas' the Government provide immediate assistance to the victims and families of overseas terrorism.

We do not hold information about compensation paid to the victims of these incidents by other Governments.

As at 30 June 2006, CICA had made 370 awards totalling £2.324 million in respect of the 7/7 bombings.

These comprised a mix of final awards and interim awards, and were paid both to victims and to families bereaved by the bombings. This figure will include some payments for non British nationals because neither nationality nor residence are criteria for claiming compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

World Cup

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the World Cup on levels of *(a)* alcohol-related crime and *(b)* domestic violence. [83017]

Mr. Coaker: Police forces do not routinely provide the Home Office with information on specifically alcohol-related crime, and so it is difficult to gauge the effect of occasional events such as the World Cup on this. Police recorded crime statistics covering the period of the World Cup will be released in September.

The Home Office funded an Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC) during the month preceding the World Cup. Part of the intention for this was to set the tone of acceptable behaviour during the competition itself. Results from this campaign will be released shortly.

Research has suggested a link between major sporting events and domestic violence. Because of this, a Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaign took place in some areas during the World Cup. Data from this campaign are still being collected and analysed, and the results will be released when they are ready.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* intelligence officers and *(c)* other government officials visited Germany for the 2006 World Cup; and at what cost to the public purse. [82921]

Mr. McNulty: A police delegation of 78, undertaking a range of policing functions, were deployed in Germany for the duration of the England team's participation in the tournament. In accordance with the European Union handbook on policing co-operation in respect of international matches the costs were met by the host authorities. A Home Office press officer was attached to the police delegation. Some minor costs and reimbursements will be met by the Home Office. These are yet to be claimed or calculated. The Home Office does not hold details of any other Government officials who attended the World Cup.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80467]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost (code of practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9). The cost of a stamp is a post office cost. The cost of stationery is difficult to estimate but around £1 when all the overheads in terms of posting, computer costs and paper are taken into consideration. Staff time varies considerably based on the length of the letter. It is impossible therefore to estimate an average cost for all the letters sent out.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of each of the Law Officers' Departments. [80079]

The Solicitor-General: I am answering this question for the Crown Prosecution Service, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and the Serious Fraud Office.

The finance director of the Crown Prosecution Service is Mr. John Graham. He has a BA and MA in economics. He has extensive experience as a finance director and has fulfilled this role since 1999.

The finance director of the Treasury Solicitor's Department is Tony Hindley. He is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). He was appointed on 1 May 2003. He was previously head of corporate planning for Defence Scientific and Technology Laboratory. Other positions previously held include financial controller and company secretary at Defence Evaluation and Research Agency where he was also a member of the board of management; finance director at British Nuclear Fuels plc. (UK Group) and financial controller and member of the sector board at BNFL.

The head of resources and planning of the Serious Fraud Office is Bob Evans. This role incorporates the responsibility of a finance director. He is an MA (Gonville and Caius college, Cambridge) and Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. He is currently studying for membership of CIMA and ACMA. He was

appointed in November 2005. Previously he was a member of HM Treasury for 15 years. He has also served as a financial supervisor with the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority, as economic adviser for the Ministry of Defence and has managed several large financial programmes and Government projects.

The head of finance for the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO) is Justin Freebairn. He holds an MA in Logic and Moral Philosophy (St. Andrews) and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. He was appointed in March 2006 following a number of senior finance positions both within and outside central Government.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list the draft Bills produced by the Law Officers' Departments since October 2005; how many were examined or are planned to be examined by *(a)* a departmental Select Committee or a combination of Select Committees and *(b)* a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [81644]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General what his practice is regarding meeting, discussions with and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by the Law Officers' Departments; and if he will make a statement. [81645]

The Solicitor-General: My Departments are not generally responsible for drawing up and framing legislation. Where they are we always seek a full range of views in doing so. Consultation is a key part of the policy making process: both formal and informal.

The Attorney-General and I, along with our officials, hold regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups, and relevant experts, in the areas for which we are responsible.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list the unnumbered Command Papers produced by the Law Officers' Departments in each session since 1976; how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81646]

The Solicitor-General: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to explanatory notes to treaties, explanatory memoranda to statutory instruments and some Treasury minutes. All other documents are published in the numbered Command Papers series.

A complete list of unnumbered Command Papers can be produced only at disproportionate cost. Copies of all unnumbered Command Papers are made available via the Vote Office.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Command Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the unnumbered Command Papers produced by her Department in each session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if she will make a statement. [81265]

Vera Baird: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to Explanatory Notes to Treaties, Explanatory Memorandum to Statutory Instruments and some Treasury Minutes. All other documents are published in the numbered Command Papers series.

Details of unnumbered Command Papers published since 1976 can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Coroners

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what powers coroners have to investigate deaths abroad. [84513]

Ms Harman: A coroner has the duty to investigate a death abroad which is reported to him or her where the body is brought back to England and Wales and where there is a reasonable cause to suspect that the death was violent, or unnatural, or sudden and of unknown cause or where the death occurred in prison.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what powers coroners have to reduce waiting times by transferring cases from one area to another. [84514]

Ms Harman: Under section 14 of the Coroners Act 1988 coroners have limited powers to seek to transfer cases to another coroner on grounds of expediency.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to review the powers of coroners to enter and search premises. [84515]

Ms Harman: Proposals are outlined—in clauses 50 and 51—in the draft Coroners Bill which I published on 12 June 2006.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the normal retirement age is for coroners. [84577]

Ms Harman: There is no compulsory retirement age for all coroners. However, coroners who held office immediately before April 6, 1978, and did not opt out of the statutory provisions, can be required by the relevant council to vacate office if they have completed 15 years service and attained the age of 65 years. Coroners' pensionable service under the applicable local government scheme will come to an end at the age of 70 years.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many inquests have been successfully appealed against in the last five years. [84578]

Ms Harman: There is no appeal against a coroner's verdict at an inquest. However, each year a number of inquests are held, quashed or amended by order of the High Court, and the number of such occurrences over the last five years is shown in the table as follows.

	Number of inquests held by order of the High Court	*Number of inquests quashed or amended by the High Court*
2001	3	2
2002	2	1
2003	1	4
2004	1	1
2005	3	1

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to remove boundary restrictions on coroners' jurisdictions. [84648]

Ms Harman: Removing boundary restrictions on coroners' jurisdictions is a measure in the draft Coroners Bill which I published on 12 June 2006.

Court Facilities

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many courts have separate facilities for victims and witnesses. [84567]

Ms Harman: There are 93 Crown courts 88 of which have dedicated witness facilities. Of the 355 operational magistrates courts 302 can provide dedicated facilities. The remaining courts, which are used on a more infrequent basis, make use of alternative facilities.

Crown Dependencies

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on the Crown Dependencies of Protocol 3 of the 1972 Act of Accession; and if she will make a statement. [84932]

Ms Harman: I have not made any such assessment, however the governments of the Crown Dependencies have confirmed that they are satisfied that the Protocol has achieved the purposes for which it was established in 1972, that is the free flow of goods between the Islands and the European Community.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that no illegal immigrants are employed in the manned guarding of her Department's premises. [80803]

Ms Harman: My Department uses a mix of in-house and contract security guards.

Where security guards are recruited directly to provide in-house services, recruitment is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Commissioners Code.

Two suppliers have provided manned guarding services to all Crown and county courts since 2000. Another supplier provides manned guarding services to offices on the DCA HQ estate. Under the terms of their respective contracts, these suppliers are required to carry out security vetting of personnel they propose using.

My Department assumed responsibility for magistrates courts in April 2005, many of which have contracts for manned guarding services awarded prior to this date. Information on individual contractual arrangements is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A national procurement exercise covering all courts in England and Wales, which will standardise the contractual arrangements including vetting requirements, will begin later this year.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether her Department has *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly employed illegal immigrants as security guards. [80812]

Ms Harman: In 2005, an individual employed as a security guard by Her Majesty's Courts Service, an Executive Agency of the Department, was found to be an illegal immigrant. His status was discovered in the process of an immigration officer's investigation, and he was found to have provided false information in order to obtain documents that showed him to be fit for employment. He was dismissed.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many of her staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77300]

Ms Harman: The statistics are provided as at 31 December 2005 as staff headcount:

	Headcount
Under 55 years	23,124
Over 55 years	5,499
Total	28,623

Note:
Data on civil service entrants has been collected by the Cabinet Office on an annual basis. Previously published data on entrants has been based on Departments submitting returns on a 'Mandate' or summary level basis. Data on entry age is only available from Departments' records of individual civil servants, as civil service statistics does not include this information for all Departments.

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into her Department in each of the last three years. [77301]

Ms Harman: The statistics for the last three financial years are set out in the table as follows.

Financial year	Total
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	[1]193
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	[1]299
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	345
Grand total 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006	837

[1] The figures do not include the magistrates courts prior to 1 April 2005.

Early Retirement

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many departmental employees have taken early retirement due to ill-health in each of the past five years for which figures are available. [46751]

Vera Baird: The number of employees who have taken early retirement due to ill-health in each of the last five years is set out as follows. These figures are for the period April to March for each of the years shown.

	Number
2001	60
2002	38
2003	30
2004	27
2005	31

Family Courts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures she has taken to increase confidence in family courts. [84555]

Ms Harman: I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 60WS.

Home Repossessions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders have been made for the repossession of homes in *(a)* Eastleigh constituency and *(b)* each district in (i) Hampshire, (ii) Southampton and (iii) Portsmouth in each year since 1987. [84659]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made in county courts in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (includes Aldershot and Farnham, Basingstoke, Portsmouth, Southampton, Winchester and Newport) since 1987. These are the only county courts in Hampshire and Isle of Wight that deal with mortgage repossession matters.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, these county courts cover areas that are not necessarily consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore for instance repossessions at Portsmouth county court may relate to properties in other constituencies besides Portsmouth.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made in Hampshire county and the Isle of Wight county, 1987-2005

	Possession orders made[2]									
	1987[3]	1988[3]	1989[3]	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Aldershot and Farnham	118	370	663	486	470	322	344	291	309	172
Andover	27	28	15	46	88	75	93	59	67	20
Basingstoke	83	112	105	348	249	188	135	93	71	59
Portsmouth	906	649	683	1,088	1,211	1,115	617	423	259	126
Southampton	219	519	361	298	601	466	304	407	260	175
Winchester	62	48	47	40	78	52	50	33	32	9
Hampshire	1,415	1,726	1,874	2,306	2,697	2,218	1,543	1,306	998	561
Newport (IoW)	106	85	124	121	220	140	123	81	141	69
Isle of Wight	106	85	124	121	220	140	123	81	141	69

	Possession orders made[2]								
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Aldershot and Farnham	139	34	153	99	66	65	71	103	122
Andover	4	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
Basingstoke	56	70	28	51	46	43	63	58	72
Portsmouth	168	324	179	135	111	142	125	158	314
Southampton	95	164	141	122	109	94	107	175	223
Winchester	9	13	11	7	13	6	11	9	26
Hampshire	471	605	512	414	345	350	377	503	757
Newport (IoW)	59	36	33	15	22	21	35	48	62
Isle of Wight	59	36	33	15	22	21	35	48	62

[1] Local authority and private
[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[3] For they years 1987 to 1989, "Suspended orders" were not separately counted. They are thus included in "Orders made".
[4] This court no longer deals with civil procedures.

Legal Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what criteria govern the awarding of legal aid in housing cases. [84557]

Vera Baird: Applicants for legal aid in housing cases can obtain legal aid for legal advice and information, investigative help, or legal representation, if they pass the standard tests of financial eligibility and if their case meets the criteria for the grant of funding, as set out in the Funding Code. Housing cases are considered a priority for funding, and the Funding Code criteria for legal representation in housing cases reflect this. Cases in which the roof over the applicant's head is directly at issue are considered to be of "overwhelming importance" to the applicant and can be funded in a wider range of circumstances than other housing cases.

Legal Professionals

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* barristers are practising; and how many were practising in (i) 1992 and (ii) 1997. [85155]

Bridget Prentice: There are currently 100,938 solicitors and 11,818 (self-employed) barristers who hold practising certificates.

In 1992 these figures were 59,566 and 7,271 respectively.

In 1997 they were 71,637 and 9,369 respectively.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many women practise in the legal profession; and how many were practising in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1983, *(c)* 1992 and *(d)* 1996. [85156]

Bridget Prentice: The information available is set out in the table.

Number of women

	2006	1996	1992	1983	1979
Barristers (self-employed)	3,543	2,115	1,420	573	409
Solicitors	41,967	21,356	15,653	5,117	3,700
Licensed conveyancers	533	[1]—	[1]—	n/a	n/a
Fellows of the Institute of Legal Executives	4,811	3,307	1,592	n/a	n/a
Total	50,854	26,778	18,665	5,690	4,109

[1] No data available.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average earnings are of solicitors; what they were in *(a)* 1976, *(b)* 1986, *(c)* 1996 and *(d)* 2000; and if she will conduct a survey of the socio-economic background of lawyers. [85157]

Bridget Prentice: In 2005, the average earnings of a solicitor were £35,000 per year. This figure is drawn from across the whole solicitors profession and so does not differentiate for size of firm, number of partners, grade of solicitor etc.

The full information, showing the breakdowns, is available in the Law Society's Private Practice solicitors' salaries 2005 fact sheet.

Information on salaries prior to 2001 is not available.

While I have no plans to carry out a survey of the socio-economic background of lawyers, I am taking forward a programme of work to encourage and increase diversity in the legal profession.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total average fees paid out of public funds per day for appearances in criminal and civil courts for *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* defence barristers who are (i) Queen's Counsel and (ii) junior barristers were in the last period for which figures are available; and what the comparable figures were in (A) 1976, (B) 1986, (C) 1996 and (D) 2000. [85158]

Vera Baird: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the average annual earnings of barristers have *(a)* kept pace with, *(b)* fallen behind and *(c)* risen faster than inflation in each of the last five years. [85159]

Bridget Prentice: Information about the earnings of barristers is not held centrally.

Long Trials

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce the number of excessively lengthy trials. [84558]

Vera Baird: The Government are committed to ensuring that criminal cases are dealt with in a speedy fashion commensurate with the interests of justice. In the DCA command paper 'A Fairer Deal for Legal Aid' we clearly stated our aim to improve the financial control and overall management of the highest cost cases, achieving more timely and effective disposal.

We have put in place a number of measures to work towards this aim, such as the High Cost Cases Review Board, a cross-CJS board which aims to bring greater scrutiny to the way that high cost cases are managed.

The judiciary have also issued a number of protocols on the management of heavy fraud and other complex cases, terrorism cases and of the disclosure process.

which are intended to ensure that judges actively case manage to minimise the length of trials, and that prosecution and defence teams comply with deadlines and directions.

The Criminal Case Management Framework promotes robust judicial case management among operational practitioners and provides guidance as to how cases should be managed efficiently and effectively from pre-charge through to conclusion. The Criminal Procedure Rules 2005 add a degree of prescription to the practices outlined in the CCMF by ensuring that criminal cases are dealt with efficiently and expeditiously.

Magistrates

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what progress she has made in increasing diversity among magistrates. [84579]

Ms Harman: In the year 2004-05 there were 28,300 magistrates of which 6.7 per cent. were members of the Black and Minority Ethnic community; 18.96 per cent. of magistrates were under 50 years of age.

In 2005-06 the magistracy increased to 28,865. Of these, Black and Minority Ethnic members rose to 7.2 per cent.; and magistrates under 50 rose to 20.16 per cent.

The gender split remains evenly balanced.

Magistrates Courts (Foreign Nationals)

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether magistrates are permitted to ask the Crown Prosecution Service whether they have issued an IM4 Deportation Notice when a non-EU foreign national pleads guilty to an imprisonable offence. [84422]

Ms Harman: Yes, where the court considers this information appropriate to the decision it intends to make for instance if a non-EU foreign national is found guilty of an imprisonable offence.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether magistrates are permitted to ascertain the immigration status of a defendant who is a non-EU foreign national. [84423]

Ms Harman: Yes, when it becomes relevant for instance when considering bail or sentencing for an imprisonable offence. In practice this is something that would be brought to the attention of the court by the prosecution.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83911]

Ms Harman: In an official capacity over the last 12 months I have visited the North West five times, the East Midlands twice, the East of England once, the West Midlands twice, the South East once and have made 11 visits in London.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many public appointments are within her patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83188]

Ms Harman: Details of the public appointments to public bodies sponsored by the Department for Constitutional Affairs can be found in "Public Bodies", copies of which are in the Library. "Public Bodies" has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of "Public Bodies" contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. Further information, including comparable information for 1976, in respect of Department for Constitutional Affairs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Small Claims Courts

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what average payment has been made to claimants in successful cases heard by small claims courts where the claimant *(a)* had legal representation and *(b)* had no legal representation in each year since 1997. [84079]

Ms Harman: Information on the average payment made to claimants on successful cases heard by small claims courts is not collected since payment will often be made between the parties without the court having been informed. The following table gives information on the average level of award in cases where the claimant *(a)* had legal representation and *(b)* had no legal representation in each year since 1997, drawn from a sample collected from 29 county courts during the months of February, July and November each year and aggregated to provide national figures.

Small claims procedures

	Number of claims made where claimant was represented by a solicitor	*Average size of award for claims using a solicitor (£)*	*Number of claims made by the claimant in person*	*Average size of award for claims made by claimant in person (£)*
1997	43,499	829.47	54,314	561.25
1998	45,517	1052.46	53,175	760.92
1999	46,149	884.35	42,255	706.29
2000	27,161	1389.41	28,675	1252.92
2001	29,877	1363.21	28,456	1344.92
2002	23,799	1157.99	31,920	1878.99
2003	22,114	1651.11	30,029	1387.44
2004	20,059	1411.48	26,041	1436.94
2005	20,554	1081.61	26,967	1029.15

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases

have been heard by small claims courts where *(a)* claimants had legal representation and *(b)* claimants had no legal representation in each year since 1997. [84080]

Ms Harman: Information on the number of cases that have been heard by small claims courts where *(a)* claimants had legal representation and *(b)* claimants had no legal representation in each year since 1997 is contained in the following table. The data are derived from case samples collected from 29 county courts during the months of February, July and November each year, which has then been aggregated to provide national figures.

	Number of claims	*Represented by a Solicitor*	*Claimant in person*
1997	97,813	43,499	54,314
1998	98,692	45,517	53,175
1999	88,404	46,149	42,255
2000	55,836	27,161	28,675
2001	58,333	29,877	28,456
2002	55,719	23,799	31,920
2003	52,143	22,114	30,029
2004	46,100	20,059	26,041
2005	47,521	20,554	26,967

Small Claims Limit

David Tredinnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what progress the Government have made with their plan for consultation on alternative options for dealing with the small claims limit. [84879]

Ms Harman: The Government are currently working with stakeholders to make the claims process more timely, proportionate and cost-effective. We intend to publish a consultation paper later this year.

Social Exclusion

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what role her Department is playing in reducing social exclusion. [84580]

Vera Baird: The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) has an important role in the social exclusion agenda. We are promoting the benefits of good early advice services for those most in need. Evidence shows that this can prevent relatively simple civil legal issues spiralling into more complex problems. We are also encouraging closer working across Whitehall. Our role is crosscutting in highlighting the worth of advice services to Government colleagues. DCA is also the facilitating Department for other Government Departments that require a final remedy to be decided upon by a court or tribunal.

Specialisation and innovation in the courts system is also relevant. We are looking at both preventing crime through community justice initiatives, and re-integrating offenders into society. The Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool is spearheading such an approach.

Another main area of influence is the role of family courts. The recent Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England and Wales (produced jointly with DfES) aims to achieve better lives for children and their families by improving the care proceedings system and eliminating unnecessary delay in care cases, while ensuring that the process remains a fair one. The DCA is also a key player on the Domestic Violence Inter-Ministerial Group. There are currently 25 Specialist Domestic Violence (DV) courts. A bidding process is currently under way to establish a second tranche of these courts by 1 April 2007.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the role of early legal advice in preventing social exclusion. [84581]

Vera Baird: Good, early advice services can prevent relatively simple civil legal issues developing into more complex and numerous problems. This is evidenced by the recent Legal Services Research Centre's "Causes of Action" publication, which also highlights the tendency for inter-related problems to develop around a key theme (broadly around 'family', 'homelessness' and 'economic' clusters). The Legal Services Commission's new Community Legal Service Strategy is informed by this research, and proposes that newly created Community Legal Advice Centres are located in areas of high deprivation in order to target the most vulnerable. My Department's recent Getting earlier, better advice to vulnerable people document underlines the need for ensuring advice is people focussed, with problems not being considered in isolation. It also highlights the importance of getting advice right first time, and ensuring more effective referral networks are in place so that people get the service they need regardless of their point of access to the system.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what role she expects the Legal Services Commission to play in preventing social exclusion. [84583]

Vera Baird: As part of its role in delivering legal aid, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) considers the need for its services to help prevent social exclusion. The LSC can play its part by ensuring that services are better co-ordinated, focussed and effective, and that acts of advice/assistance increase. The new Community Legal Service (CLS) Strategy proposes that Community Legal Advice Centres (CLACs) are located in areas of high deprivation in order to target the most vulnerable. In less densely populated areas Community Legal Advice Networks (CLANs) will ensure that clients are able to access a range of high quality advice services regardless of their geographic location. Community Legal Service Direct also allows easy access for clients. The new CLS Strategy, in proposing that CLACs and CLANs will cover all five areas of social welfare law (Community Care, Housing, Debt, Employment and Welfare Benefits), will further promote social inclusion.

Special Advocates

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions she has had on extending the pilots of victims' special advocates. [84528]

Ms Harman: I met with Mary Williams, the chief executive of Brake, on 3 May 2006 and discussed whether victims' advocates should be extended to include deaths caused by driving offences. I also have regular discussions about the progress of the pilots with key stakeholders, in the pilot areas. No decisions will be taken about the future of the victims' advocates scheme until we have assessed the success of the pilots.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British officials are serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan; and what their objective is. [85472]

Dr. Howells: One UK Government secondee from the Ministry of Defence serves with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), acting as a military assistant to the Head of UNAMA.

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the value of domestic properties on Ascension Island. [77525]

Mr. Hoon: The value placed on domestic properties on Ascension Island for the purposes of property taxation, extracted from the Valuation Roll 2005-06, totals £22,335,333.

Pakistan

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent assessment she has made of the impact on Christians of the use of blasphemy laws in Pakistan; and what recent representations she has made on religious freedom in Pakistan; [85103]

(2) what recent representations she has made to the Pakistani Government on the use of blasphemy laws. [85105]

Dr. Howells: I raised the situation of Christians in Pakistan during my meeting with Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, on 7 March, asking him to take action to protect religious minorities in Pakistan.

Working with our EU partners, we raise our human rights concerns with the Government of Pakistan through regular démarches, as well as bilateral lobbying. The most recent demarche was presented to the Government of Pakistan in June 2006. In the démarche we reiterated our concerns over the abuses of the blasphemy laws and renewed our requests for the Government of Pakistan to repeal or modify them, to remove the possibility of the law being misused against minority communities.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports of *(a)* violence and *(b)* infringements of freedom of religion against Christians in Pakistan. [85104]

Dr. Howells: There continues to be incidents of violence against Christians in Pakistan, although the Government in Pakistan is quick to condemn them. I raised the situation of Christians during my meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, on 7 March, asking him to take action to protect religious minorities in Pakistan.

We condemn instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith whenever it happens and whatever religion of the individual or group concerned. We make regular representations to the Government of Pakistan on this issue, both through bilateral lobbying and working with our EU partners. This was last raised through an EU démarche in June 2006.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made since January on behalf of Younis Masih, on trial for blasphemy in Lahore, Pakistan. [85139]

Dr. Howells: We have not made any representations on this case since January. We continue to lobby, both bilaterally and as part of the EU, on minority issues in Pakistan, to remove the possibility of the law being misused against minority communities. In June 2006, an EU démarche on human rights was delivered to the Government of Pakistan, which reiterated our concerns over the abuses of the blasphemy laws and renewed our requests to repeal or modify them.

Palestine

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 439W, on Palestine, which parts of the Quartet aid mechanism to the Palestinians are expected to begin to deliver support in July; and if she will make a statement. [84180]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

Emergency support through the temporary international mechanism has already begun to reach the occupied Palestinian territories. On 11 July, the European Community began providing fuel for emergency generators for hospitals in Gaza. This will enable essential health services to continue after electricity supplies were affected by recent damage to the Gaza power station. We expect that further assistance to health services throughout the West Bank and Gaza will begin during July.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likelihood of recent events in Gaza *(a)*

delaying and *(b)* otherwise affecting the launch of the Quartet aid mechanism to the Palestinians; and if she will make a statement. [84210]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government are deeply concerned at the increased violence between Israel and the Palestinians. We continue to urge both parties to act with restraint and to end the current cycle of violence. The case for the temporary international mechanism is strengthened by the worsening humanitarian situation. The mechanism has already provided emergency fuel supplies to generators at Gaza hospitals, keeping vital services going. Other assistance to continue health services is expected to begin shortly.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have *(a)* made and *(b)* undertaken to make contributions to the temporary international mechanism to provide assistance to the Palestinian people; and if she will make a statement. [84211]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

The temporary international mechanism is open to any donor that wishes to contribute. The European Community has committed €105 million. DFID intends to provide up to £12 million through the mechanism. We are aware that several European countries are considering contributions, but any announcement will be for them to make.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Art Market

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what action her Department has taken to strengthen the position of London as a global art market. [85364]

Mr. Lammy: My Department sees maintaining the pre-eminent position of London within the global art market as vitally important. Through Arts Council England, we have invested around £480,000 of lottery capital funding into London studio spaces for artists. The Arts Council also supports a number of art fairs, including the Frieze Art Fair which last year attracted 31,497 people, encouraging new buyers for contemporary art and leading to £32 million of sales.

My Department sponsors a number of museums and galleries, a number of which have important contemporary collections. The Arts Council has also stimulated public interest in contemporary art through its Own Art Scheme, which offers interest free loans to open up the market to a wider range of people. Own Art, although primarily focused on the regions, is to be expanded to involve a number of art colleges in London.

Casinos

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have held meetings in the last 12 months with casino operators interested in securing licences under the Gambling Act 2005; where each meeting took place; and what was discussed. [83371]

Mr. Caborn: Under the Gambling Act 2005, local authorities acting in their capacity as licensing authorities will be responsible for issuing the one regional, eight large and eight small new casino licences permitted by the Act. Licensing authorities will be required to run the competitions for these licences in a fair and open way. These competitions are not expected to begin until mid-2007, and the identities of the bidding companies will not be known until then.

DCMS Ministers and officials have met frequently with casino and other companies that may be interested in bidding, and their representative bodies. These meetings have covered all aspects of the implementation of the Gambling Act and wider gambling policy, and are part of our regular and ongoing consultation with the gambling industry, local authorities and other stakeholders. Those meetings that have been identified that have taken place since 1 January 2006 are listed in the following table, and all these meetings took place in the UK.

Date	*DCMS Minister and/or official(s) present*	*Who attended the meeting*
18 January 2006	Richard Caborn	Rank Group
6 February 2006	Official(s)	British Casino Association
7 February 2006	Official(s)	Representatives of the gambling industry, including British Casino Association and Casino Operators' Association
10 February 2006	Official(s)	Rank Group
21 March 2006	Official(s)	British Casino Association
11 April 2006	Official(s)	Representatives of the gambling industry including the British Casino Association
20 April 2006	Official(s)	Overseas casino operators including Ameristar, Kerzner International, MGM Mirage
10 May 2006	Official(s)	British Casino Association
15 May 2006	Official(s)	Representatives of the gambling industry, including British Casino Association and Casino Operators' Association
18 May 2006	Official(s)	Rank Group
23 May 2006	Official(s)	London Clubs International
24 May 2006	Richard Caborn and official(s)	British Casino Association

Details of earlier meetings that may be relevant were included in my reply of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2654-6W to the hon. Member for North-East Cambridgeshire (Mr. Moss).

One further meeting has been identified, which was inadvertently omitted from my earlier reply: DCMS officials and I met Detlef Kornett, Managing Director of the Anschutz Group in London on 7 July 2003. The minutes of this meeting were published on the DCMS website as part of a response dated 26 July 2005 to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* rights of appeal and *(b)* avenues to reopen decisions are available to those local authorities who have had their applications for a regional casino rejected by the Casino Advisory Panel. [84130]

Mr. Caborn: The process for considering local authority proposals for regional casinos is a matter within the discretion of the Casino Advisory Panel having regard to published criteria and to Government policy. Local authorities have no rights of appeal to the panel. The panel, however, has given interested parties the opportunity to submit further relevant information. The deadline for any such information was 28 June 2006.

Coastal Resorts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which coastal resorts in England and Wales received Heritage Lottery grants in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [85388]

Mr. Lammy: The Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded the following grants to English coastal resorts (as defined by the British Resorts Association) and Welsh coastal resorts since 1994-95 to 2005-06:

Region/coastal resort	*Number of projects*	*Total value (£)*
England		
East Midlands		
Skegness	3	1,232,360
East Midlands total	3	1,232,360
Eastern		
Aldeburgh	3	133,842
Clacton-on-Sea	3	501,495
Cromer	4	787,300
Felixstowe	1	25,000
Frinton-on-Sea	1	6,500
Great Yarmouth	13	6,419,375
Hunstanton	1	38,000
Lowestoft	9	4,879,370
Sheringham	6	1,327,340
Southend-on-Sea	4	1,659,300
Southwold	2	308,600
St. Ives	1	67,600
Eastern total	48	16,153,722
North East	12	7,912,350
North Shields	9	1,652,600
Redcar	7	942,124
Saltburn-by-the-Sea	5	1,676,500
South Shields	10	6,074,725
Sunderland	18	15,751,100
Whitley Bay	3	157,680
North East total	64	34,167,079
North West		
Blackpool	10	6,063,500
Fleetwood	1	28,300
Grange-over-Sands	8	448,519
Lytham St. Annes	5	168,600
Morecambe	3	177,800
Southport	8	5,552,000
Thornton-Cleveleys	1	49,700
Whitehaven	7	1,386,400
North West total	43	13,874,819
South East		
Bexhill-on-Sea	4	3,341,900
Bognor Regis	3	1,802,700
Brighton	27	1,365,862
Broadstairs	1	433,000
Christchurch	2	413,400
Eastbourne	8	2,492,750
Folkestone	5	2,126,618
Hastings	8	4,819,100
Herne Bay	3	1,230,400
Hythe	2	2,581,750
Margate	5	1,954,725
Ramsgate	8	4,034,750
Ryde	6	2,383,500
Sandown	3	2,573,729
Southsea	4	479,465
Ventnor	1	30,000
Whitstable	4	490,625
Worthing	10	2,210,245
South East total	104	32,032,795
South West		
Bournemouth	7	3,431,025
Bristol	78	73,601,388
Brixham	4	119,300
Bude	5	85,700
Burnham-on-Sea	1	431,400
Christchurch	2	2,670,000
Clevedon	2	1,221,013
Dartmouth	2	72,000
Dawlish	1	20,400
Exmouth	1	50,000
Falmouth	22	21,017,031
Ilfracombe	3	1,203,000
Lyme Regis	6	492,800
Minehead	6	787,000
Newquay	3	89,000
Paignton	2	71,700
Penzance	23	4,384,812
Poole	9	1,480,700
Sidmouth	3	684,100
St. Ives	2	648,700
Swanage	3	109,600

Region/coastal resort	Number of projects	Total value (£)
Teignmouth	1	50,000
Torquay	9	7,530,800
Weston-super-Mare	11	2,042,140
Weymouth	5	2,747,288
South West total	211	125,040,897
Yorkshire and the Humber		
Bridlington	4	184,900
Cleethorpes	2	324,000
Filey	3	114,000
Hornsea	3	186,900
Scarborough	16	3,472,500
Whitby	15	7,397,100
Withernsea	1	3,800
Yorkshire and the Humber total	44	11,680,200
England total	517	234,184,872
Wales		
Aberystwyth	18	3,892,036
Colwyn Bay	10	914,981
Llandudno	8	1,770,910
Porthcawl	2	102,865
Prestatyn	3	9,357
Rhyl	13	2,733,523
Swansea	68	14,448,580
Tenby	13	1,104,401
Wales total	135	24,976,653

Engagements

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1761-62W, on engagements, if she will list the engagements entered in the ministerial diary of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Media and Tourism since his appointment to that post. [85964]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 July 2006.

Gambling

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether a sports levy on the gambling industry is being considered to help finance the integrity in sport sought by her Department's 10 point plan on Betting. [85577]

Mr. Caborn: The Government have no plans to introduce a statutory levy to finance the integrity of sports.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the timetable is for local authorities to implement provisions of the Gambling Act 2005. [85735]

Mr. Caborn: The Gambling Act 2005 will be fully implemented by September 2007. Under current plans local authorities will begin to consider the first applications for premises licences from 31 January 2007. My officials are discussing with the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services—LACORS—the timetable and resources needed to achieve this date.

Illegal Sports Betting

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps her Department is taking with *(a)* EU and *(b)* other countries to combat illegal betting in sport; [84986]

(2) what discussions her Department has held with *(a)* EU and *(b)* other countries sports ministers on tackling illegal betting from overseas on UK sporting events. [84987]

Mr. Caborn: I outlined the Government's internal arrangements to protect the integrity of sporting events on which betting takes place with Jean-Francois Lamour, French Minister for Youth, the Sports and Community Life at a recent meeting in Paris. I have subsequently written to Monsieur Lamour explaining these arrangements in more detail.

The Gambling Commission works closely with gambling regulators in other jurisdictions on a range of issues, including mechanisms for exchanging information on gambling operators and procedures to address illegal practices in gambling.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are in place to assist *(a)* the Gambling Commission and *(b)* sports governing bodies to monitor betting from overseas on sporting events that are run in the UK. [84988]

Mr. Caborn: The Gambling Commission may, once the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 are implemented in September 2007, require any betting operator it licenses to provide information on bets that are placed with that operator. The Commission may share that information with the sports governing bodies listed under Schedule 6 of the Gambling Act. While the Gambling Commission has no jurisdiction over betting operators licensed outside Great Britain, it is continuing to build upon its co-operative relationships with overseas gambling regulators.

The Government have worked with sports governing bodies to develop a 10 point plan which facilitates information sharing between sports bodies and betting operators.

So far eleven sports bodies have signed up to the voluntary plan and an increasing number have Memoranda of Understanding with betting operators allowing for the sharing of information about suspicious betting patterns or individuals betting with those operators here or abroad.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1097W, on judicial review, where information is held indicating on what occasions individuals and organisations have applied

for a judicial review of decisions of her Department; and how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public may have access to that information. [85389]

Mr. Lammy: I informed the hon. Member in my reply to him of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1097W, that the information requested is not held centrally. The request includes all judicial review claims brought against the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, not just those in which judgment was given by the court but also all those withdrawn or settled by the parties and those where the court did not grant permission to proceed. The information will be held on files of Her Majesty's Court Service, of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and of the Treasury Solicitors Department. It is open to hon. Members and members of the public to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act Some information is also available on Her Majesty's Courts Service website www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk and other legal research databases, although these may be selective and are likely to be confined to cases that proceeded to judgment.

Liquor Licences

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the Department's policy is on whether a liquor licence renewed using grandfather rights before the date on which local authorities became responsible for such licensing should run for 12 months from *(a)* the date of application, *(b)* the date when renewal took place, *(c)* the date on which the licence was issued, *(d)* November 2003 and *(e)* another date. [85837]

Mr. Woodward: Licensing authorities became responsible for licences granted under the Licensing Act 2003 on 7 February 2005. All licences granted under the previous alcohol licensing regime became invalid when the Licensing Act 2003 came fully into operation on 24 November 2005, regardless of whether they had been due to expire after that date. Under the new licensing regime there is no renewal date for premises licences and club premises certificates. Licensees currently pay an annual fee on the anniversary of the date when the licence application was granted.

London Olympics

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Candidate File, if she will provide an update on progress on the procurement of no-emission vehicles for the Olympic fleet; and if she will make a statement. [84901]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic delivery bodies are currently preparing the Olympic Transport Plan, a requirement of the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006. They will be consulting on the draft plan later this year.

Low or zero emission vehicles will be used throughout the fleet of cars, buses and service vehicles for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The delivery bodies are currently in discussion with a number of potential marketing partners within the automotive sector and expect to appoint a single automotive partner in due course. The successful partner will be contractually bound to provide a fleet of some 3,500 low emission cars, MPVs and vans. During initial discussions all the potential partners have shown a clear understanding of and commitment to the bid promise of a low carbon Games. They will also enter into discussions with transport operators to provide a fleet of 1,500 low emission buses and coaches, and will also appoint a partner to provide low carbon fuels for all vehicles.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Candidate File, when the exchange programmes and educational scholarships for developing international companies will begin; and if she will make a statement. [84902]

Mr. Caborn: The promotion of sustainability will be a fundamental strand of the London 2012 Education Programme. LOCOG is in the process of working with partners to develop its plans for this programme with the aim of engaging and enhancing the learning of young people across the UK and internationally.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what percentage of the waste generated during the course of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will be diverted from landfill and sent for reprocessing; and if she will make a statement; [84903]

(2) what plans the Government have to implement delivery of a zero waste games; by what criteria the level of waste will be assessed; and if she will make a statement. [85026]

Mr. Caborn: We have committed to zero waste to landfill for the duration of the Olympic and Paralympic games in 2012. The Olympic Board has identified waste as one of five key sustainability themes the Olympic programme will be focusing on. The Government, GLA, ODA and LOCOG are currently developing their delivery plans in this area, and are looking at appropriate targets for waste as part of the overall Olympic programme. As part of this, the ODA is currently investigating the opportunities to divert waste from landfill during the demolition and construction of the Olympic Park as part of its sustainable development strategy.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department plans to publish the appraisals of the contractors in relation to the 2012 construction commitments. [84962]

Mr. Caborn: The construction commitments signed very recently by DCMS, DTI, ODA, the Mayor for London and the Strategic Forum for Construction are a major step forward in enabling us to showcase collaborative behaviours and best practice. The ODA and the Strategic Forum are now developing various measures in each of the areas of the commitments, and these will be made publicly available.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the impact of winning the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games on sports participation among children. [85025]

Tessa Jowell: Winning the bid to host the Olympic games in 2012 creates the best possible opportunity to transform sport for young people.

Through our national school sport strategy we are well on the way to ensuring that 75 per cent. of children do two hours of high quality physical education and sport per week by 2006 and 85 per cent. by 2008. In addition, by 2010 all children will be offered a further two to three hours of sport every week. We are also putting in place competition managers so that all pupils can compete individually or in teams. 20 managers have been in post since September 2005 and the next wave will be in place by September 2006. By 2010 all school sport partnerships will be supported by a competition manager.

We have set up the UK school games which will showcase our talented young athletes in an annual inter nation and regions competition to be held from 2006-2011. We have already appointed 600 young ambassadors across the school sport partnerships and we aim to have 822 in place by September 2006. Their objective is to help to spread the Olympic message and ideals within their school sport partnership, and act as advocates and role models to other young people.

The National Sports Foundation is now in place and is responsible for levering and promoting new and additional money for grass roots sports. One of its schemes 2012 Kids builds on the success of the Olympics to encourage children and young people to take up sport.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what basis the venues for the Olympics road show were selected. [85042]

Mr. Caborn: The venues for the 2012 road show were selected to ensure that there is a wide and diverse coverage of events and locations from within each region in England and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. As well as all four capital cities and other major towns, the road show is visiting 2012 competition venues, sporting events, venues with special significance for the Olympic or Paralympic movement, cultural venues and tourist attractions. All road show venues and locations were agreed in conjunction with the Nations and Regions Group.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to sponsor a future Olympics road show. [85043]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic stakeholders hope to stage events of this sort in the years from 2007 onwards although plans for future years are yet to be decided.

Museums and Galleries

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been towards increasing the number of people accessing museum and gallery collections by 2 per cent. by 2008. [85458]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's public service agreement target 3 is, by 2008, to increase the number of people from priority groups visiting museums and galleries during the past 12 months by two percentage points on the final baseline estimate, which will be known in late 2006. The provisional baseline estimates published on 24 March 2006 are set out as follows. These data are from the Taking Part survey.

Attendance at museums and galleries by priority group during the past 12 months

At least one visit		*Percentage Range*[1]
Black and minority ethnic	36.3	33.4–39.1
Limiting disability	31.8	29.8–33.9
Lower socio-economic	29.3	27.7–30.8
All adults	42.7	41.6–43.8

[1] Using 95 per cent. confidence interval.

Note:

1. Figures have been rounded to 1 decimal place.

Taking Part is new survey commissioned by the Department and the following NDPBs: Arts Council England; English Heritage; Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Sport England. The survey was launched in July 2005 and is a continuous national survey of adults and children living in private households in England. The survey asks about engagement and non-engagement in and across activities within the Department's remit. The survey is the principal measurement tool for reporting performance on the Department's PSA target 3.

NESTA

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts scheme in each year since 1997; how many grants were made under the scheme in each year; how many applications were rejected; and if she will make a statement. [85555]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows.

	Total expenditure NESTA (£000)	*Total number of awards*	*Total number of applicants rejected*
1998-99	909	—	—
1999-2000	5,914	31	—
2000-01	9,659	64	244
2001-02	13,581	95	973
2002-03	17,823	126	912
2003-04	20,843	206	1,190
2004-05	24,773	255	1,024
2005-06	25,332	273	1,460
Total	118,834	1,050	5,803

NESTA was created by Act of Parliament in 1998, to support UK creativity and innovation. NESTA is working towards transforming the UK's capacity for innovation. It invests in all stages of the innovation process, backing new ideas and funding ventures that

stimulate entrepreneurship. It aims to be the single most important catalyst for innovation in the UK.

Its total expenditure in 1998-99 was £909,000, rising to £25,332,000 in 2005-06. The number of awards made in 1999-2000 totalled 31, rising to 273 in 2005-06. Finally the number of applicants rejected in 2000-01 totalled 244, rising to 1,460 in 2005-06.

School Swimming Pools

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Amateur Swimming Association on classification of school swimming pools not included in the category of supplementary net agenda; and if she will make a statement. [84151]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

We are not aware of any discussion between the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Amateur Swimming Association regarding the classification of school swimming pools.

Indoor swimming pools are normally classified as 'supplementary net area', as set out in DfES Building Bulletin 98: 'Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects'. This is because they are usually an enhancement to school facilities, not part of the core provision that we expect all schools to have. Outdoor pools are not included in either the net or gross floor area of school buildings.

Sport England

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many interviews of the 1,000 per local authority have been conducted so far for Sport England's active people survey; and if she will make a statement. [84972]

Mr. Caborn: 266,883 interviews have been conducted so far for Sport England's active people survey which is on track to meet the target of at least 1,000 interviews per local authority in England by October 2006.

Stonehenge

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the likely impact of the shortlisted options for the A303 at Stonehenge in the first year after their construction on *(a)* visitor numbers and *(b)* income generated from visitors to Stonehenge. [85739]

Mr. Lammy: The specific impact of each A303 option on commercial performance at Stonehenge has not been modelled. However, should English Heritage's plans for a new visitor centre and access arrangements at Stonehenge go ahead, along with the published scheme for improvements to the A303, it is estimated that visitor numbers are likely to stay the same as at present. Any increase in visitor spending is likely to be balanced by the cost of operating the new facilities.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much income has been generated from visitors to Stonehenge in each year since 1997. [85740]

Mr. Lammy: The net income (not profit) generated from visitors to Stonehenge in each year since 1997 is as follows:

	£
1996-97	3,156,883
1997-98	3,310,350
1998-99	3,755,389
1999-2000	4,036,315
2000-01	[1]3,827,769
2001-02	[1]3,554,282
2002-03	3,854,550
2003-04	4,260,664
2004-05	4,669,575
2005-06	4,794,121

[1] Decline in income in years 2000-01 and 2001-02 reflects the decline in visitors during the foot and mouth crisis and the aftermath of 9/11.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of visitors to heritage sites in the vicinity of Stonehenge in each year since 1997. [85741]

Mr. Lammy: The only English Heritage site in the vicinity of Stonehenge is Old Sarum. Other key sites in the area are Salisbury Cathedral and Wilton House. The visitor figures from 1997 for Old Sarum and Salisbury Cathedral are given in the table. Visitor figures for Wilton House will follow shortly:

		Number
	Old Sarum	*Salisbury Cathedral*[1]
1996-97	80,390	340,000
1997-98	76,372	338,000
1998-99	80,691	332,000
1999-2000	81,378	331,000
2000-01	75,921	313,000
2001-02	70,868	262,000
2002-03	65,818	263,000
2003-04	58,299	244,000
2004-05	53,977	271,000
2005-06	48,637	268,000

[1] Salisbury Cathedral does not charge entry fees, therefore figures are approximate and do not include people attending services, concerts or visiting the Close generally.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the likely effect on the number of visitors to heritage sites in the vicinity of Stonehenge of each of the shortlisted options for the A303 at Stonehenge in the first year after construction. [85742]

Mr. Lammy: Visitor number projections resulting from the construction of any of the shortlisted options for the A303 are not available.

However, South West Tourism has identified Stonehenge and Salisbury as a key destination for regional tourism. Should the published road scheme be

approved, it will enable English Heritage to make major improvements to the visitor experience at Stonehenge, encourage a longer stay in the region and potentially benefit attractions such as Salisbury Cathedral and other local heritage sites and museums.

Swimming (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to improve the provision of swimming facilities in Peterborough; and if she will make a statement. [85344]

Mr. Caborn: Access to good quality sporting provision, including swimming pools, is essential if we are to encourage people to lead healthier, more active lives. There has been significant public investment in sports facilities in recent years—by 2006 over £1 billion of Exchequer and lottery funding will have been committed to develop over 4,000 new or refurbished facilities. Swimming has been the single greatest beneficiary of sport lottery funding, having received some £249 million since 1997. Peterborough has benefited from 31 awards totalling £699,823.

Provision for sport and leisure is currently a discretionary service for local authorities. Decisions on such provision are therefore a matter for local government. However, Sport England are encouraging and helping local authorities through the development of swimming strategies and toolkits to aid strategic planning. According to the Active Places database (available at www.activeplaces.com) there are 14 swimming pools within a 10 mile radius of Peterborough.

Ticket Touting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which event organisers of music festivals in the summer of 2006 have signed up to her Department's code of practice on ticket touting; and if she will make a statement. [84970]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS have been working with many of the organisers of summer music festivals including those representing the organisers of T in the Park, the Reading and Leeds festivals and the V festival as well as other representatives covering music, sport and the arts as well as secondary sellers and EBay.

All of these parties were involved in the production of the statement of principles (copies of which I have now placed in the Libraries of both Houses, which was first presented at a meeting) hosted by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in April. The statement of principles sets out the broad guidelines which we expected all parties involved in the commercial selling of tickets to follow. Since that meeting DCMS officials have had continued meetings with these representatives to aid their sectors in the production of sector specific codes of practice, which puts the rights of the consumer at the forefront.

Our principle in taking this forward must be to find a solution that protects fans and ensures that our creative, cultural and sporting industries are able to realise legitimate revenue streams.

Wembley Stadium

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the deadline for the completion of Wembley Stadium. [85040]

Mr. Caborn: On 3 July, Multiplex announced publicly that it remained confident that substantial completion of the stadium would be achieved in July 2006 sufficient to enable practical completion of its work at the end of September 2006.

Wembley National Stadium Ltd (WNSL) continues to discuss progress towards practical completion of the project with Multiplex and will announce an opening date in due course.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what progress the Commission has made in considering the proposal by the National Audit Office for the refurbishment of its headquarters building in London. [86119]

Mr. Alan Williams: At its meeting in December 2005 the Commission gave outline approval to the NAO's proposed refurbishment of its headquarters building in Buckingham Palace Road, London, subject, however, to three conditions. First, that the NAO should produce a detailed, fully costed business case for the project. Second, that the NAO should carry out a cost-benefit analysis of an alternative approach to its accommodation requirements, namely moving its headquarters to a North of England location. And third, that the NAO should provide a fuller explanation of its decision to rule out the possibility of acquiring alternative accommodation in London as part of the Government estate.

At its meeting on 4 July 2006, the Commission considered the NAO's response under each of those headings.

The Business Case

The business case produced by the NAO gives the total cost of the project as £77.44 million, spread over five years starting in 2006-07. In the longer term, there will be a small increase in annual resource costs to the NAO, resulting from higher business rates, capital charges and depreciation, partially offset by reduced running costs through greater building efficiency. Since submitting its original proposals the NAO has revised its approach to the decanting of staff which will be necessary while the building work is in progress. It is now hoped to carry this out in a single rather than a two or three stage process, depending on the availability of suitable decant accommodation. On the basis of the business case, the NAO made a persuasive argument in support of refurbishment as the most cost-effective way of avoiding what would otherwise be—because of the building's current deficiencies—an unacceptable risk to the Office's continued ability to function efficiently. The Commission was, however,

conscious of the sensitivity surrounding the timing of the project, since, under the NAO's plans, the bulk of the expenditure would occur in the years covered by the next, and potentially difficult, comprehensive spending review. We therefore pressed the NAO on the implications of deferring the project (which, because of the need to avoid coinciding with the competing demands on the construction industry from Olympics-related activity, would entail a delay until 2013). The NAO satisfied the Commission that, given the deteriorating condition of the current building, waiting a further seven years before undertaking remedial work would pose an unacceptable risk to the NAO's operations and therefore to the service it provides to Parliament.

The Possibility of Relocating to the North of England

In response to the Commission's request, the NAO examined Manchester as a possible location for a provincial headquarters building. Of a number of cities considered, Manchester was judged to come nearest to meeting the Office's principal requirements: good transport connections; and a sufficiently large local pool of qualified accountants to enable the NAO to recruit and retain key professional staff. On the latter count, the available pool in Manchester, though large in comparison with other provincial cities, is much smaller than London's and is insufficient to support the NAO's requirements. The cost-benefit analysis carried out by the NAO indicated that the basic costs associated with relocating would be broadly similar to those for the option of staying on in a refurbished Buckingham Palace Road. On the other hand, the analysis suggested that the uncertainty over the number of staff who would be willing to relocate posed a risk both of additional, but unquantifiable costs of redundancy and resettlement packages, and of disruption of core business activity. The Commission was satisfied that, for these reasons, relocation was not a realistic option. The NAO is, however, proposing to expand its presence in the North, concentrating on its existing team in Newcastle.

Alternative Accommodation in London

As part of its consideration of alternative sites in London for its headquarters building, the NAO has examined the portfolio of vacant, or about to become vacant, properties maintained by the Office of Government Commerce. The NAO's assessment, which the Commission accepted, is that there is at present no building available of a size and configuration to meet the NAO's requirements on a long term basis, and at a cost competitive with the headquarters refurbishment option, taking account of the resultant loss of the current peppercorn rent. Taking all these factors into account, and having carefully considered the NAO's business case, the Commission gave its formal approval to the proposed refurbishment of the Buckingham Palace Road building. The Commission noted that, depending on how quickly the refurbishment work can begin, it may be necessary for the NAO to submit a supplementary estimate for the financial year 2006-07. The Commission will consider any such request if and when it is received. In the meantime, the Commission looks to the Treasury to make room within the public expenditure envelope for the relevant years for the resources needed for the refurbishment. For its part, the Commission will monitor carefully the progress of the project against both time and budget.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Cabinet Office Staff Handbook

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1872W, on the Cabinet Office Staff Handbook, when the CD will be placed in the Library. [85447]

Mr. McFadden: A CD Rom containing the terms and conditions of service of Cabinet Office staff set out in the Cabinet Office HR Code, was placed in the Library for the reference of Members on Friday 14 July.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 244W, on sickness absence, how many staff in her Department have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the years for which she has provided figures. [84031]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office had 365 staff with two or more periods of sick absence of less than five days in two or more of the years between 2003 and 2005. "Analysis of sickness absence in the Civil Service", copies of which are available in the Library for the reference of Members, publishes sickness absence lost per employee for Government Departments.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which matches *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83617]

Hilary Armstrong: Cabinet Office Ministers have not attended any World Cup 2006 matches.

Official Residence

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff work in the Old Admiralty Building. [85668]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

On 1 July 2006, 1,093 Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff were employed in the Old Admiralty Building.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many parliamentary questions tabled to

her Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85199]

Hilary Armstrong: At the end of business on Monday 10 July 2005, there were 17 parliamentary questions tabled to the Department awaiting a response, of which one was two weeks overdue. The question was responded to on Tuesday 11 July.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many statutory instruments were made by *(a)* Government departments and *(b)* other UK authorities in each year from 1989 to 2005. [84968]

Edward Miliband: The number of statutory instruments made in each year from 1989 to 2005 is shown in the table.

	Number made by Government Departments Authorities and UK	*Total*
1989	—	2,503
1990	—	2,664
1991	—	2,951
1992	—	3,359
1993	—	3,279
1994	—	3,334
1995	—	3,345
1996	—	3,291
1997	—	3,114
1998	—	3,319
1999	—	3,488
2000	—	3,424
2001	—	[1]4,147
2002	—	3,271
2003	of which 2,999 Government departments and 355 other UK authorities	3,354
2004	of which 3,103 Government departments and 349 other UK authorities	3,452
2005	of which 3,297 Government departments and 302 other UK authorities	3,599

[1] The number of SIs/SSIs registered during 2001 included 597 UK Government Sis, 36 National Assembly for Wales Sis and 65 Scottish Sis which related directly to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

It is not possible to provide information split between Government Departments and other UK authorities prior to 2003. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Detailed statutory instrument statistics are also available on the website of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), at: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si-statistics.htm

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by her Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85181]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office has had one statutory instrument reported as defective since October 2005—The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/2042). A correction slip was issued in February 2006 to correct the error.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Brownfield Sites

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many acres of brownfield sites she estimates there are in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* Mid Sussex. [84843]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* The information shown as follows is the total of sites reported by local authorities for the 2004 National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land. Local authorities do not claim to cover all sites in their returns, particularly small sites, so the totals understate the full amounts.

	Hectare	
	West Sussex	*Mid Sussex*
Vacant and derelict land and buildings	153	19
Currently in use with potential for redevelopment	344	42
Total	497	61

Community Infrastructure Scheme

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many projects have been selected for detailed appraisal under the Community Infrastructure Scheme; and how many of these *(a)* have been rejected, *(b)* have been approved and *(c)* are under review. [85075]

Yvette Cooper: Two London Gateway transit schemes were allocated £34 million of Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) funding in November 2004 to provide support to the 2012 Olympics bid. In addition, the Government received 104 expressions of interest in January 2005 for the remaining £166 million of CIF funding. These were reviewed and in March 2005 the Government announced that 48 schemes would be invited to prepare full bids. Following detailed assessment of the bids received, 25 schemes have been allocated CIF funding, with a further six schemes receiving Department for Communities and Local Government funding. The Government are working with local partners to look into other funding options for a small number of the remaining schemes.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the Community Infrastructure Fund announced in July 2004 has been *(a)* spent and *(b)* otherwise committed to be spent on identified projects; and what these projects are. [85076]

Yvette Cooper: In total £193 million of the £200 million Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) has been allocated following a series of announcements—the final of which took place on 11 April 2006. The

remaining £7 million is to be used as a contingency reserve to address any emerging issues that may arise over this two-year programme.

Following is a list of the approved CIF schemes:

Scheme name	*Growth area*	*Total CIF £ million (to 2dp)*
A602 Improvements South of Stevenage	LSCP	3.12
Bishops Stortford Green Corridors	LSCP	1.98
Cambridge Station Area Access	LSCP	0.60
Dalston Slab	LSCP	10.00
Great Notley Garden Village Access	LSCP	4.80
Haringey Heartlands Spine Road	LSCP	5.00
Peterborough Fletton Parkway	LSCP	7.01
Aylesbury Vale Parkway	MKSM	8.17
Aylesbury PT Hub	MKSM	11.42
Aylesbury Southcourt Bridge	MKSM	2.96
Corby Northern Orbital Road	MKSM	6.10
Cross Valley Link Northampton	MKSM	9.69
East Luton Corridor Improvements	MKSM	14.50
MI Junction 14	MKSM	8.42
Milton Keynes Station	MKSM	24.00
Sandy Lane Improvements	MKSM	5.72
Sandy Lane Relief Road	MKSM	4.51
Wilby Way Roundabout	MKSM	1.30
Fastrack—Greenhithe Stn/Ingress	TG	5.24
Fastrack Thames Way	TG	8.12
Fryerns/Craylands, Basildon	TG	5.90
Langdon Park DLR	TG	5.70
London Gateway Transits—two schemes	TG	34.00
Pontoon Dock Station Bridge	TG	1.34
Tidal Basin Roundabout	TG	0.96
Woolwich New Road	TG	2.62

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status is of the appraisal of the Barking-Dagenham-Rainham-Grays-Pitsea 12 car platform lengthening project for funding under the Community Infrastructure Fund. [85074]

Yvette Cooper: The announcement of the final tranche of schemes to be funded under the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) was made in April 2006 and was placed on both the Department for Transport (DfT) and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) websites.

The Barking-Dagenham-Rainham-Grays-Pitsea 12 car platform lengthening project bid was not successful. There were numerous bids for GIF funding and DfT and DCLG ministers had to prioritise schemes against a cash limited fund.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons were for rejecting the Rainham interchange project submitted by the London borough of Havering for funding under the Community Infrastructure Fund. [85073]

Yvette Cooper: There were many bids for Community Infrastructure Funding. We, with colleagues in the Department for Transport, had to prioritise schemes against a cash limited fund. The bid for the Rainham scheme was to fund enabling works and so would not, in itself, have delivered a capital infrastructure project to support housing growth.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff work in the council tax capping division in her Department. [85697]

Mr. Woolas: The Expenditure Control Division of the Department deals with council tax capping among other issues. At present the division has 8.6 full-time equivalent members of staff, including temporary staff.

It is not possible to set out the split of staff input between capping and other work.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total administrative cost was of the council tax capping division in her Department in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [85699]

Mr. Woolas: The total expenditure incurred by the Division dealing with council tax capping, including work on issues other than capping, was:

	(£)
2004-05	503,610.22
2005-06	414,949.95

It is not possible to set out the split of resources between capping and other work.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the population pays council tax; and what percentage of those qualify for discounts. [86005]

Mr. Woolas: The number of chargeable dwellings liable for council tax in England as at November 2005 was 21,267,000 of which 8,018,000 dwellings (37.7 per cent.) were entitled to a discount.

The number of chargeable dwellings and those entitled to a discount are taken from the CTB1 forms submitted to this Department by all 354 billing authorities in England. The number of individuals liable for council tax cannot be accurately determined from these or other sources.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much council tax was collected by local authorities in the last year for which figures are available. [86025]

Mr. Woolas: A total of £18.4 billion council tax was collected by local authorities in England in 2005-06, irrespective of the financial year to which the liabilities relate.

Councillors (Parental Rights)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* maternity rights and *(b)* paternity rights councillors have; and if she will make a statement. [85674]

Mr. Woolas: Legislation does not provide maternity or paternity rights for local authority councillors.

Crasher Green (Stroud)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will name the successful bidder for the Crasher Green site, Stroud. [83276]

Yvette Cooper: English Partnerships is currently conducting a feasibility study into the development of the Crasher Green site in Stroud which is due to be completed in July. A decision about the future development of the site will follow in the autumn.

Discharged Psychiatric Patients

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of discharged psychiatric patients who *(a)* became homeless and *(b)* were given (i) temporary accommodation and (ii) council housing in each year since 1990. [83376]

Yvette Cooper: Although psychiatric patients should not be discharged as homeless, some may nevertheless self-discharge and not have accommodation available to them. People may be discharged to temporary accommodation as part of a plan agreed between mental health services and housing departments, but this is not recorded as part of routine monitoring.

Information collected by my Department about households accepted by local authorities as unintentionally homeless and in a priority need group identifies those where the applicant or a household member was vulnerable as a result of mental illness or disability. Results for years since 1997 are presented in Table 4 of the quarterly Statistical Release on homelessness, first quarter of 2006, published on 12 June. A summary of information back to 1990 is presented in the table. However, information on the number of these who had been former psychiatric patients, and whether they were subsequently allocated temporary accommodation or a settled tenancy, is not available centrally.

Households accepted as unintentionally homeless and in priority need[1], England

	Total	*Of which, vulnerable due to mental illness or disability:*
1990-91	132,280	4,300
1991-92	139,630	5,200
1992-93	136,230	5,950
1993-94	125,360	6,740
1994-95	116,850	7,200
1995-96	116,550	7,570
1996-97	110,600	8,010
1997-98	102,430	6,930
1998-99	104,260	7,260
1999-2000	105,580	7,580
2000-01	114,670	9,110
2001-02	116,660	9,970
2002-03	128,540	10,980
2003-04	135,430	12,070
2004-05	120,860	10,650
2005-06	93,980	7,340

[1] All households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.

Source:
DCLG P1E homelessness returns (quarterly).

Green and White Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by her Department since October 2005. [81267]

Angela E. Smith: No Green or White Papers have been published by this Department for the period in question.

Homelessness

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many single vulnerable households were accepted as homeless in the Ribble Valley in each of the last five years. [84755]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly, at local authority level. The parliamentary constituency of the Ribble Valley shares its boundaries with those of Ribble Valley district council.

Statistical returns distinguish the number of households accepted as eligible for assistance, and unintentionally homeless according to the main category of priority need the applicant falls within. The returns do not identify the number of people in the household. Information reported by Ribble Valley in each year since 2001-02 is summarised in the following table:

Households accepted by Ribble Valley district council as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category

	Total households	*Of which: containing dependent children*	*Of which: containing an expectant mother*	*Applicant of family member vulnerable[1]*
2001-02	31	14	2	15
2002-03	51	17	0	34
2003-04	78	31	5	42
2004-05	45	20	4	21
2005-06	38	25	2	11

[1] As well as applicants, or members of their household, considered vulnerable, figures also include households homeless in an emergency, applicants aged 16 or 17 years old, and applicants formerly in care and aged 18 to 20 years old.

Source
DCLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were *(a)* homeless and *(b)* placed in emergency accommodation in (i) each of the past five years and (ii) 2006-07 to date; and how many (A) new local authority lettings, (B) new housing association lettings and (C) sales under right-to-buy took place in each borough in each year. [84944]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation, which is collected in respect of households rather than persons, is summarised in a quarterly Statistical Release, the latest of which was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 12 June.

Copies of the Statistical Release and tables are available in the Library, and from the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2169

(a) Table 1 of the Statistical Release provides the number of decisions on homelessness applications from eligible households in each year since 1997, distinguishing those found to be homeless. This includes those accepted by local authorities as unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.

Information is also collected by the Department on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night. These are recorded on a calendar year basis, and figures for 1998 up to the latest available figures, for 2005, are also presented on DCLG's website, at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/132/NationalRoughSleepingEstimate2005Excel116Kb_id1150132.xls

(b) The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. Table 6 of the Statistical Release presents those in various forms of temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities at the end of each quarter since March 1997.

The supplementary tables of the release show the results at local authority level.

No data are yet available for 2006-07. Figures for the first quarter of 2006-07 will be published in September.

(A) The number of new local authority lettings in each local authority for the years 2000-01 to 2004-05 has been placed in the Library of the House. No data are available for 2005-06 or 2006-07.

(B) The number of new Housing Association lettings in each local authority for the years 2001/02 to 2005-06 has been placed in the Library of the House. No data are available for 2006-07.

(C) Data on the number of sales under right-to-buy are available from the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/383/Table648Excel545Kb_id1156383.xls

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless households in *(a)* West Lancashire and *(b)* Lancashire were (i) living in temporary accommodation and (ii) sleeping rough in each of the past five years; and how many beds were available for homeless households in each area in each year. [83550]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities report their activities under homelessness legislation quarterly, and this includes the number of homeless households in various forms of temporary accommodation as on the last day of the quarter.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation until a settled solution becomes available.

Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough - that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night. These are recorded on a calendar year basis, and figures for mid-year 2001 up to the latest available figures, for 2005, are also presented in the following tables.

(a) The West Lancashire constituency is wholly contained in the West Lancashire local authority, although the authority also contains part of the South Ribble constituency. Temporary accommodation and rough sleeping figures for the entire West Lancashire authority for the last 5 years are in the following table:

(i) Homeless households in temporary accommodation arranged by West Lancashire district council, and (ii) the number of rough sleepers in West Lancashire

	Number of households in temporary accommodation[1] (31 March snapshot)	*Number of rough sleepers, people, mid-year (June) estimate[2]*
2001-02	6	—
2002-03	—	—
2003-04	5	—
2004-05	2	—
2005-06	1	—

[1] Households in accommodation at the end of the year (March) either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance. Excludes those households designated as "homeless at home" that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.

[2] Number of persons sleeping rough are based on local authority counts during the year and presented as a mid-year estimate. If no count takes place during the year an estimate is given by the local authority.

Source:
DCLG P1E Homelessness (quarterly) and HSSA (annual) returns.

(b) The geographical county of Lancashire is made up of 12 district authorities and 2 unitary authorities, Blackburn and Darwen and Blackpool. The totals are in the following table:

(i) Homeless households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities in Lancashire, and (ii) the number of rough sleepers in Lancashire

	Number of households in temporary accommodation[1] (31 March snapshot)	*o.w. Unitary authority*	*o.w. LA districts*	*Number of rough sleepers, people, mid-year (June) estimate[2]*	*o.w. Unitary authority*	*o.w. LA districts*
2001-02	270	52	218	4	4	—
2002-03	343	76	267	7	4	3
2003-04	360	102	258	3	—	3
2004-05	444	132	312	21	4	17
2005-06	348	76	272	7	4	3

[1] Households in accommodation at the end of the year (March) either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance. Excludes those households designated as "homeless at home" that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.
[2] Number of persons sleeping rough are based on local authority counts during the year and presented as a mid-year estimate. If no count takes place during the year an estimate is given by the local authority.
Source:
DCLG P1E Homelessness (quarterly) and HSSA (annual) returns.

Information on the number of beds available for homeless households is not held centrally.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been in temporary accommodation in West Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [83553]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities report their activities under homelessness legislation quarterly, and this includes the number of homeless households in various forms of temporary accommodation as on the last day of the quarter.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home), until a settled solution becomes available.

The West Lancashire constituency is wholly contained in the West Lancashire local authority, although the authority also contains part of the South Ribble constituency. Figures for the entire West Lancashire authority for the last 10 years are tabled as follows:

Homeless households in temporary accommodation arranged by West Lancashire district council

31 March	*Number[1]*
1996-97	6
1997-98	6
1998-99	3
1999-2000	1
2000-01	4
2001-02	6
2002-03	0
2003-04	5
2004-05	2
2005-06	1

[1] Households in accommodation at the end of the year (March) either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance. Excludes those households designated as "homeless at home" that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.
Source:
DCLG P1E Homelessness (quarterly) returns.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many single vulnerable households were accepted as homeless in West Suffolk in each of the last five years. [82718]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly, at local authority level. The parliamentary constituency of West Suffolk consists of Forest Heath DC and part of St Edmundsbury DC.

Statistical returns distinguish the number of households accepted as eligible for assistance, and unintentionally homeless according to the main category of priority need the applicant falls within. The returns do not identify the number of people in the household. Information reported by Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury district councils, which covers the whole of their districts, in each year since 2001-02 is summarised in the following table:

Households accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category

	Total households	*Of which*		
		Containing dependent children	*Containing an expectant mother*	*Applicant or family member vulnerable[1]*
Forest Heath district council				
2001-02	43	31	5	7
2002-03	45	31	8	6
2003-04	57	37	9	11

Households accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category

	Total households	Of which		
		Containing dependent children	Containing an expectant mother	Applicant or family member vulnerable[1]
2004-05	55	44	11	—
2005-06	55	31	13	11
St Edmundsbury district council				
2001-02	120	93	6	21
2002-03	146	96	17	33
2003-04	141	87	20	34
2004-05	188	119	20	49
2005-06	139	89	21	29

[1] As well as applicants, or members of their household, considered vulnerable, figures also include households homeless in an emergency, applicants aged 16 or 17 years old, and applicants formerly in care and aged 18 to 20 years old.

Source

DCLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly).

Housing

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes for *(a)* sale, *(b)* rent and *(c)* shared ownership were (i) agreed, (ii) started and (iii) completed by each planning authority years under section 106 agreements in each of the last five. [84229]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* A table showing the number of dwellings built for *(a)* sale, *(b)* rent and *(c)* shared ownership as well as planning permissions given as a result of section 106 agreements in each local authority in England, in each year from 2000-01 to 2004-05, has been placed in the Library of the House. Information on the number of building starts is not held centrally.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant homes there are in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* the area covered by the South East plan. [84842]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* As at 10 October 2005 there were 9,000 vacant dwellings in West Sussex and 100,400 in the South East. The area covered by the South East plan is the same as that covered by the South East region.

These figures are for all vacant dwellings, including dwellings that have been empty for less than six months, some for less than one month.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's estimate is of the number of residential housing transactions that took place in England and Wales in the most recent year for which figures are available. [85702]

Yvette Cooper: Figures for the number of residential housing transactions by local authority areas based on data from the Land Registry are published on the DCLG website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/162/Table588_id1156162.xls.

There were 1.02 million residential housing transactions in 2005 in England and Wales. In 2004 there were 1.23 million transactions. The number of transactions varies significantly from year to year due to a range of factors in the housing market.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses were built in rural areas in each year since 2000. [85131]

Yvette Cooper: New build completions data are only available at local authority level therefore it is only possible to measure how many dwellings have been built in local authorities classified as rural by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) rural definition and local authority classification. This will include dwellings built in towns that are within a local authority classified as rural.

The following number of dwellings were reported to have been built in local authorities classified as rural in England since 2000:

Number

Rural classification	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Significant Rural	20,428	20,109	20,882	21,559	21,974	21,807
Rural-50	19,996	18,651	18,482	18,898	18,407	20,692
Rural-80	21,306	21,098	22,271	21,419	21,709	22,626
Total	61,730	59,858	61,635	61,876	62,090	65,125

For further information on the DEFRA classification please see: http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/rural_resd/rural_definition.asp

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest timetable is for producing guidance and draft regulations under the Housing Act 2004. [75418]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is in the following table.

Housing Act 2004: Timetable For Guidance And Regulations

Provision/Part	Proposed/Actual publication date of regulations and guidance
Part 1 - Housing Conditions	The HHSRS (England) Regulations 2005 (3208) were laid on 28 November and came into force on 6 April 2006. The HHSRS Operating Guidance and HHSRS Enforcement Guidance were published in February 2006.

Housing Act 2004: Timetable For Guidance And Regulations

Provision/Part	*Proposed/Actual publication date of regulations and guidance*
Parts 2, 3, 4 and 7- HMO and Selective Licensing	The Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations, the Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (Prescribed Descriptions (England) Order, the Licensing and Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Other Houses (Miscellaneous Provisions) (England) Regulations, the Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (England) Order and the Housing (Interim Management Orders) (Prescribed Circumstances) (England) Order were laid on 22 February and came into force on 6 April. The Houses in Multiple Occupation (Specified Educational Establishments) (England) Regulations and the Housing (Approval of Codes of Management Practice) (Student Accommodation) (England) Order were laid on 16 March and came into force on 6 April 2006. The Residential Property Tribunal Procedures (England) Regulations and the Residential Property Tribunal (Fees) (England) Regulations were laid on 23 March and came into force on 13 April. Draft regulations relating to section 257 HMOs will be published for limited consultation soon. Explanatory information including leaflets and a dedicated website has been available since March.
Part 4 - Empty Dwelling Management Orders	The Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (England) Order and The Housing (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental Provisions) (England) Regulations were laid on 22 February and came into force on 6 April 2006. Non-statutory guidance for local authorities on Empty Dwelling Management Orders will be published in July 2006.
Part 5 - Home Information Packs	The Home Information Pack Regulations, Procedural Guidance and Certification Scheme Business and Technical Standards documents were published on 14 June 2006.
Part 6 - Right to Buy modifications	The Residential Property Tribunal (Right to Buy Determinations) Procedure (England) Regulations were laid on 13 June 2005 and came into force on 4 July 2005. The Housing (Right to Buy)(Information to Secure Tenants) (England) Order was laid on 5 July 2005 and came into force on 26 July 2005. This Order provides guidance on the provision of information to secure tenants. The Housing (Right of First Refusal) (England) Regulations were laid on 20 July 2005 and came into force on 10 August 2005. The guidance booklet 'Your Right to Buy your Home' was revised together with the relevant Right to Buy forms. Guidance on landlords' discretion not to require repayment of discount, which was clarified by section 185 of the Act, was also issued in January 2005.
Part 6 - Suspension of certain rights in connection with anti-social behaviour	ASB measures in Part 6 of the Act commenced in June 2005. They include enabling local authorities to extend the period of introductory tenancies and withhold consent to mutual exchange on ASB grounds as well as measures to prevent tenants exercising the right to buy. Regulations regarding the form a review should take where a landlord decides to extend the period of an introductory tenancy came into force on 3 May 2006
Part 6 - Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments	Draft guidance was produced in February 2006 under Section 226 of the Housing Act, in respect of Section 225, relating to the assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. This document is subject to further consultation. Definitive guidance will be published in the autumn of 2006.
Part 6 - Tenant Deposit Protection	In order to consider stakeholder concerns raised by that consultation, we are reviewing the commencement date and will confirm a date before Parliament rises

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated for housing renewal in Morecambe since 1997. [85032]

Yvette Cooper: There are no specific funding allocation data available for Morecambe.

Allocations to Lancaster city council of capital funding for housing purposes over the period 1997-98 to 2005-06 exceeds £30 million. This includes the major repairs allowance first introduced in 2001-02 specifically for the improvement of local authority stock alongside the Decent Homes standard which sets out minimum standards to be met by 2010.

A further £1.9 million was allocated to Lancaster city council by the Regional Housing Board in 2006-07 under priority 1.3 of the Regional Housing Strategy, which seeks to provide a better housing mix in the region's costal towns i.e. Blackpool, Morecambe and Fleetwood. This amounted to an 11 per cent. on year increase in funding.

In addition the North West Development Agency would have contributed towards housing renewal in Morecambe via the Single Regeneration Budget Programme.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has undertaken studies on the impact of planning gain supplement on the provision of affordable housing in rural areas. [83277]

Yvette Cooper: No such studies have been undertaken.

The Government are currently considering responses to their consultation on the Planning-Gain Supplement (PGS), including on the issues of the PGS's impact on rural exception sites and the proposal to retain affordable housing delivery within the scope of planning obligations. Further announcements will be made towards the end of 2006.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of homes that have been purchased outright by occupiers of affordable housing on a shared ownership or homebuy basis under the Common and Leasehold Reform Act 2003 in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [84966]

Yvette Cooper: No data are collected centrally on the number of homes that have been purchased outright, having been originally acquired through shared ownership, or homebuy.

The Government are keen to expand home ownership through the new homebuy scheme. However, we recognise the need to ensure the longer term supply of affordable housing in rural areas which are subject to particular housing pressures.

Therefore we will continue to allow housing associations to restrict the outright purchase ("staircasing out") of shared ownership or homebuy properties on rural exception sites, where possible and appropriate under leasehold legislation. This flexibility, coupled with the additional safeguards within the homebuy scheme which allow providers to buy back properties when a purchaser who has staircased to full ownership wishes to move, should enable affordable housing to be retained where it is essential to do so and ensure delivery of the rural programme.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he expects the decent housing targets will be met by 2010 by local authorities which have transferred their stock *(a)* to arm's length management organisations and *(b)* by large scale voluntary transfers. [41141]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

All local authorities currently on the ALMO and transfer programmes have undertaken to meet the Decent Homes target by 2010. However, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced on 7 June that where greater flexibility and allowing a little longer will allow a better result for the community—or where spreading the work out would deliver better value for money, we will negotiate later dates on a case-by-case basis. That said, we still expect 95 per cent. of social housing to be decent by 2010.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many houses built in West Lancashire in rural settlements according to the rural exceptions policy have been built in each of the last five years. [83647]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Over the last five years 2000-01 to 2004-05, West Lancashire have reported that no new dwellings were built in their area in accordance with the rural exceptions policy.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much rent surplus is available to each arm's length management organisation for reinvestment in 2006-07. [83374]

Yvette Cooper: The money that an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) receives is determined by the scope of its management agreement with the local authority and the agreed level of extra funding paid to the local authority for its ALMO to deliver decent homes. The money for the ALMO will come from the local authorities Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Those local authorities that operate Arm's Length Management Organisations receive specific ALMO allowances as part of their HRA annual subsidy determination. Assumed surpluses (and deficits) are calculated after all assumed income (including rent) and allowances have been taken into account.

Surpluses are collected by the Department and together with a net contribution from the Exchequer of around £200 million a year, are paid to authorities with assumed deficits.

Infrastructure Funding

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from the South East England Development Agency with respect to infrastructure funding in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* Mid Sussex. [85835]

Angela E. Smith: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not received any specific representations from SEEDA with respect to infrastructure funding in *(a)* the South East or *(b)* Mid Sussex. However, SEEDA, the South East regional assembly and Government office for the south east recently submitted advice to Government, as requested in July 2005, on

> "the proposed expenditure of regional transport funding allocations for the three years up to and including 2007-08, in line with the regional housing and economic development allocations already published, and indicative longer term planning assumptions up to 2015-16, across the three funding streams".

The South East advice on this 'Regional Funding Allocation' included reference to a scheme in mid-Sussex and a proposal for a Regional Infrastructure Fund covering the whole of the South East; the document can be found on the SEEDA website at: http://www.seeda.co.uk/About_SEEDA/Board_Members/Board_Meetings/papers/Jan2006/Item7AnnexRFAJan06.doc.

The recommended regional programme for transport schemes was accepted, including the A23 Hancross to Warninglid widening in Mid Sussex as an approved scheme in the indicative 2009-10 to 2015-16 list.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what green infrastructure her Department proposes to allocate funding in Mid Sussex. [85836]

Angela E. Smith: It is for local planning authorities to determine what their specific infrastructure requirements are, and they should try to ensure that as far as possible these needs are met through the appropriate use of planning conditions and section 106 Agreements. We have provided advice on the use of these mechanisms in "The Planning System: General Principles" (Planning Policy Statement 1: Sustainable Development), in Circular 11/95 "Use of conditions in Planning Permissions" and Circular 05/05 "Planning Obligations".

An opportunity for local authorities to promote green infrastructure has been available through the implementation plan submitted with the draft Regional Spatial Strategy, the South East Plan. This was prepared by the South East Regional Assembly in conjunction with sub-regional partners and stakeholders and includes schedules of a wide range of infrastructure requirements with an indication of funding sources and reference to lead agencies. We understand that a revised implementation plan is being prepared by the Assembly for the Examination in Public later this year, where it will be discussed through the independent panel.

My Department has made special arrangements to support 'green infrastructure' projects in the growth areas of Ashford, Aylesbury and Milton Keynes,

through the growth area funds. The Government response to the Barker report outlined that 10 per cent. of growth area funds are to be used for green spaces. However, given that Mid Sussex is not designated as a growth area and no current new growth point proposals include the hon. Member's constituency, this specific funding is not available in Mid Sussex.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce legislation to increase the penalties for people who demolish listed buildings without planning consent; and if she will make a statement. [85304]

Yvette Cooper: The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 contains provision enabling allowing for fines for unauthorised works to a listed building. The maximum fine that can be imposed in the magistrates court is £20,000, whereas in the Crown court the fines are unlimited. It is open to the magistrates court to refer a case to the Crown court where it feels its sentencing powers are insufficient in relation to the seriousness of the offence committed.

Local Government Pension Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Government have made of the total cost of the Local Government Pension Scheme to local authorities *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding employee contributions in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [85656]

Mr. Woolas: Based on the findings of the 2004 actuarial valuation exercise it is estimated that the average cost to local authority employers will be (i) 12.5-13.5 per cent. of pensionable pay in 2005-06; (ii) 14-15 per cent. in 2006-07; (iii) 16-17 per cent. in 2007-08. On average employees will contribute 5.8 per cent. of pensionable payroll as well in each of these years.

M6 Link Road (Heysham)

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there will be a public inquiry on planning for the Heysham M6 Link road. [85030]

Yvette Cooper: The planning application for the proposed Heysham M6 Link road is currently being considered by Lancashire county council.

Should the council be minded to approve the application it will be referred to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under the terms of a Direction (article 14 of the Town and Country Planning Act (General Development Procedure Order 1995)) issued on 8 March 2006.

On receipt of the application from the council, consideration will be given to the possibility of calling it in for determination by the Secretary of State.

Midland Hotel Regeneration

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much in Government funds have been allocated to the Midland Hotel regeneration project. [85034]

Yvette Cooper: The total project cost was appraised at £7,310,089 of which NWDA is providing a grant of £4,052,850.

English Heritage via Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is providing £600,000. The remaining balance is being met by the private sector.

Planning

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what total value of section 106 agreement was agreed by each planning authority in each of the last five years; and how much of that sum is accounted for by funds allocated for *(a)* housing, *(b)* highways, *(c)* residential facilities and *(d)* schools. [84227]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* Data on section 106 agreements entered into by individual local authorities are not collected centrally.

A recent study "Valuing Planning Obligations in England" conducted by Sheffield University and Halcrow Group consultants for the Department for Communities and Local Government estimated that the value of planning obligations agreed in England as a whole in 2003-4 was £1.9 billion. This can be broken down as follows:

	£ million
Open space	116
Transport and travel	280
Community and leisure	111
Education	118
Other	65
Agreements made directly with county councils (e.g. minerals and waste applications)	7
Affordable housing	1,200

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance her Department has issued on whether local authorities may require *(a)* planning obligations and *(b)* section 106 payments from a developer to pay for mitigation measures in relation to development in a Special Protection Area. [85693]

Yvette Cooper: Government's policy guidance on the use of planning obligations is contained in Circular 5/05 Planning Obligations. This does not refer to the use of planning obligations in Special Protection Areas.

Government office for the south east in conjunction with English Nature are encouraging local planning authorities to develop 'mini-plans' of programmes of land or enhancement of existing land which could be used as mitigation against development around the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area in the short to medium term. Developers could contribute

Therefore we will continue to allow housing associations to restrict the outright purchase ("staircasing out") of shared ownership or homebuy properties on rural exception sites, where possible and appropriate under leasehold legislation. This flexibility, coupled with the additional safeguards within the homebuy scheme which allow providers to buy back properties when a purchaser who has staircased to full ownership wishes to move, should enable affordable housing to be retained where it is essential to do so and ensure delivery of the rural programme.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he expects the decent housing targets will be met by 2010 by local authorities which have transferred their stock *(a)* to arm's length management organisations and *(b)* by large scale voluntary transfers. [41141]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

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Rosie Cooper: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many houses built in West Lancashire in rural settlements according to the rural exceptions policy have been built in each of the last five years. [83647]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Over the last five years 2000-01 to 2004-05, West Lancashire have reported that no new dwellings were built in their area in accordance with the rural exceptions policy.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much rent surplus is available to each arm's length management organisation for reinvestment in 2006-07. [83374]

Yvette Cooper: The money that an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) receives is determined by the scope of its management agreement with the local authority and the agreed level of extra funding paid to the local authority for its ALMO to deliver decent homes. The money for the ALMO will come from the local authorities Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Those local authorities that operate Arm's Length Management Organisations receive specific ALMO allowances as part of their HRA annual subsidy determination. Assumed surpluses (and deficits) are calculated after all assumed income (including rent) and allowances have been taken into account.

Surpluses are collected by the Department and together with a net contribution from the Exchequer of around £200 million a year, are paid to authorities with assumed deficits.

Infrastructure Funding

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from the South East England Development Agency with respect to infrastructure funding in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* Mid Sussex. [85835]

Angela E. Smith: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not received any specific representations from SEEDA with respect to infrastructure funding in *(a)* the South East or *(b)* Mid Sussex. However, SEEDA, the South East regional assembly and Government office for the south east recently submitted advice to Government, as requested in July 2005, on

> "the proposed expenditure of regional transport funding allocations for the three years up to and including 2007-08, in line with the regional housing and economic development allocations already published, and indicative longer term planning assumptions up to 2015-16, across the three funding streams".

The South East advice on this 'Regional Funding Allocation' included reference to a scheme in mid-Sussex and a proposal for a Regional Infrastructure Fund covering the whole of the South East; the document can be found on the SEEDA website at: http://www.seeda.co.uk/About_SEEDA/Board_Members/Board_Meetings/papers/Jan2006/Item7AnnexRFAJan06.doc.

The recommended regional programme for transport schemes was accepted, including the A23 Hancross to Warninglid widening in Mid Sussex as an approved scheme in the indicative 2009-10 to 2015-16 list.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what green infrastructure her Department proposes to allocate funding in Mid Sussex. [85836]

Angela E. Smith: It is for local planning authorities to determine what their specific infrastructure requirements are, and they should try to ensure that as far as possible these needs are met through the appropriate use of planning conditions and section 106 Agreements. We have provided advice on the use of these mechanisms in "The Planning System: General Principles" (Planning Policy Statement 1: Sustainable Development), in Circular 11/95 "Use of conditions in Planning Permissions" and Circular 05/05 "Planning Obligations".

An opportunity for local authorities to promote green infrastructure has been available through the implementation plan submitted with the draft Regional Spatial Strategy, the South East Plan. This was prepared by the South East Regional Assembly in conjunction with sub-regional partners and stakeholders and includes schedules of a wide range of infrastructure requirements with an indication of funding sources and reference to lead agencies. We understand that a revised implementation plan is being prepared by the Assembly for the Examination in Public later this year, where it will be discussed through the independent panel.

My Department has made special arrangements to support 'green infrastructure' projects in the growth areas of Ashford, Aylesbury and Milton Keynes,

through the growth area funds. The Government response to the Barker report outlined that 10 per cent. of growth area funds are to be used for green spaces. However, given that Mid Sussex is not designated as a growth area and no current new growth point proposals include the hon. Member's constituency, this specific funding is not available in Mid Sussex.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce legislation to increase the penalties for people who demolish listed buildings without planning consent; and if she will make a statement. [85304]

Yvette Cooper: The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 contains provision enabling allowing for fines for unauthorised works to a listed building. The maximum fine that can be imposed in the magistrates court is £20,000, whereas in the Crown court the fines are unlimited. It is open to the magistrates court to refer a case to the Crown court where it feels its sentencing powers are insufficient in relation to the seriousness of the offence committed.

Local Government Pension Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Government have made of the total cost of the Local Government Pension Scheme to local authorities *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding employee contributions in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [85656]

Mr. Woolas: Based on the findings of the 2004 actuarial valuation exercise it is estimated that the average cost to local authority employers will be (i) 12.5-13.5 per cent. of pensionable pay in 2005-06; (ii) 14-15 per cent. in 2006-07; (iii) 16-17 per cent. in 2007-08. On average employees will contribute 5.8 per cent. of pensionable payroll as well in each of these years.

M6 Link Road (Heysham)

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there will be a public inquiry on planning for the Heysham M6 Link road. [85030]

Yvette Cooper: The planning application for the proposed Heysham M6 Link road is currently being considered by Lancashire county council.

Should the council be minded to approve the application it will be referred to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under the terms of a Direction (article 14 of the Town and Country Planning Act (General Development Procedure Order 1995)) issued on 8 March 2006.

On receipt of the application from the council, consideration will be given to the possibility of calling it in for determination by the Secretary of State.

Midland Hotel Regeneration

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much in Government funds have been allocated to the Midland Hotel regeneration project. [85034]

Yvette Cooper: The total project cost was appraised at £7,310,089 of which NWDA is providing a grant of £4,052,850.

English Heritage via Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is providing £600,000. The remaining balance is being met by the private sector.

Planning

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what total value of section 106 agreement was agreed by each planning authority in each of the last five years; and how much of that sum is accounted for by funds allocated for *(a)* housing, *(b)* highways, *(c)* residential facilities and *(d)* schools. [84227]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* Data on section 106 agreements entered into by individual local authorities are not collected centrally.

A recent study "Valuing Planning Obligations in England" conducted by Sheffield University and Halcrow Group consultants for the Department for Communities and Local Government estimated that the value of planning obligations agreed in England as a whole in 2003-4 was £1.9 billion. This can be broken down as follows:

	£ million
Open space	116
Transport and travel	280
Community and leisure	111
Education	118
Other	65
Agreements made directly with county councils (e.g. minerals and waste applications)	7
Affordable housing	1,200

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance her Department has issued on whether local authorities may require *(a)* planning obligations and *(b)* section 106 payments from a developer to pay for mitigation measures in relation to development in a Special Protection Area. [85693]

Yvette Cooper: Government's policy guidance on the use of planning obligations is contained in Circular 5/05 Planning Obligations. This does not refer to the use of planning obligations in Special Protection Areas.

Government office for the south east in conjunction with English Nature are encouraging local planning authorities to develop 'mini-plans' of programmes of land or enhancement of existing land which could be used as mitigation against development around the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area in the short to medium term. Developers could contribute

Import Licences Issued from 1 January 2005 to date:

AY	110 x lightweight multiple launchers/10 x vehicle missile launchers/75 x automatic, semi-automatic rifles, carbines/25 machine guns/15 grenade launchers/2 x drill anti-tank weapons/500 x shoulder launch aiming units
AY	No more than 500 in total x prohibited weapons and prohibited ammunition
AY	5,000 x automatic weapons of all types
AY	1,000 x semi-automatic (self-loading) rifles and carbines of all types
AY	200 x short barrelled shotguns fed by slide, pump or lever action or by self loading mechanism
AY	50 x rocket launchers, grenade launchers or mortars of all types
AY	2,000 x large and small calibre pistols and revolvers (handguns) of all types
AY	100 x pistols under Section 5(1)(aba)
AY	No more than 10,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(a)/600 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ab)/6,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba)/100 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ac)/3,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ae)
AY	No more than 10,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(a)/600 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ab)/6,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba)/100 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ac)/3,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ae)
AY	No more than 75 x medium machine guns, sub machine guns, light machine guns, heavy machine guns, automatic cannon, cannon, assault rifles/carbines, self-loading rifles/carbines, automatic rifles/carbines, pump action rifles/carbines
AY	60 x handguns (calibre. 2mm-27cm/. 172-1")
AY	45 x shotguns (pump, revolver, semi-automatic, automatic)
AY	No more than 45 in total x shotguns of the following types: pump, revolver, semi-automatic, automatic
AY	No more than 75 in total x medium machine guns, sub machine guns, light machine guns, heavy machine guns, automatic cannon, cannon, assault rifles/carbines, self-loading rifles/carbines, automatic rifles/carbines, pump action rifles/carbines
AY	10 x Derringer, 30 x handgun, 5 x machine pistol
AY	12 x weapons under Section 5(1)(a)/12 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ab)/12 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba)
BA	9,480 x assorted automatic rifles and machine guns
BA	2,000 x machine guns, assault rifles and sub machine guns
BA	1,500 x machine guns, assault rifles and sub machine guns
BA	2,000 x machine guns, assault rifles and sub machine guns
BA	500 x rocket launchers/3000 mortars
BA	40,000 x various assault rifles
BA	10,000 x various machine guns/2,500 various sub machine guns
BA	100 x anti aircraft systems
BA	100 x rocket launchers
BA	5,000 component parts under Section 5(1)(a)
BA	20,000 x AK47 assault rifles
BA	2,500 x AK47 assault rifles
BA	2,500 x AK47 assault rifles
BA	2,000 x AK47 assault rifles
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Import Licences Issued from 1 January 2005 to date:

BA	2,500 x AK47 assault rifles
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BA	2,500 x AK47 assault rifles
BA	2,000 x AK47 assault rifles
BA	2,000 x AK47 assault rifles
BA	2,000 x AK47 assault rifles
BA	2,000 x assault rifles
BA	1,000 x assault rifles
BA	2,000 x AK47 assault rifles
BA	3,000 x machine guns
BA	20,000 x AK47 assault rifles

Coal Health (Compensation)

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many coal health *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger cases have been submitted for deceased claims by Berefords Solicitors in (i) Wales and (ii) Scotland; and how many of each have been refused. [83834]

Malcolm Wicks: The figures requested for deceased claims submitted by Beresfords solicitors are set out in the following table:

	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease		*Vibration White Finger*	
	Wales	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Scotland*
Deceased claims submitted	6,839	3,006	11	12
Denials made	525	412	5	2

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many meetings have taken place between his officials and UDM Vendside on coal health compensation since June 2005. [83897]

Malcolm Wicks: Three operational meetings have taken place since June 2005 between officials and representatives of the UDM. Two of these related to the vibration white finger scheme and the third to the respiratory disease scheme.

Company Law Reform Bill

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his definition is of a proper purpose for inspection of a company register of members under the provisions of the Company Law Reform Bill. [81592]

Margaret Hodge: The Bill does not define what is a proper purpose.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry under what circumstances a company could refuse to disclose information on its members under the provisions of the Company Law Reform Bill. [81593]

Margaret Hodge: Under clause 116 of the Bill, a request to inspect or to be provided with a copy of a company's register of members must include the purpose for which the information is to be used. The company must either meet the request within five working days or apply to a court. The court will direct the company not to comply with the request if it is satisfied that it is not sought for a proper purpose.

Electricity Transmission

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what quantity of carbon dioxide emissions were attributable to electricity transmission and distribution losses in each of the last five years. [84529]

Malcolm Wicks: Estimated losses through the electricity transmission and distribution networks for the period 1999 to 2003 were as follows:

	GWh
1999	28298
2000	29649
2001	30902
2002	29890
2003	29862

Using the average carbon emission factor for each year provides the following estimates for the carbon emissions associated with these losses. These estimates are based on the average emissions factor for electricity generation in each of these years, which takes account of the mix between coal, gas and other forms of generation in those years.

	Million tonnes of carbon
1999	3.28
2000	3.67
2001	3.95
2002	3.72
2003	3.83

Energy

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in which year the Government expect the UK to be a net importer of energy. [84355]

Malcolm Wicks: Data on net imports of primary fuel are published in the annual Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics. Table 1.1.3 in the 2005 edition shows that, having been a net exporter of primary energy since 1993, the UK became a net importer of primary energy in 2004.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry why the minutes of the latest meeting of the advisory board on sustainable energy policy have not yet been placed in the public domain. [85412]

Malcolm Wicks: The minutes of the Sustainable Energy Policy Advisory Board (SEPAB) have now been published on the DTI website as usual. Publication was held back until the Energy Review conclusions had been announced to Parliament.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from which *(a)* ministerial colleagues, *(b)* hon. Members and *(c)* members of the House of Lords he received a submission to the Energy Review; and what criteria were adopted in deciding which of these submissions were posted on the Energy Review pages of his departmental web site. [85048]

Malcolm Wicks: All responses to the Energy Review consultation exercise, which closed on 14 April 2006, have been posted on the DTI website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review/consultation-submissions/page27883.html.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many applications for *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity were declined by each energy supplier in (i) each region of England, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales in the last full year for which figures are available. [84377]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem does not collect data about refusal to supply.

Condition 32 of the standard gas and electricity supply licences requires suppliers to offer terms at a domestic customer's request. There are a number of exclusions within these conditions. Complaints about refusal to supply may be made to the statutory gas and electricity consumer body, Energywatch. Energywatch can refer matters to the industry regulator, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) where it believes Ofgem may be able to use its power of licence enforcement.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the role of the energy supply ombudsman. [84573]

Malcolm Wicks: In July 2005, the industry regulator, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) required gas and electricity suppliers to establish an independent ombudsman scheme to deal with billing disputes that had not been satisfactorily resolved under standard complaints procedures. The suppliers have now established the Energy Supply Ombudsman scheme, which was launched on 1 July 2006. The Ombudsman will handle both billing and transfer disputes, can reach decisions that are binding on suppliers and may award compensation of up to £5,000 to customers. The scheme is additional to the statutory arrangements governing the investigation of customer complaints, which continue to operate.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will establish an inquiry into *(a)* wholesale energy prices, *(b)* the level of competition in the UK energy market and *(c)* the impact of energy prices on manufacturing industry. [85097]

Malcolm Wicks: Despite sustained benefits from liberalised energy markets over the past decade, the Government fully appreciate that high energy prices do

create problems for the competitiveness of industry, and take very seriously the potential loss of jobs and investment. The Government are leaving no stone unturned, working closely with industry, to find solutions and reduce the impact. The new Business Energy Forum, co-chaired by the Secretary of State and Richard Lambert of the CBI, met for the first time on 5 July and is monitoring this work and looking at other strategic energy issues impacting on business. Higher energy prices in the UK reflect higher global prices, caused by rising demand and supply constraints (for oil and gas), the lack of EU energy market liberalisation, and domestic factors, such as the tight winter supply demand balance in the UK gas market.

The importance of the Government's activity in pushing for European energy market liberalisation was highlighted in a Global Insight report in 2005. The report estimated that the lack of effective liberalisation and the dominance of oil-linked long-term supply contracts in Europe would cost UK industrial consumers of gas some £2.6 billion over the following year. Ofgem analysis suggests that the cost to UK gas consumers of Interconnector flows not always being in line with price signals during the last winter was £1.5 billion and would cost £3 billion if repeated during the coming winter. The European Commission has been active in reviewing competition in gas and electricity markets.

During the past two years there have been several investigations and reports into competition in UK gas and electricity markets. These include the Ofgem gas price probe, and two inquiries from the Trade and Industry Select Committee. The Ofgem gas price probe found no evidence of anti-competitive behaviour in the UK gas market. More recently, Ofgem published a "Domestic Retail Market Report", which concluded that, "competition remains effective and vigorous in all segments of the domestic energy market." Independent research by Oxera concluded that in 2004 the UK had the most competitive electricity and gas markets in the EU and G7 (available at www.dti.gov.uk/files/file28425.pdf).

Enterprise Insight

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the level of Government funding for Enterprise Insight is for 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [82195]

Margaret Hodge: The level of Government funding for Enterprise Insight in 2006-07 is £5 million.

This support enables Enterprise Insight to continue developing and running the highly successful 'Make Your Mark' campaign. The campaign is aimed at people aged between 14 and 30 and encourages them to be enterprising in the broadest sense.

Enterprise Week is the focal point of the campaign. Last year saw 408,000 people from all over the UK attend 2,215 events, run by 722 organisations helped by 3,874 businesses. It is anticipated that these already impressive results will be bettered during Enterprise Week 2006, which Enterprise Insight will run from 13-19 November.

The funding will also support the development of new Local Enterprise Campaign Hubs in some of the country's most deprived and under-performing areas. In addition, the funding will support the development of partnerships to run campaigns in specific industry sectors, emphasising the role of enterprise in the successful start up and growth of companies.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he last met representatives of Enterprise Insight; what the outcome was of the meeting; and what plans he has to hold further meetings with this organisation. [82196]

Margaret Hodge: As Minister for Industry and the Regions with responsibility for the Small Business Service, I met Enterprise Insight on 18 May.

The outcome of my meeting was a reaffirmed commitment that the Department will support the development and running of the 'Make Your Mark' campaign; and, to Ministerial participation in key events during the campaign's flagship annual initiative of 'Enterprise Week', which this year will run from 13-19 November.

Further meetings with Enterprise Insight will be scheduled as the year progresses.

Gas Appliances

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department has taken in the past 10 years to encourage research and development of gas appliances. [78523]

Malcolm Wicks: This is a matter for manufacturers of gas appliances, which is a competitive commercial activity.

Global Oil Production

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in which year the Government expect *(a)* global conventional oil production and *(b)* global total oil production to peak; and what the Government expect to be the level of peak global oil production. [84272]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government consider that the world's oil resources are sufficient to prevent global total oil production peaking before 2030, by which time the International Energy Agency's reference case scenario in its 2005 World Energy Outlook shows global oil demand reaching 115.4 million barrel per day, nearly 40 per cent. higher than current levels. The exact levels and years of the peaks in global conventional and total oil production will depend on assumptions about a number of factors, including the rate of global oil demand growth, the rate of investment in the global oil sector, and technological developments in finding and producing oil.

Market mechanisms will ration the remaining global supplies of oil and provide the incentive for a shift to alternative sources of energy. This process needs to be supported by Governments. The UK Government are already putting in place policies that will help ease the UK economy away from power supplied primarily through fossil fuels and is also promoting international

efforts, for example through the G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action, to develop cleaner energy technologies and promote energy efficiency.

Home Heat Helpline

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many calls the Home Heat Helpline has received in each month since its launch; [83936]

(2) whether the Home Heat Helpline refers callers to *(a)* Energywatch, *(b)* local energy efficiency advice centres and *(c)* the Energy Savings Trust; [83937]

(3) how many people have *(a)* received benefit entitlement checks after contacting the Home Heat Helpline and *(b)* been identified as eligible for a benefit following a benefit entitlement check. [83938]

Malcolm Wicks: The Home Heat Helpline was established by the Energy Retail Association on behalf of gas and electricity suppliers. The Government supported the introduction of the Helpline, but is not involved in its funding or its administration. Questions about its operations are, therefore, entirely for the Association.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Market

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* non-rural areas using cylinders of a smaller capacity than those investigated by the Competition Commission in their recent inquiry into the domestic bulk liquefied petroleum gas market; and if he will make a statement. [84658]

Mr. McCartney: No such estimates have been made, as the successful functioning of consumer markets, and market investigations when required, are matters for the independent competition authorities rather than for the Government.

Manufacturing Forum

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who the members of the Manufacturing Forum are; and what its remit is. [84477]

Margaret Hodge: The membership of the Manufacturing Forum is:

Kevin Smith CBE, Chief Executive, GKN plc

Margaret Hodge MBE MP, Minister of State for Industry and the Regions

Ian McCafferty, Chief Economic Adviser, CBI

Nick Brayshaw, Chairman, CBI Manufacturing Council

Martin Temple CBE, Director General, EEF

Harald Krueger, Plant Director, BMW Hams Hall

Dr. Bryan Jackson OBE, Chair, East Midlands Development Agency

Allan Cook, Chief Executive, Cobham plc

Paul Lester, Chief Executive, VT Group

Steve Musgrave, Vice President Technical Operations, GSK plc

Dawn Gibbins MBE, Chairman, Flowcrete Group plc

John Wall, General Secretary, Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions

Peter Booth, National Organiser, T&G

Phil Davies, National Secretary, GMB

Tim Page , Senior Policy Officer, TUC

Jim Brathwaite CBE, Chair, South East England Regional Development Agency

Professor Mike Gregory CBE, Head, Institute for Manufacturing, University of Cambridge

Simon Edmonds, Director, Business Relations, DTI

Vicky Pryce, Chief Economic Adviser, DTI

Eleanor Mack, Head of Enterprise Team, HM Treasury

Greg Dyche, Deputy Director, Skills Group, Department for Education and Skills

Emily Thomas, Special Adviser, DTI

Geoffrey Norris, Senior Policy Adviser, Prime Minister's Office.

Remit of Manufacturing Forum

The Manufacturing Forum is jointly chaired by Government and Industry and was established following the review of the Government's Manufacturing Strategy in 2004. The Forum facilitates ongoing advice from key industry partners to ensure the effective implementation and evolution of the Government's Manufacturing Strategy.

Manufacturing Media Centre

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what financial or other contribution his Department and its agencies are making towards the establishment of a Manufacturing Media Centre (MMC); what estimate he has made of the potential total cost of the MMC in each of its first three years; and when he expects the centre to be fully operational. [84478]

Margaret Hodge: The Manufacturing Forum Secretariat, which includes officials from the DTI, is working with stakeholders to establish the Manufacturing Media Centre (MMC). The MMC will cost approximately £300,000 per annum and will be funded by contributions from the manufacturing community, mainly from industry. It is planned to launch the MMC by the end of 2006.

Minimum Wage

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people have received the minimum wage in West Lancashire in each year since it was introduced. [84891]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data at the parliamentary constituency level are not available.

However, the DTI estimates that around 120,000 in the North West stood to benefit from the October 2005 uprating of the national minimum wage.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for a conflict of interest to arise from a

board member of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority also being a board member of the Environment Agency. [85507]

Malcolm Wicks: Matters such as the potential for conflicts of interest arising as a consequence of membership of the Boards of public bodies are taken fully into account during the recruitment process. The DTI press release of 13 October 2004 announcing the appointment of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's non executive Board members provided detail on their other appointments and interests. In addition, public bodies maintain records of Board members' interests.

Nuclear Power

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from the Scottish Executive regarding the Energy Review with particular reference to the planning system for future nuclear power stations. [81661]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Government have worked closely with the Devolved Administrations throughout the Energy Review on all the areas of devolved responsibility, including planning.

The Government's report on the Review, "Our Energy Challenge", was released on 11 July 2006. It is available on the DTI website at:

www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 910-11W, on nuclear power, what the total operating budget was for his Department's Office for Civil Nuclear Security in each financial year since 2001-02. [85386]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* The information requested is as follows.

OCNS Operating costs

	£000
2001-02	1,590
2002-03	1,814
2003-04	2,216
2004-05	2,332
2005-06	2,447

The answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 910-11W referred to the charges made to recover the costs of regulatory services from those who received them. The figures in the table are total operating costs. The difference between total operating costs and fees charged (as stated on 4 July) is the net funding provided by DTI to cover the cost of work that falls outside the scope of The Nuclear Industries Security (Fees) Regulations and which therefore cannot be charged to industry. Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) activity covered by net funding includes, for example, policy advice within government, work on proposed future legislation and international work.

Nuclear Safety Directorate

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many warnings have been issued by the Nuclear Safety Directorate to nuclear plants owned or operated by British Energy in each of the last five years. [84222]

Malcolm Wicks: Warnings are not a feature of the regulatory regime enforced by HSE's Nuclear Safety Directorate. However, should there be a need for enforcement action enforcement notices are issued accordingly.

I am informed that HSE has issued 11 improvement notices to British Energy during the last five years.

Oil Imports

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Government's latest estimate is of when the UK will become a net importer of oil. [84273]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2005 the UK became a net importer of crude oil (including Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) and feedstocks), on an annual volume basis, for the first time since 1992. However, net exports of refined oil products meant that the UK remained a net exporter of overall oil (crude, NGLs, feedstocks, and refined products). Details are given in tables 3.1 and 3.2 of the June 2006 version of UK Energy Trends available at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/trends/index.html.

With the large Buzzard Field due on-stream in late 2006, the UK should return to being a net exporter of crude oil (including NGLs and feedstocks) by 2007 before becoming a net importer on a sustained annual basis by 2010.

Petrol Prices

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of petrol prices. [83066]

Malcolm Wicks: Information on the typical UK monthly retail price of petrol is given in Table 4.1.1 of the DTI's Quarterly Energy Prices publication (http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html).

The rise in petrol prices since the start of the year reflects increases in the price of crude oil on the global market. In response, the Government are continuing to promote international efforts to improve the functioning of the global oil market and to tackle market inefficiencies that contribute to high and volatile crude oil prices.

Peugeot Plant (Ryton)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the progress of the talks that started on 4 July on the Peugeot car manufacturing operation in Ryton. [84232]

Margaret Hodge: The Government are aware that discussions are on-going between Peugeot Citroen and the trade unions regarding the company's announcement that its Ryton plant will close, but the conduct of those discussions is a matter between the company and the unions.

The Government have made clear to Peugeot Citroen the importance of engaging in meaningful consultation with the trade unions, consistent with their obligations under information and consultation legislation, including giving due consideration to the unions' alternative proposals for the future of Ryton.

Power Stations

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps are being taken to maximise power station efficiency. [84741]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have put in place a competitive market-based framework that incentivises generators to maximise their productivity. The conclusions of the 2006 Energy Review set out proposals for further improvements to the generation market so as better to achieve the 2003 Energy White Paper goals.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans there are to build more gas-fired power stations in the next five years. [84742]

Malcolm Wicks: Details of planned major new investments in electricity generation, including gas-fired power stations, can be found in table 2 of the annex to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's second report to Parliament on security of gas and electricity supply in Great Britain. The report was published on 11 July and can be found both in the Libraries of the House and on the Department's website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file31630.pdf.

It is important to note that approval of the consents listed in the table does not guarantee that all, or indeed any, of these projects will actually be built.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research he has evaluated on the efficiency of power stations. [84743]

Malcolm Wicks: Table 5.10 of the latest "Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics" (http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/source/electricity/page18527.html) lists the average thermal efficiencies of large power stations by fuel type. The technical and economic efficiencies of power stations are a commercial matter for generators.

Renewable Energy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of *(a)* energy and *(b)* electricity in (i) the UK and (ii) each region was supplied from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [84125]

Malcolm Wicks: In the United Kingdom in 2004 1.8 per cent. of inland consumption of primary fuels and equivalents for energy use and 3.6 per cent. of electricity generation was from renewable sources.

The amount of electricity generated from renewable sources in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and each region of England in 2004 was as follows:

	GWh
England	7,111.9
East Midlands	625.7
East	1,583.4
North East	417.0
North West	1,014.8
London	389.9
South East	1,209.5
South West	518.2
West Midlands	651.0
Yorkshire and the Humber	702.6
Wales	1,044.0
Scotland	5,853.6
Northern Ireland	148.5
Other sites[1]	9.4
Total	14,167.1
Solar photovoltaics	4.0
UK total	14,171.1

[1] Other sites are sites that have not been attributed to a region so that data related to individual companies are not disclosed when the breakdown by technology is shown in the source table.

Source:
DTI Energy Trends, September 2005 Page 24.

Similar statistics for the generation from all sources are not available for the regions of England since this would disclose data for individual companies given to the Department in confidence so percentages for the English regions cannot be calculated. However, percentages for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England as a whole are as follows:

	Percentage
Scotland	11.48
Wales	2.96
Northern Ireland	2.00
England	2.36
United Kingdom	3.58

Source:
DTI Energy Trends December 2005, page 44.

Regional data covering all energy use are produced only for consumption and not for supply. This is because energy produced in one part of the UK may not be consumed in the same part of the UK given that we have national transmissions systems for gas and electricity, and coal and oil products are distributed from mines and refineries to all parts of the country.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many wind farms there are in England; and how many are planned to be built in the next five years. [84740]

Malcolm Wicks: There are currently 54 wind farms in England, of those three are offshore with a capacity of nearly 154 MW and 51 are onshore with a capacity of nearly 246 MW.

It is not possible to say how many wind farms, on or offshore are planned to be built in the next five years as a number of complex and, as yet, unseen, factors may come into play. However, the following information has been obtained from the British Wind Energy Association:

	Wind farms
	Number
Currently under construction	Seven onshore wind farms with a capacity of 79.5 MW and one offshore wind farm with a capacity of 90 MW.
Consented projects	35 onshore wind farms with a capacity of 537.70 MW and four offshore wind farms with a capacity of 486 MW.
Projects in planning	51 onshore wind farms with a capacity of 938 MW and 10 offshore wind farms with a capacity of 4283 MW.

Royal Mail

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions have taken place between Ministers and officials from his Department and Royal Mail on shares being made available in Royal Mail. [84980]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Royal Mail has submitted proposals on an employee share ownership scheme and these proposals are currently under consideration by the Department. Ministers and officials meet Royal Mail representatives on a regular basis and have discussed these proposals with them. No decisions have been made on whether to introduce a share scheme.

South East England Development Agency

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the annual per capita expenditure of the South East England Development Agency has been in each year since its inception in *(a)* each county and *(b)* each unitary authority in the South East of England. [84100]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The tables show the South East England Development Agency's (SEEDA) annual spend from 2003 onwards, broken down to a sub regional level.

SEEDA does not provide expenditure breakdowns on the basis of all counties and unitary authorities within the region.

Before the adoption of their current financial records system in 2003, expenditure by specific geographical or administrative areas was not recorded and it is therefore not possible to produce a disaggregated account of SEEDA spend prior to that time.

Much of SEEDA's spend is allocated across administrative boundaries, and this cannot be disaggregated to local authority boundaries levels.

Sub-region	*Spend 2003-04 (£)*	*Programme expenditure (percentage of annual budget)*	*Expenditure per head (£)*
Berkshire Unitary Authorities	4,626,483.75	3.67	5.78
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	1,614,422.01	1.28	3.37
East Sussex, Brighton and Hove	25,399,943.64	20.12	34.32
Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight	40,665,609.35	32.21	22.88
Kent and Medway	25,244,668.59	20.00	15.99
Oxfordshire	5,118,297.72	4.05	6.30
Surrey	760,227.82	0.60	0.72
West Sussex	3,248,602.91	2.57	4.31
Regionwide and Cross Region	19,554,744.20	15.49	n/a
Total	126,233,000.00	100.00	—

Sub-region	*Spend 2004-05 (£)*	*Programme expenditure (percentage of annual budget)*	*Expenditure per head (£)*
Berkshire Unitary Authorities	2,230,595.85	2.02	2.79
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	2,877,112.59	2.60	6.01
East Sussex, Brighton and Hove	19,938,380.28	18.04	26.94
Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight	19,240,442.98	17.41	10.83
Kent and Medway	39,055,557.44	35.34	24.73
Oxfordshire	4,399,289.72	3.98	5.41
Surrey	836,594.35	0.76	0.79
West Sussex	2,673,723.77	2.42	3.55
Regionwide and Cross Region	19,256,303.04	17.43	n/a
Total	110,508,000.00	100.00	—

Sub-region	Spend 2005-06 (£)	Programme expenditure (percentage of annual budget)	Expenditure per head (£)
Berkshire Unitary Authorities	4247471.04	2.68	5.31
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	1,867,303.21	1.18	3.90
East Sussex, Brighton and Hove	22,174,844.97	13.98	29.96
Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight	38,236,206.41	24.10	21.52
Kent and Medway	36,545,375.53	23.04	23.14
Oxfordshire	5,564,708.01	3.51	6.85
Surrey	4,376,371.19	2.76	4.13
West Sussex	8,630,872.87	5.44	11.45
Regionwide and Cross Region	36,996,847.49	23.32	n/a
Total	158,640,000.72	100.00	—

Note:
Please note per capita expenditure has been calculated using population figures from the Rural Urban Spreadsheet tool (based on 2001 census).

Spam E-mails

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to reduce the number of spam e-mails originating from abroad received by people in the UK. [84738]

Margaret Hodge: The Government introduced statutory controls on spam emails by means of the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, which were enacted on 11 December 2003. The regulations provide a first line of defence against spam originating in the EU where the recipient has no knowledge of the advertiser of the products being marketed. The regulations require that spam must not be sent to an individual subscriber without prior permission or unless there is a previous relationship between the parties. The regulations can be enforced against an offending company or individual anywhere in the EU. There is regular contact between my Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the Information Commissioner's Office on the operation of these regulations.

The Government recognise that most spam does not come from the UK and have therefore extensively promoted international co-operation. A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed on 2 July 2004 between the enforcement authorities of the United Kingdom, United States and Australia, to reduce the problem by working together to investigate those sending spam. The UK also plays a leading role in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Anti Spam Task Force and other multilateral initiatives. In late 2004, the UK launched the world's first and only anti-spam enforcement network, the London Action Plan, which now spans five continents and includes authorities and industry from countries particularly affected by this issue, such as Nigeria, China and India.

The end user has a role to play in acting to avoid being a target for those sending spam, as well as acting to filter spam. Information has been made available to the public and to business by the DTI, the Information Commissioner's Office, the Office of Fair Trading as well as a number of sites provided by service and software providers. These messages have been reinforced by the Get Safe Online initiative launched on 27 October 2005. This is an initiative between Government and Industry to help individuals and businesses protect themselves against internet threats, including spam.

Our response to the problem of spam continues to develop. I have taken careful note of the views of the Information Commissioner's Office on the powers available to him, and DTI officials are working with the Information Commissioner's Office on this matter. The Government are actively considering whether to revise the relevant legislation. DTI officials have a continuing dialogue with internet service providers regarding steps that can be taken to reduce spam. We also continue our efforts to achieve greater international co-operation.

Strikes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many strikes there were in the last 12 months; and what the lowest number of strikes was during any consecutive 12 month period between May 1997 and May 2002. [85454]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the 12 months to May 2006, there were 131 stoppages in the UK, compared to 121 stoppages in the 12 months to May 2005.

Between May 1997 and May 2002, the lowest number of stoppages in any 12 consecutive months was 189, in the 12 months to August 1999.

Structural Funds

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to ensure that the North West is a priority for the allocation of structural funds. [84289]

Margaret Hodge: As set out in the written statement to Parliament of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 203-06WS. Merseyside will receive phasing-in funding under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective for 2007-13. This will amount to approximately one-third of its allocation as an Objective 1 area over the period 2000-06.

The rest of the North West, along with the other areas of the UK not eligible for Convergence funding (the successor to Objective 1) under the next round of Structural Funds from 2007-13, will be eligible for support under the Regional Competitiveness and

Employment Objective. These areas will receive a total of approximately €6.2 billion in Structural Funds over this period.

The Department of Trade and Industry has recently carried out a public consultation on a draft National Strategic Reference Framework for future Structural Funds spending. As part of the consultation, we sought stakeholders' views on the methodology for allocating part of the UK's Competitiveness funds. In reaching a final decision on this issue, the Government will, of course, want to take full account of the needs of the North West and all other eligible regions.

Sustainability

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding he plans to allocate to professional bodies for the promotion of the principles of sustainable consumption and development to their members in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [82481]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

In October 2005, Defra funded Forum for the Future to engage with a range of professional bodies on sustainability issues. The project, Professions in Partnership for Sustainability, will work with professional bodies to embed sustainable competencies into their professional standards.

The project is worth up to £75,000 and will last until the end of the financial year 2006-07. No decisions have been taken yet on funding beyond the end of 2006-07.

Television Licences

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effects on pensioners of the discontinuation of the sale of television licences in post offices. [85098]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The decision to withdraw the purchase of TV licences from post offices was a commercial one made by the BBC which has a duty to TV licence holders to achieve value for money with its licence fee income. Although customers will not be able to pay for their TV licences at post offices after 31 July, they will be able to purchase TV licences by direct debit, online or at over 15,000 'Paypoint' facilities situated around the country in local newsagents, convenience stores, supermarkets, and petrol stations.

Waste Disposal

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the meeting of EU Member States in Brussels on 26 June regarding the Restrictions on Hazardous Substances and Waste Electrical Equipment Directives; and whether a decision was reached as to whether pipe organs would fall within the scope of these Directives. [84609]

Malcolm Wicks: It was certainly never envisaged that these directives would apply to church and other pipe organs, although there was some legal uncertainty in the final text.

Following the meeting held in Brussels on 26 June, the European Commission has clarified that pipe organs are outside the scope of the new rules.

I am, therefore, very pleased to confirm that the legal uncertainties have now been resolved and pipe organs are considered to be clearly outside the scope of the restriction of hazardous substances (RoHS) and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directives.

Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on UK-Zimbabwe trade relations [80264]

Mr. McCartney: There has been a substantial fall in UK-Zimbabwe trade in recent years. In 2000, UK and Zimbabwe two-way trade amounted to £143 million. Imports from Zimbabwe were mainly agricultural products with tobacco, making up approximately 31 per cent. of the total imports. Exports were mainly manufactured goods, with office machines and ADP equipment topping the table at £5.3 million.

By 2005, two-way trade had fallen to £66 million. The principal change was in tobacco imports, which fell to £4.8 million from £31 million in 2000 down 85 per cent. Exports also fell, with the leading export, road vehicles, topping the table at £3.5 million. The decline in trade can be attributed to the policies of the Government of Zimbabwe which have brought about the fall of both imports and exports.

A breakdown of UK exports and imports by sector for 2004 and 2005 is shown in the following table.

HMG have not imposed any economic sanctions or restrictions on doing business in Zimbabwe and two-way trade continues, although as the aforementioned figures show, at a substantially reduced level. It is our view that economic sanctions would harm the people of Zimbabwe at a time of humanitarian crisis, while having very little impact on the ZANU (PF) leadership. The people of Zimbabwe have suffered enough.

UK trade with Zimbabwe

Division and description	*£000*
Top 10 UK exports	
2004	
75 Office machines and ADP equipment	4,878
78 Road vehicles	4,563
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus	2,648
72 Specialised industrial machinery	1,807
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, nes and machine parts nes	1,590
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, nes and electrical parts thereof	1,111
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	899
87 Professional, scientific and control instruments (and apparatus nes)	557
67 Iron and steel	505
26 Textile fibres	498
Total of top 10	19,056
Total trade	26,005

UK trade with Zimbabwe

Division and description	*£000*
2005	
78 Road vehicles	3,473
75 Office machines and ADP equipment	3,379
72 Specialised industrial machinery	2,370
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus	1,545
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, nes and machine parts nes	1,528
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	1,238
00 Live animals other than of Div. 03	740
26 Textile fibres	716
87 Professional, scientific and control instruments (and apparatus nes)	702
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, nes and electrical parts thereof	670
Total of top 10	16,362
Total trade	22,113
Top 10 UK imports	
2004	
06 Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	22,554
05 Vegetables and fruit	8,185
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	8,182
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	1,675
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures	1,256
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	1,212
68 Non-ferrous metals	956
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, nes	935
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus	464
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials	317
Total of top 10	45,736
Total trade	47,779
2005	
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures	14,970
06 Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	13,087
05 Vegetables and fruit	7,182
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	4,768
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	912
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	495
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, nes	374
67 Iron and steel	217
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	144
79 Other transport equipment	117
Total of top 10	42,266
Total trade	43,564

Source:
DTI Analysis of HM Revenue and Customs data.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 17 July 2006

TREASURY

Annuities

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the response by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729, on the Finance (No. 2) Bill, if he will place in the Library a note setting out the basis for his calculation of the £100 million cost of amendments to the rules on the compulsory purchase of annuities. [83603]

Ed Balls: The Exchequer cost arising from this proposal depends upon behavioural responses. But, assuming that the technical deficiencies with the proposal would be corrected, we stated a conservative overall initial cost of the measure of around £100 million per annum. Our longer term estimate of the overall costs is around £175 to £225 million per annum.

This potential cost consists of two main elements. First, allowing larger lump sums to be taken out and taxed at marginal rate at age 75 would have a tax cost because additional pension savings would be induced.

The up-front tax cost of these additional pension savings is estimated to be in the region of £300 to £500 million per annum. Around three quarters of this would be reclaimed as income tax on the resulting retirement benefits. This gives a broad range for this part of the costing of £75 to £125 million per annum. We used the lower range of this estimate for our conservative initial cost.

Secondly, allowing individuals to leave pensions untouched until death and then bequeath the capital would reduce income tax on pensions in payment. As any additional savings held in pension assets at death would largely displace other liquid assets, held inheritance tax (IHT) would not increase to offset this income tax lost. Even if wealth held at death were to increase as a result of the tabled amendments, the average effective rate of IHT on such assets would still be far below the rate of income tax. Only 6 per cent. of estates have an IHT charge.

The longer term costs of this behaviour are very uncertain but are estimated at £100 million per annum in lost income tax. But this would take time to build up and we have used one quarter of this amount for our conservative initial cost.

Computer Learning Centres

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many computer learning centres have been set up in each year since 1999. [84792]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The term "computer learning centres" potentially covers a wide range of provision, not all of which would have been funded by Government.

However, I can say that between 1999 and 2003, with funding from the Capital Modernisation Fund and the New Opportunities Fund, around 6,000 UK online centres were established across England.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on computer learning centres in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [84793]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The term "computer learning centres" potentially covers a wide range of provision, not all of which would have been funded by Government.

However, I can say that between 1999 and 2003, a total of £396 million from the Capital Modernisation Fund and the New Opportunities Fund was invested in setting up UK online centres across England.

Data Protection

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 92W, on data protection, what is the longest period of time that has elapsed for HM Revenue and Customs to respond to its satisfaction to a subject access request in the first instance. [84939]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* The response meeting this description was the case cited in my reply of 26 June. The original letter was an appeal against a separate HMRC decision, although it also contained a subject access request.

Demographics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the population of *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Peterborough constituency and *(c)* the Peterborough City Council area is aged (i) under 25, (ii) between 25 and 34, (iii) between 35 and 44, (iv) between 45 and 54, (v) between 55 and 64 and (vi) over 65. [85992]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning the percentage of the population of *(a)* the UK *(b)* Peterborough Constituency and *(c)* Peterborough Unitary Authority aged (i) under 25, (ii) between 25 and 34, (iii) between 35 and 44, (iv) between 45 and 54, (v) between 55 and 64 and (vi) over 65. (85992)

The latest available data for the UK and Peterborough Unitary Authority (UA) are the mid-2004 population estimates. The mid-2005 population estimates for the UK and local authorities in England and Wales are due to be published on 24 August 2006.

Mid-year population estimates are not produced for parliamentary constituencies. For this reason, the latest data available for Peterborough Constituency is from the 2001 Census.

The attached table shows the percentages requested for each age group and area, based on the latest available figures for these areas.

Percentage of population in selected age groups for UK, Peterborough Unitary Authority and Peterborough Parliamentary Constituency, Mid-2004 Population Estimates, Census 2001

Age Group	UK	Peterborough Unitary Authority	Peterborough Parliamentary Constituency
Under 25	31	33	34
25 to 34	13	15	15
35 to 44	15	15	14
45 to 54	13	12	13
55 to 64	12	10	9
Over 65	16	14	14

Source: Office for National Statistics.

ECOFIN

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many ECOFIN council meetings were attended by each Minister in his Department in each year since May 1997. [83510]

Ed Balls: Ministerial attendance and the outcome of each ECOFIN have been reported either by written ministerial statement, written answer or, occasionally, by letter to the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee.

Enterprise Insight

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his oral statement of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 886, on Enterprise Insight, how many new businesses have been set up in Northern Ireland as a result of Enterprise Insight; and when he last met the chief executive of Enterprise Insight. [85685]

John Healey: Enterprise Insight was created in 1999 to promote a culture of enterprise in the UK by running a national campaign promoting the spirit of enterprise to young people and those who influence them. It is funded by the Small Business Service to cover activities in England only and it does not provide business support services for enterprises based in Northern Ireland. Treasury Ministers regularly meet a wide range of individuals and organisations in the course of policy development. As is the case with previous administrations, it is not the practice of the Government to provide details of these meetings.

EU Budget

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to reduce UK contributions to the EU budget since 1997; what reductions have been made in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [84294]

Ed Balls: The UK's contributions to the EU budget are determined in accordance with the Own Resources Decision, details of which can be found at paragraph 2.15 of the "European Community Finances" White Paper (Cm 6770, page 7). The level of these contributions is also dependent in negotiation of the annual EU budget and HM Treasury plays an active role in these discussions, see below. The UK's contributions fluctuate from year to year as can be seen in Tables 31 and 3.2 of the "European Community Finances" White Paper (Cm 6770, page 15 and 17). These fluctuations occur for a variety of reasons, as explained in paragraph 3.6 of the "European Community Finances" White Paper (Cm 6770, page 15).

The Government also participate in Council negotiations on the setting of the annual budget, where we seek to control budget growth in line with genuine needs and implementation capacity, and to focus spending where it adds most value and is most cost effective. This budget disciplined approach helps restrict the growth in UK contributions.

Of course most of the annual budget is pre-set by treaty obligations and multi-annual spending programmes. Furthermore the UK is but one of 25 member states. Decisions in the Council on the annual budget are taken by Qualified Majority, and the final budget must be agreed with the European Parliament. Nevertheless by working effectively with like-minded member states, the Government are able to influence the outcome.

In the last five years Council/EP negotiations have amended the Commission's preliminary draft budget (PDB) proposal and these figures are published annually in the "European Community Finances" White Paper.

Illegal Food Imports

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of passengers entering the UK each year with prohibited *(a)* products of animal origin and *(b)* fruit, vegetables and plant products in their luggage; [85612]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the amount of *(a)* meat and *(b)* fruit, vegetables and plant products entering the UK illegally in each of the last three years; [85613]

(3) how many seizures of prohibited *(a)* products of animal origin and *(b)* fruit, vegetables and plant products there were at UK ports and airports in each of the last six years, broken down by product type; and what weight of each type of product was seized in each year; [85614]

(4) what proportion of passengers searched by HM Revenue and Customs at UK ports and airports in each of the last six years were found to be carrying prohibited *(a)* products of animal origin and *(b)* fruit, vegetables and plant products in their luggage. [85615]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs' central records for POAO, fruit and vegetable and plant products seized by customs officers at ports and airports in Great Britain for the past three financial years are as follows:

Seizures of POAO, fruit, vegetable and plant products

	2003-04	2004-05	January to December 2005
Total number of seizures of POAO	15,316	25,286	22,597

Seizures of POAO, fruit, vegetable and plant products

	2003-04	2004-05	January to December 2005
Total weight of seized POAO items (kg)	174,206	216,889	175,435
Total number of seizures of fruit, vegetable and plant products	1,246	1,497	1,276
Total weight of fruit, vegetable and plant products seized (kg)	21,253	28,189	25,409

Types of POAO seizures

	2003-04	2004-05	January to December 2005
Number of meat seizures	6,473	10,792	9,890
Weight of meat seizures (kg)	70,083	77,087	57,562
Number of fish seizures	5,156	8,235	7,189
Weight of fish seizures (kg)	67,625	84,563	72,944
Number of dairy seizures	3,108	5,091	4,477
Weight of dairy seizures (kg)	27,564	40,265	35,667
Number of honey seizures	530	1,168	1,041
Weight of honey seizures (kg)	8,934	14,975	9,262

Information on POAO seizures made prior to April 2003 can be found in DEFRA's Annual Review of Controls on Imports of Animal Products last published in July 2005.

HMRC do not produce estimates on the amount of illegal meat imported into the UK. Such estimates are held by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA).

HMRC make no estimates of the proportion of passengers entering the UK each year with POAO and fruit, vegetables and plant products in their luggage.

Income Tax

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income tax was paid on average per household in each of the last three financial years; and what estimate he has made of the average amount of tax which will be paid in 2006-07. [85394]

Dawn Primarolo: Information can be found on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website in table 14, "Average incomes, taxes and benefits by decile groups of all households" in the article "The effects of taxes and benefits on household income" from the ONS' Economic Trends publications.

For 2004-05:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/economic_trends/ET_May_Francis_Jones.pdf

For 2003-04:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/taxesbenefits200304/taxesbenefits200304.pdf

For 2002-03:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/economic_trends/ET607Lakin.pdf

Similar information for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is not yet available.

Malawi

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has visited Malawi since 1997; and what the outcome was of each visit. [82306]

John Healey *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* I understand that the Chancellor has never visited Malawi.

Modern Apprenticeship Taskforce

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times the Modern Apprenticeship Taskforce announced in the 2002 pre-Budget has convened. [84808]

John Healey: The Apprenticeship Task Force (ATF) met for the first time in April 2003 and subsequently seven times with the final meeting in May 2005. In April 2006, the Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network (AAN) was established to continue the work of the ATF.

National Lottery

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the tax yield to the Treasury on national lottery ticket sales has been in each year since it was launched. [84981]

John Healey: The information requested is publicly available on the UK Trade Info website (http://www.uktradeinfo.com).

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether VAT is charged on the construction of sports facilities funded by the national lottery. [84982]

John Healey: Under European agreements we may keep our zero rates, but may not extend them or introduce new ones.

VAT is chargeable on the construction of all new non-residential buildings, other than those that will be used at least 90 per cent. for a relevant charitable purpose—such as free-of-charge activities provided by a charity, a village hall or similar.

Where VAT is chargeable on construction and is not reclaimable through the VAT system, it is reasonable to expect this cost to be taken into account when an organisation makes a bid for national lottery funding.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether athletes funded by the national lottery are exempt from tax and national insurance contributions on the grants awarded to them. [84983]

John Healey: Whether an athlete is liable for income tax and national insurance contributions on a National Lottery Sports Fund grant will depend on whether he or she is earning an income as a self-employed person from competing in any sport (including any associated activities such as sponsorship or journalism). That is a question of fact to be determined in individual cases. Detailed guidance on these issues is provided in the

HMRC Business Income Manual (beginning at page BIM50650), available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/bimmanual/BIM50650.htm

Online Tax Reduction Claims

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many small companies have gone online and claimed a special tax reduction in each year since 2000. [84817]

John Healey: The number of small companies that have submitted their Employer's Annual Returns online and a "special tax reduction" has been made as follows:

Return for year to 5 April	
2000	0
2001	1,400
2002	0
2003	0
2004	0
2005	900,000

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85211]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers endeavour to answer parliamentary questions promptly wherever possible. Of the 173 written questions which were awaiting answer on 10 July, 119 had been received at least a fortnight previously and 85 of these questions had been received at least three weeks previously.

Treasury Ministers had answered 5,252 questions in the present session up to 10 July. For the Treasury's performance in answering written questions within the timescales set by the House, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1724-5W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer Question *(a)* 38754, *(b)* 46531, *(c)* 62788, *(d)* 63040, *(e)* 63323, *(f)* 72367, *(g)* 75746, *(h)* 75752, *(i)* 75754, *(j)* 75747, *(k)* 75748, *(l)* 75756, *(m)* 75751, *(n)* 75757, *(o)* 75755, *(p)* 75768, *(q)* 75769, *(r)* 75775, *(s)* 75776, *(t)* 75780, *(u)* 75783, *(v)* 75784, *(w)* 75789, *(x)* 75817, *(y)* 75818, *(z)* 75842, *(aa)* 76207, *(bb)* 76418, *(cc)* 76419, *(dd)* 76421, *(ee)* 76422, *(ff)* 76423, *(gg)* 76425, *(hh)* 76426, *(ii)* 76429, *(jj)* 76430, *(kk)* 76431, *(ll)* 76432, *(mm)* 76470, *(nn)* 76471, *(oo)* 76474, *(pp)* 76475, *(qq)* 76476, *(rr)* 76478, *(ss)* 76480, *(tt)* 76481, *(uu)* 76482, *(vv)* 76483, *(ww)* 76484, *(xx)* 76485, *(yy)* 76487, *(zz)* 76488, *(aaa)* 76853, *(bbb)* 76854, *(ccc)* 76870, *(ddd)* 76946, *(eee)* 76994, *(fff)* 76995 and *(ggg)* 76996, on tax credits, tabled by the hon. Member for Yeovil; what the reasons are for the time taken to reply in each case; and what guidance his Department applies on the length of time that should be taken to answer. [85763]

Dawn Primarolo: Question 38754 was a duplicate of the hon. Member's question 38697, which was answered on 10 January, and as such was withdrawn by the Table Office and never appeared in the Questions Book. Some of the other questions concerned have already been answered. Those that have not will be answered as soon as possible.

Treasury Ministers endeavour to answer questions within the timescales set by the House. The provision of timely answers depends in part upon the number of questions the Department is dealing with. The Treasury has answered 554 questions from the hon. Gentleman in the present Session, the great majority of which have concerned tax credits.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many written submissions the Government have received to the consultation on Planning Gain Supplement; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each submission. [85539]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 6 and 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1105W and 2417W respectively.

Population Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to change the methods of collecting local authority population statistics to take account of immigration from EU accession countries in the period since May 2004; and if he will make a statement. [85001]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer plans to review the methods of collecting local authority population statistics in order to take account of immigration from EU accession countries in the period since May 2004. (85001)

Migration of accession country citizens to and from the UK is captured via existing data sources that are used to estimate population change. For population estimation purposes, the definition of a migrant is someone who changes their country of usual residence for a period of at least a year which is the UN recommended definition of a long term migrant. The 2005 mid-year population estimates, due to be published on 24 August 2006, will therefore include an estimate of the number of long term immigrants from the EU accession countries, based on the UN definition.

It is recognised that information about short-term migrants is needed, both nationally and at local levels, for policy and planning purposes and for service provision. In May of this year, ONS set up an Inter-departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics. The Task Force will report to me by the end of August, making recommendations on timely improvements that could be made to the estimates of migration and migrant populations in the United Kingdom, both nationally and at local level.

ONS are also carrying out an extensive programme of work titled Improving Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS) Project which is designed to investigate improvements to the population and migration statistics produced by ONS. Further information on this work can be found at: www.statistics.gov.uk/IMPS. In particular:

The IMPS programme of research is taking forward recommendations from the National Statistics Quality Review (NSQR) into International Migration. The quality review made recommendations for improving the estimation of total migration flows to and from the UK and the allocation of international migration to local areas. This work includes investigating administrative sources that may be used in producing or quality assuring the international migration estimates (such as the Worker Registration Scheme data); investigating potential sources of information about short-term migrants and making improvements to the current source of information on international migrants, the International Passenger Survey (IPS).

The latest Progress Report on taking forward the recommendations of the NSQR on International Migration can be found at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp

Also, as part of the IMPS programme, ONS are conducting Local Authority case studies. These aim to get a better understanding, from a local perspective, of the administrative data sources that are currently used in the population estimation procedure. They will also investigate any other high quality sources that the local areas use themselves for population purposes. The local areas selected for these studies are ones that are known to have reasons which make their population difficult to estimate, e.g. those with a high volume of migratory moves. It is intended that these studies will contribute towards the improvement of both internal and international migration statistics.

Sniffer Dogs

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meat detector sniffer dogs were employed at each UK *(a)* port and *(b)* airport in each of the last six years. [85611]

Dawn Primarolo: Meat detection dogs were introduced by DEFRA in 2002, and were transferred to HMRC in 2003. The number of animal origin detector dogs used at ports and airports in Great Britain since 2002 is in the following table:

	Number of dogs
2002	2
2003	2
2004	6
2005	10
2006	9 (+2 in training)

These dogs are employed on a mobile basis across Great Britain.

We cannot disclose further information about the deployment of the dogs as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HMRC controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85193]

John Healey: Since October 2005, two statutory instruments sponsored by HM Treasury have been reported by the JCSI as defective:

One in its report of 2 November 2005, and

One in its report of 8 November 2005.

In addition one instrument sponsored by HM Revenue and Customs was so reported in the Committee's report of 1 February 2006.

Taskforce on Migration Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the taskforce on migration statistics to report to Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [85002]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Taskforce on Migration Statistics to report to Ministers. (85002)

The aim of the Task Force is to report to me, as National Statistician, by the end of August, making recommendations on timely improvements that could be made to the estimates of migration and migrant populations in the United Kingdom, both nationally and at local level. I will report to Ministers in October, after the Parliamentary recess.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of abolishing the family element of the child tax credit and giving equivalent support through child benefit; and if he will make a statement. [84908]

Dawn Primarolo: Child tax credit (CTC) includes a family element of £545 per year. It also includes a baby addition at a rate of a further £545 per year for families for periods when they are responsible for a child aged under one year. Equivalent payments are made to families receiving their child support via income support or jobseeker's allowance. Abolishing these elements would reduce expenditure on CTC by around £3.3 billion per year, based on 2004-05 awards. The extra child benefit expenditure resulting from adding the weekly equivalents to the rate for the eldest child would be around £4.3 billion per year. Therefore, the net cost would be £1 billion per year.

The recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation report "What will it take to end child poverty?" suggested that the child tax credit was probably the most cost-effective way of reducing child poverty. To achieve the same effect by raising child benefit would be up to three times as expensive.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many frauds involving claims for tax credits have been found to be based on false identities in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how much was paid in respect of fraudulent claims based on false identities in each year. [58999]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 557W, on tax credits, (1) how much had been paid out to the 22,284 claims in payment that were stopped; on what dates he met the Paymaster General to discuss the problem of tax credit fraud; how many calls to the helpline have been received where fraud is suspected; and if he will commission an independent review into tax credit fraud; [46531]

(2) how many tax credit claims in payment have been stopped since June 2004 because of fraud or suspected fraud; and if he will make a statement; [62788]

(3) how many employees of Network Rail had their identities used in tax credit fraud in 2005-06; what the cost to the Exchequer was; and if he will make a statement; [63323]

(4) what his estimate is of the scale of identity fraud in relation to tax credits; how many tax credits staff have been involved in identity fraud since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement; [72367]

(5) what recent action his Department has taken to reduce the level of tax credit fraud; [75756]

(6) what his latest estimate is of the cost of tax credit fraud for each quarter from April 2003 to April 2006; and if he will make a statement; [75757]

(7) what his latest estimate is of the number of people who experienced identity fraud as a result of tax credits fraud in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 to date; and if he will make a statement; [75768]

(8) what his latest estimate is of the level of (a) fraud and (b) error in respect of tax credit payments in (i) 2003-04 and (ii) 2004-05; and if he will make a statement; [75784]

(9) when he plans to publish the final assessment of tax credit fraud for 2003-04; and if he will make a statement; [75818]

(10) what his latest estimates are of the number of cases of tax credit fraud in each reporting period since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement; [76422]

(11) if he will make a statement on the level of fraud in claims for the childcare tax credit; [76483]

(12) how many tax credit claims have been stopped due to fraud and suspicion of fraud in each month from January to May; and if he will make a statement; [76487]

(13) if he will make a statement on tax credit fraud by people claiming as lone parents; [76423]

(14) what assessment he has made of the level of tax credit fraud by people claiming disabled worker status; [76853]

(15) what information on tax credit fraud his Department has made available to the National Audit Office since 1 January; and if he will make a statement; [76995]

(16) how many planned measures to reduce tax credit fraud had not been implemented as at 1 June 2006; and if he will make a statement; [76946]

(17) on what date he sent the National Audit Office estimates of tax credit fraud and error for 2003-04 based upon the assessment of a sample of 4,700 cases; [78154]

(18) whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers have seen (i) drafts and (ii) a final version of the HM Revenue and Customs report into tax credit fraud and error which was due to be published in spring 2006; and if he will make a statement; [78155]

(19) what his latest estimate is of the breakdown between *(a)* fraud, *(b)* official error and *(c)* claimant error in the existing estimates for tax credit fraud and error; and if he will make a statement; [78389]

(20) if he will publish the report received by the Paymaster General in June 2005 on suspected fraudulent activity in the tax credit system; and if he will make a statement. [78408]

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether randomised sample tax credit cases are tested to ensure residency criteria are complied with. [80560]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) and the hon. Members for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) and for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) to the statement I made to the House on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1281-82. I refer them also to the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits: Error and fraud statistics 2003-04" and "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits", available on the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm., and to "HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts: The Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report", part 2, available at http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/05-06/05061159.htm.

Tax Rebates (IT Equipment)

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many small companies have claimed a tax rebate on the cost of purchasing computers or investing in information technology in each year since 2000. [84816]

Dawn Primarolo: Small companies are able to claim tax relief in the form of capital allowances for expenditure on a wide range of assets. Claims for capital allowances are not broken down to the level of detail required for firm estimates of the number of small companies investing in computers or information technology specifically.

Tax Receipts (Energy)

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the total tax receipts relating to energy in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2003. [84973]

Dawn Primarolo: Receipts from taxes on energy are published by the Office for National Statistics in table 3.1 of the Environmental Accounts that can be found at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_environment/EAMay06.pdf.

Taxable Homecare Allowance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* estimate the total cost of introducing a taxable homecare allowance of £150 per week to all

families with one child under the age of three and £50 for each additional child under three net of the abolition of the working tax credit and child tax credit schemes and *(b)* assess the likely impact on child poverty of introducing such a scheme; and if he will make a statement. [85797]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available except at disproportionate cost.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Access to Work Scheme

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82225]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not collect information about the Access to Work scheme in the form requested centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since 2003, my Department has provided assistance for its disabled staff from its own reasonable adjustments fund. This fund has assisted over 500 staff.

Adult Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many colleges have made representations to the Department in the last 12 months concerning *(a)* adult education courses being cut and *(b)* places on such courses being reduced due to funding pressures. [81698]

Bill Rammell: Our records for the last 12 months indicate that we have received 221 letters from MPs on a range of FE funding issues including proposed changes to adult courses. Some letters from MPs include correspondence forwarded from FE college principals and in addition to these letters we have received 18 letters directly from FE college principles on FE funding issues.

We do not have records of any representations made in person by or on behalf of colleges. However, both I and my colleagues have regular meetings with providers and stakeholders including representative organisations such as the Association of Colleges and the Association of Learning Providers about adult education.

Bullying

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of bullying were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [85542]

Jim Knight: We are unable to provide this information because we do not collect these data centrally. However, individual schools may record incidents of bullying and some local authorities keep records for their own area, which we welcome as best practice within our anti-bullying guidance to schools, "Don't Suffer in Silence".

Since 2003-04, however, we have collected data on the reasons for exclusions from schools. In the 2004-05 academic year, 130 pupils were permanently excluded and 7,680 were given fixed period exclusions for bullying. This information comes from the Statistical First Release on "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusion from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England, 2004/05".

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of bullying of teachers by *(a)* their peers and *(b)* management have been reported in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [85433]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills does not record the information that my hon. Friend has requested. Bullying of teachers by anyone is unacceptable. Teachers who feel that they have been subjected to bullying should report incidents to their employer and, where appropriate, their professional association immediately.

Chat Rooms

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he had with the Home Department on vetting chat room moderators on the internet prior to the publication of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill. [84123]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* There has been a series of discussions between DfES and Home Office officials about the provisions in the Bill for vetting chat room moderators. These discussions have also included representatives of the industry. They have been helpful in clarifying the extent of the vetting requirement.

Children Leaving Care

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of young people who left care in the last 12 months in West Lancashire constituency are in education, training or employment. [83538]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the proportion of young people who left care in the last 12 months who are in education, training or employment is not collected by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). However, the following table shows information on care leavers on their 19th birthday who were looked after in their 17th year and is available at national level and for the local authority of Lancashire. Information is not available at constituency level.

Activity on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 2002 aged 16 (in their 17th year) or over in the year ending 31 March 2005 [1,2]

Numbers and percentages

	Care leavers on 19th birthday	*In education, training or employment*	*Percentage in education, training or employment*
England (National)	5,200	3,100	59

Activity on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 2002 aged 16 (in their 17th year) or over in the year ending 31 March 2005 [1,2]

Numbers and percentages

	Care leavers on 19th birthday	*In education, training or employment*	*Percentage in education, training or employment*
Lancashire (local authority)	100	45	47

[1] *Source:*
DfES—Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2003-04 covered all looked after children. Excerpt from Table 22 of the Statistical Volume on Children looked after by Local Authorities Year Ending 31 March 2005—Volume 2: Local Authorities

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Note:
To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 to the nearest 10 otherwise. At local authority level, data are rounded to the nearest 5.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average age of children leaving care was in West Lancashire constituency in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [83539]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the average age of children leaving care in Lancashire in 2004 and 2005. Information at constituency level is not collected centrally.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2004 and 2005 by average age at end of latest period of care [1,2,3]

year:month

	2003-04	*2004-05*
England (National)		
Average age at end of stay (yr:mth)	10:7	10:9
Lancashire (local authority)		
Average age at end of stay (yr:mth)	11:2	10:6

[1] *Source:*
DfES—Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2003-04 covered all looked after children.

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[3] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 to the nearest 10 otherwise.
At local authority level data are rounded to the nearest 5.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children left care in West Lancashire constituency in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005; and how many have left in 2006. [83541]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the number of children leaving care in Lancashire in 2004 and 2005. Information for 2006 will be available at local authority level in March 2007. Information at constituency level is not collected centrally.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2004 and 2005 by average age at end of latest period of care [1,2]

Number

	2003-04	*2004-05*
England (national)	25,800	25,600
Lancashire (local authority)	525	515

[1] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[2] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, to the nearest 10 otherwise. At local authority level data are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
DfES—Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2003-04 covered all looked after children.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people in West Lancashire who left care in 2005 stayed in *(a)* their own house, *(b)* with friends and *(c)* in hostel or bed and breakfast accommodation. [83555]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on young people who left care in 2005 is not available by the breakdown requested. However, the following table shows how many young people in Lancashire who left care in 2005 had as their last placement, a placement in *(a)* an independent living, *(b)* with own parents and *(c)* in home and hostels. Note that a placement in independent living includes staying in a flat, or staying in lodgings without supported staff, staying in a bed and breakfast and finally staying with friends. Information at constituency level is not collected centrally.

Children who ceased to be looked after in 2005 whose last placement was in independent livings, with own parents or in homes and hostels[1]

Number

	Placements[2]				
	All children[3]	*Independent livings*[4]	*Own parents*[5]	*Homes and hostels*[6]	*Others*[7]
England (national)	25,600	1,500	2,500	2,500	19,100
Lancashire (local authority)	515	25	65	80	340

[1] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[2] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, to the nearest 10 otherwise. At local authority level data are rounded to the nearest 5. As a consequence of our rounding and suppression, figures may not sum to the total.

[3] Total number of children looked after who left care in 2005.

[4] Independent livings include in flat or lodgings without formal support staff, or in bedsit, B&B, or with friends.

[5] Own parents means placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility.

[6] Homes and hostels inside and outside local authority boundary.
[7] "Others" include looked after children placed for adoption, in foster placement with relatives or friends, in other foster placements provided by the local authority or provided by an agency, in residential employment, in secure units, in residential accommodation not subject to regulation, in other residential care home, in schools, in temporary placements, children missing from placements, children missing from care and other placements not listed above.
Source:
DfES—Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2003-04 covered all looked after children.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support services are available to young people leaving care in West Lancashire to help them deal with the financial and practical aspects of independent living. [83556]

Mr. Dhanda: Services to care leavers in Lancashire are provided directly by Lancashire county council. Services for care leavers in West Lancashire are co-ordinated by the county's south area leaving care team which supports young people who live in a wide area, from Skelmersdale to the boundaries of Preston and Southport.

Every care leaver must have a pathway plan based on an assessment of their personal needs, setting out the services that will be necessary to support them to greater independence. Leaving care services in the West Lancashire area draw on a wide range of professional staff to contribute to the support of individual care leavers including foster carers, children's home staff, social workers, specialist leaving care staff, Connexions staff and specialist welfare rights and housing staff. Care leavers in West Lancashire also have opportunities to take up work experience arranged by the Looked After Children Employment Skills (LACES) project.

The exact level of financial support provided to any care leaver will be recorded in the individual's pathway plan. Up until the age of eighteen, the local authority will usually be his/her primary source of income. Lancashire, as is the case for other local authorities, is responsible for funding accommodation, maintenance and other expenses (e.g. travel and leisure costs). Once care leavers reach 18, they are entitled to have access to the same mainstream arrangements for obtaining financial help as other young people. It will be the role of their leaving care personal adviser to assist them to access this help. However Lancashire, as the responsible local authority, has a continuing duty to provide assistance, for as long as the young person remains in an approved programme, with the costs of education or training.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* leaving-care workers and *(b)* personal advisors are available to young people leaving care in West Lancashire constituency; and how regularly they have contact with individual clients on average. [83557]

Mr. Dhanda: Services to care leavers in Lancashire are provided directly by Lancashire county council. Services for care leavers in West Lancashire are provided by the south area leaving care team. This team comprises a manager, one qualified social worker, one support worker, two leaving care co-ordinators and an administrator. Two members on this team are specifically available to provide support as leaving care personal advisers.

The level of contact that is maintained with each individual care leaver depends on their personal needs. In Lancashire, where young people entitled to care leaving services continue to remain looked after by the local authority, their social workers must visit at least every three months. However, when young people are being actively prepared to leave care, contact will be far more frequent than this and where a young person requires intensive support, contact might take place several times a week. The team estimates that, on average, all care leavers in West Lancashire are seen at least fortnightly.

Young people are also able to make contact with the leaving care team without formal appointments. They make regular contact by phone, occasionally write letters or e-mail and increasingly prefer to communicate by text message. All young people have their social worker's mobile phone number and if they leave a message in working hours their social worker will aim to respond the same day.

Children's Centres

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been spent on children's centres in each year since 2003. [84789]

Beverley Hughes: The delivery of first phase children's centres began in 2003-04, with expenditure during this period totalling £2.2 million capital and £1.9 million revenue. For the period 2004-06, local authorities were allocated £111 million revenue and £315 million capital funding for children's centres.

In addition to this funding, we allocated £313 million capital to Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLP) in 2004-06 and we expect that most of this budget would have been used to facilitate SSLPs to become children's centres.

Class Sizes

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of class sizes in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [84635]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: average size of one teacher classes 1997-2006—England

	Maintained primary		Maintained secondary	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
1997[2]	27.8	26.3	21.7	21.5
1998[3]	27.9	26.6	21.7	21.7
1999[4]	27.7	26.3	21.8	21.9
2000	27.4	25.9	22.0	22.0
2001	26.9	25.4	22.0	22.1
2002	26.6	24.9	21.9	22.0
2003	26.6	24.9	21.9	22.0
2004	26.5	25.0	21.8	22.0

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: average size of one teacher classes 1997-2006—England

	Maintained primary		Maintained secondary	
	Urban areas	Rural areas	Urban areas	Rural areas
2005	26.5	25.0	21.6	21.9
2006	26.6	25.0	21.4	21.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] Excludes three primary schools for which there is no urban/rural indicator
[3] Excludes six primary schools for which there is no urban/rural indicator
[4] Excludes three primary and three secondary schools for which there is no urban/rural indicator.
Source:
Schools Census

Deaf Children

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of deaf 11-year-olds achieved level 4 at Key Stage 2 in *(a)* reading, *(b)* writing and *(c)* mathematics in (i) West Lancashire and (ii) Lancashire in each year since 1996. [83559]

Mr. Dhanda: We cannot provide information relating specifically to deaf pupils. However, in 2004 information on type of Special Educational Need (SEN) was collected for the first time via the Pupil Level Annual School Census for those pupils at "School Action Plus" and with statements of SEN. The "type of SEN" indicator includes a category for those pupils with Hearing Impairment, and information for the pupils who have Hearing Impairment listed as their primary SEN is provided in the following table. Other pupils with statements of SEN or School Action Plus who may have a hearing impairment but for whom this is not listed as their primary SEN are not included in this table.

KS2 achievements for 11-year-old pupils[1] at School Action Plus and with statements of SEN, with hearing impairments as their Primary SEN, in all maintained schools, 2003/04 to 2004/05[2]

	Lancashire LEA[3]		England	
	2004/05	2003/04	2004/05	2003/04
Number of eligible 11-year-old pupils[4] in reading	48	31	1,486	970
Number achieving level 4+ in reading[5]	30	17	911	478
Percentage achieving level 4+ in reading	62.5	54.8	61.3	49.3
Number of eligible 11-year-old pupils[4] in writing	48	31	1,486	970
Number achieving level 4+ in writing[5]	24	8	565	309
Percentage achieving level 4+ in writing	50.0	25.8	38.0	31.9
Number of eligible 11-year-old pupils[4] in maths	48	31	1,503	975
Number achieving level 4+ in maths[5]	29	15	793	426
Percentage achieving level 4+ in maths	60.4	48.4	52.8	43.7

[1] Number of KS2 eligible pupils with a valid result.
[2] Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years.
[3] Figures for West Lancashire have not been provided as the number of pupils involved is too small.
[4] Numbers relate to pupils with a statement of SEN or School Action Plus and with hearing impairment as their primary SEN who were eligible for the KS2 test.
[5] Maths results are checked by schools as part of the checking exercise for the Primary School Achievement and Attainment Tables. Reading and writing results are not checked by schools.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the unnumbered Command Papers produced by his Department in each Session since 1976; by what means (a) hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81293]

Bill Rammell: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to Explanatory Notes to Treaties, Explanatory Memorandum to Statutory Instruments and some Treasury Minutes. All other documents are published in the numbered Command Papers series.

A complete list of unnumbered Command Papers can only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Copies of all unnumbered Command Papers are made available via the Vote Office.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 644W, on departmental staff, how many members of staff in his Department have had two or more periods of sickness of less than five days in both of the years for which he provided figures. [84034]

Mr. Dhanda: In 2005,1,264 members of staff had two or more periods of sickness of less than five days; in 2004, the number was 1,389. In addition, there were 1,461 in 2003.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 644W, on departmental staff, why there are no records of the number of periods of sickness absence of less than five days prior to 2004. [84035]

Mr. Dhanda: I am now able to give the information requested for 2003. It is set out in the following table.

2003

Periods of sick leave of less than five days	Number of staff
2	677
3	384
4	201

Periods of sick leave of less than five days	2003 Number of staff
5+	219
Total	1,481

Edison Schools

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* meetings Ministers have held and *(b)* correspondence Ministers have exchanged with Edison Schools in the last two years. [81716]

Jim Knight: Lord Andrew Adonis had a breakfast meeting with Chris Whittle of Edison Schools on 1 December. To the best of our knowledge, there have been no other meetings or correspondence between Ministers and Edison Schools. A visit was made to Thorpe Bay School, Southend, by the then Secretary of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly) in January 2006. Thorpe Bay School has benefited from school improvement support from Edison, but we are not aware that the Secretary of State met any Edison representative on this occasion.

Education Funding

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total recurrent funding per pupil was in real terms for each local education authority in each year from 1998-99 to 2006-07. [84909]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

Environmental Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81182]

Mr. Dhanda: The New Framework for Sustainable Development in Government (the framework) targets mandate Government to have Environmental Management Systems based, or modelled upon, a recognised system.

The Department has commissioned consultants to introduce a Sustainable Operations Management System (SOMS) into all DfES HQ buildings in this financial year.

The new system will be based upon the ISO 14001:2004 standard but is not currently required to achieve accreditation to that standard.

Further Education

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from the London borough of Bexley applied for *(a)* university, *(b)* college and *(c)* other further education places in (i) 2003-04 and (ii) 2004-05. [84875]

Bill Rammell: Information on applicants to undergraduate courses is collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The figures cover students who apply to full-time courses via UCAS, but they exclude students who apply to part-time courses and those who apply for full-time courses directly to institutions.

Data on the number of students living in the London borough of Bexley applying to full time undergraduate courses through UCAS are given in the table.

There is no comparable central organisation which processes applications for further education courses; students apply directly to the relevant FE institution.

Applicants from the London borough of Bexley applying through UCAS for full time undergraduate courses at UK institutions

Year of entry	Applicants
2003 entry	1,314
2004 entry	1,273

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

In terms of the students from Bexley actually enrolling on courses, the available information covering enrolments at English further education institutions and full-time and part-time undergraduate entrants at UK higher education institutions is given in the table.

Students[1] from the London borough of Bexley at further and higher education institutions

Type of Institution	2003/04	2004/05
Learners at FE institutions:		
General FE and tertiary	4,880	9,170
Sixth form college	30	90
Other college	245	370
External institution	1,495	2,940
Entrants to HE institutions	2,060	2,135

[1] Covers students on both full-time and part-time courses.
Council (LSC) Individualised Learner record (ILR).
HE entrant figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis.
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record data and the Learning and Skills Council.

Gap Years

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research his Department has commissioned on a potential link between the taking of gap years and university non-completion rates. [84639]

Bill Rammell: The Department has not commissioned any research in recent years which was specifically focused on the potential link between taking gap years and university non-completion rates. However, there have been two studies in the past four years which provide relevant information.

The first, "Dropping Out: A Study of Early Leavers from Higher Education" (DfES, RR386, December 2002), surveyed around 1,500 early leavers from HE. Just under a quarter cited "mistaken choice of course" as the most important influence on withdrawal. The survey also noted that:

"Many respondents felt that they had been pushed by their schools to enter university. They instead felt that they would have benefited from a year out of education to think about their choices more carefully and to enter HE with greater maturity."

The second, "Review of Gap Year Provision" (DfES, RR555, July 2004), provided a comprehensive summary

and analysis of existing literature and research into gap years. It noted a range of benefits of gap years to individuals, employers and society. These included "improved educational performance". However, it did identify a couple of studies which suggested that

"a break in academic work and routine may have negative effects on motivation and progress."

It noted that some university careers support services make reference to this and offer advice on how gap year applicants might address this on arriving at university.

GCSE

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of pupils achieved nine or more grade A passes at GCSE in each year since 1997, broken down by type of secondary school. [84246]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving nine or more GCSEs at grade A or A* in each year since 1997, broken down by school type[2].

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Community School	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.3
Voluntary Aided School	2.3	2.4	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.8
Voluntary Controlled school	2.7	3.0	3.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.9
Foundation School	2.8	3.4	3.3	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.1
City Technology College	2.5	2.4	2.5	3.8	3.8	4.4	4.3	5.2	5.3
City Academy	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.3	0.2
Community Special School	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Foundation Special School	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Non Maintained Special School	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5
Independent Special School[3]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Independent School	14.7	16.9	18.6	20.1	20.1	20.8	21.6	21.7	22.4
Hospital School and PRU[4]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All Schools	2.6	3.0	3.4	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.3	5.1

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Institution type as recorded through secondary school achievement and attainment tables.
[3] Independent special school approved to take pupils with special educational needs. [4] Including community and foundation hospital schools and pupil referral units.

Gifted and Talented Students

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children from each school in Brent are members of the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth Scheme. [85429]

Jim Knight: The number of members of National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) in each maintained school in Brent is set out in the following table. Membership of NAGTY is available to pupils aged 11-19 in the top 5 per cent. of the ability range.

Brent local authority area schools	*NAGTY members*
Academy	
Capital City Academy	18
Secondary—community	
Wembley High Technology College	28
Secondary—foundation	
Alperton Community School	2
Claremont High School	0
Copeland (A Specialist Science Community College)	18
John Kelly Boys' Technology College	0
John Kelly Girls' Technology College	48
Kingsbury High School	32
Preston Manor High School	92
Queen's Park Community School	66
Secondary—voluntary aided	
Cardinal Hinsley High School	0
Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College	36
JFS School	5
St. Gregory RC High School	68
Total NAGTY membership in Brent	413

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what provision his Department makes for the development of gifted and talented students. [84800]

Jim Knight: The Department has a wide-ranging strategy in place to improve gifted and talented education with national support provided by the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) at the University of Warwick. The recent White Paper "Higher Standards, Better Standards, Better Schools for All" sets out the next stages of this programme, including development of a national register of gifted and talented pupils and an expert teacher in every secondary school and for every group of primary schools.

Individual Learning Accounts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on individual learning accounts in each year from the scheme's inception to its closure; how many accounts were set up in each year; and if he will make a statement. [85556]

Phil Hope: As at November 2001, some 2.6 million individuals in England had opened an individual learning account through the national framework launched in September 2000. Of these, over 347,000 were opened during 2000. (Prior to the launch of the national framework, over 200,000 members applied via TECs, of whom, nearly 80,000 transferred their membership to the national framework and are included in the overall total.)

Total expenditure to the point of closure was £261 million, the majority representing payments to learning providers but also including Capita contract payments, development pilots and other related programme costs. The Department paid learning providers £223 million from the inception of the scheme to its closure. £31.1 million of this was paid during 2000 and £191.9 million during 2001.

Key design principles of the national ILA framework were to encourage more people into learning by helping to tackle the financial barriers to learning and to allow people to take responsibility for their own learning. ILAs were not intended to be a guarantee of quality for learning or learning providers. Nevertheless, many account holders who used their account to book a course stated that the learning met or exceeded their expectations (York Consulting Research Report 295). The Government initially made the decision to withdraw the programme in light of an increasing number of complaints. Subsequently, Ministers closed the programme early because of the compelling and growing evidence of abuse.

Kings Copse Primary School

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria have been taken into account in the advice of the school playing field advisory panel not to redevelop the Kings Copse primary school, in Hedge End, Southampton; what account was taken of educational provision for Hedge End as a whole; and if he will make a statement. [85949]

Jim Knight: The Government remain committed to protecting school playing fields. In this respect there is a general presumption against the need to change the current pattern of school playing field provision by disposal or change of use. However, some playing fields can be genuinely surplus and it can make sense to allow them to be sold and the proceeds used to provide new or improved sports or education facilities.

In the first instance, applications to dispose of school playing fields are considered by the independent school playing fields advisory panel. Each application is considered against strict criteria. Briefly, these fall under three headings which can be described as schools' needs, community use, and finance.

In this particular case, the panel considered that Hampshire county council's application in respect of Kings Copse primary school failed to demonstrate how the schools' needs and finance criteria would be met.

In accordance with normal procedure Hampshire county council will be given an opportunity to address the panel's concerns at its next meeting on 7 September 2006.

Learning and Skills Council

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of Learning and Skills Council funded learners aged over 19 years are studying for a *(a)* level 1, *(b)* level 2, *(c)* level 3, *(d)* level 4 and *(e)* other qualifications; and what proportion are not studying for a qualification. [81803]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funds learning which is (a) for externally accredited qualifications, (b) for qualifications which are not externally accredited (e.g. college certificated) and (c) non-qualification based.

It is possible to distinguish learning programmes by level—even where that learning is non-qualification based. That is shown in the table which gives the number (in thousands) and proportion of learners aged 19 and over on LSC funded Further Education (FE), Work Based Learning (WBL) and Adult and Community Learning (ACL —now know as personal and community development learning (PCDL)) provision in 2004-05.

Highest qualification level of learner	*WBL learners (thousand)*	*WBL (percentage)*	*FE learners (thousand)*	*FE (percentage)*	*ACL learners (thousand)*	*ACL (percentage)*
Level 1 and Entry	3	1	1,489	43	814	91
Level 2	118	52	968	28	58	7
Level 3	103	45	475	14	14	2
Level 4, 5 and HE	3	1	70	2	0	0
Level not specified	0	0	475	14	4	0

However, it is not possible to fully distinguish between qualification and non-qualification based learning across all LSC funded learning. Non-accredited learning is currently funded mainly through safeguard personal and community development funding (PCDL), but also within WBL and FE. In WBL, Entry to Employment (a programme of other training and life skills for learners not in employment) has been introduced in response to the Cassells Review of Modern Apprenticeships. Funding for internally certificated learning is also available through FE institutions. Additionally, courses co-financed with European funding are not necessarily qualification based.

However, in 2004-05 it is estimated that 39 per cent. of FE learners and 98 per cent. of PCDL learners were taking non-externally accredited courses (which could be either qualifications which are not externally accredited or non-qualification based).

Missing Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children born abroad have gone missing from local authority care in each of the last three years. [82617]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* Information about the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have been looked after from 2002 to 2005 and the numbers of these who have gone missing from their agreed care placement for more than 24 hours is shown in the following table.

Number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) looked after and number with at least one missing placement in the years ending 31 March 2003-05[1,2]

	Number of UASC looked after	*Number with at least one missing placement*[1]
2002-03	2,400	50
2003-04	2,900	70
2004-05	2,900	90

[1] A 'missing' placement is defined as a child being absent from their agreed placement for over 24 hours.
[2] Children looked after who went missing more than once in the years ending 31 March 2003 until 2005 were only counted once.
Notes:
1. Figures exclude any children whose asylum seeking status ceased before going missing.
2. For the purpose of preserving confidentiality, national figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

Local authorities may also be responsible for looking after other foreign nationals from time to time. Data about this group of children, in terms of missing from placement data by foreign country of birth, are not collected centrally.

Outdoor Learning

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) when he expects to publish guidance for schools on safety and education outside the classroom; [84748]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with teaching unions about outdoor learning and pupil safety. [84749]

Mr. Dhanda: We expect to publish the Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto in the new school term. It will contain information about good safety management, and references to other relevant documents. A number of teaching unions responded to the public consultation on the draft vision and aims for the Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto that ran from November 2005 to February 2006. We will consult them further on next steps in relation to safety guidance once the manifesto is published.

Out-of-school Clubs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been spent on out-of-school clubs as part of the National Childcare Strategy in each year since 1997; how many clubs received funding in each year; how often children attended such clubs in each year; and if he will make a statement. [85467]

Beverley Hughes: As part of the National Childcare Strategy, the Department has made funding available to local authorities since 1999 for childcare provision of a range of types, including out-of-school clubs. However, information on expenditure specifically for out-of-school clubs, or attendance at such clubs, is not held centrally.

Overseas Students

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from *(a)* mainland China, *(b)* Hong Kong, *(c)* Macao, *(d)* Taiwan and *(e)* Singapore are estimated to be studying in the United Kingdom. [84701]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table:

Students from Selected Countries[1] *Enrolled at UK Higher Education Institutions, 2004/05*

Country	*Number*
China (People's Republic of)	52,680
Hong Kong	10,780
Macao	145
Taiwan	5,880
Singapore	3,630

[1] Refers to the country of the student's permanent or home address prior to entry to the programme of study.
Notes:
1. Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record data.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85203]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's parliamentary question tracking system is unable to break down the data as requested. The answer could be supplied only at a disproportionate cost.

Departments aim to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day, and endeavour to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled.

Pathfinder Grants

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the value of Government pathfinder grants offered to Greater London local authorities was in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005, broken down by local authority. [84376]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the value of significant Government pathfinder grants offered to Greater London authorities by the DfES in 2004 and 2005. In some cases resource was allocated over two years and separate figures for the two years are not available.

Pathfinder grants made available to Greater London authorities by DfES in 2004-05 and 2005-06[1]

£

Local authority	Enterprise learning pathfinders[2] 2004-05	Key stage 2 language pathfinders[2] 2004-05	13-19 pathfinders[3] (academic year) 2004-05	2005-06	Building schools for the future pathfinders[4] 2005-06	Early support pathfinders 2004-06
Barking and Dagenham	0	88,150	0	0	0	200,000
Barnet	38,000	0	0	0	0	0
Bexley	3,500	0	0	0	0	0
Brent	36,200	0	0	0	0	0
Bromley	116,571	0	0	0	0	158,900
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	50,000	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing	0	0	0	0	0	200,000
Enfield	0	100,000	0	0	0	236,000
Greenwich	130,000	0	0	0	213,025,000	0
Hackney	185,000	0	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	18,000	0	0	0	0	0
Haringey	72,000	0	0	0	0	0
Harrow	0	0	384,778	0	0	159,000
Havering	11,000	0	0	0	0	235,000
Hillingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hounslow	110,940	0	0	0	0	0
Islington	0	0	369,084	242,000	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	76,770	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	15,000	0	0	0	0	0
Lewisham	10,200	0	250,000	0	98,985,000	0
Merton	24,000	0	0	0	0	200,000
Newham	64,500	0	265,000	0	0	0
Redbridge	63,400	0	0	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	159,165	0	0	0	0
Southwark	0	0	705,700	372,000	0	0
Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	294,000
Tower Hamlets	210,500	0	659,591	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	0	0	0	0	0	200,000
Wandsworth	75,000	0	0	0	0	0
Westminster	67,828	0	560,000	0	0	0
Total London	1,378,409	347,315	3,194,153	614,000	312,010,000	1,882,900

[1] No money was paid out for diversity pathfinders in either year.
[2] Pathfinder ended in 2004-05.
[3] Partly paid through Learning and Skills Council.
[4] Pathfinder began in 2005-06.
Notes:
1. Includes £116 million of PFI credits.
2. Includes £58 million of PFI credits.

Primary Teachers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether there is an oversupply of qualified primary school teachers. [86009]

Jim Knight: On a national basis there is no evidence of oversupply, but there will of course be differences between regions. The table shows that most regions do have vacancies for primary teachers.

A survey conducted by the Training and Development Agency for Schools this year among 6,590 newly qualified primary teachers showed that 95 per cent. had teaching jobs.

This Department periodically reviews the need for teachers in future years and this informs the number of training places that will be offered. The model takes account of such factors as falling pupil rolls, retirements and teachers returning to the profession after having children.

Table 4: Full-time vacancy[1] rates in LA maintained nursery and primary schools in England by grade and Government Office Region: January of each year

	Vacancies as a percentage of teachers in post[2]										*Number of vacancies*
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006 (p)*	*2006 (p)*
All vacancies	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	700
Grade[3,4]											
Head or Deputy/Assistant Head	0.9	1.4	13	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	280
Head [5]	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	130
Deputy head/Assistant head	1.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	150
Classroom teacher	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	420
Government Office Region											
North East	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	30
North West	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	60
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	70
East Midlands	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	50
West Midlands	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	70
East of England	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.7	1.6	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	90
London[5]	1.7	2.5	2.3	2.0	3.3	2.4	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	250
South East	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	70
South West	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	30
England excluding London	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	460
Total vacancies (numbers)	1,090	1,390	1,370	1,420	2,110	1,800	1,110	780	740	700	

(p) Provisional

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.

[2] Teachers in post include full-time qualified regular teachers in (or on secondment from) maintained nursery and primary schools, plus the primary portion of full-time regular divided service, peripatetic, advisory and miscellaneous teachers.

[3] The number of teachers in post by grade is from the 618g survey for 2001 onwards, previous years were estimated using the Database of Teacher Records.

[4] The role of assistant head was created in 2001.

[5] The 2006 vacancy rates for the inner and the outer London weighting areas are 1.3 per cent. and 0.6 per cent. respectively, (in 2005 they were 1.2 per cent and 0.8per cent). Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because of rounding.

Source:
618g survey

Private Finance Initiative

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills by what total amount private finance initiative projects, for which his Department is responsible, that went over budget did so in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [83651]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills does not itself undertake private finance initiative (PFI) projects. PFI projects for the provision of schools are delivered through contracts between local authorities and private sector contractors.

There are currently 100 such projects with signed contracts covering over 800 schools. The names, locations and other details of these schools can be accessed at www.teachernet.gov.uk/pfi.

A key aspect of the private finance initiative is that the risk of projects going over budget in the construction phase is transferred to the private sector contractor and we do not have information on any such costs that may have accrued to various private sector contractors for this reason. The public sector does not pay anything until the contracted services are available and thereafter payments are linked to satisfactory performance and availability.

School Meals

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to reduce the quantity of trans fats present in school meals; [84714]

(2) whether he has set a maximum limit for the amount of trans fats to be present in school meals. [84718]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* The School Meals Review Panel considered the need for a specific standard for trans-fatty acids to be included within their proposals, and concluded against imposing a specific standard for the following reasons:

Evidence shows that adult intakes of trans-fatty acids are well below the maximum threshold level for health;

Adopting a standard to limit the fat content of school meals would contribute towards controlling levels of trans-fatty acids; and

Food-based standards would include restrictions on foods which tend to be higher in trans-fatty acids (for example, savoury snacks and confectionery).

The School Food Trust supported the panel's view that their proposals would sufficiently control trans-fatty acids, and that there was no need to develop a specific standard for trans-fatty acids which had the potential to complicate the new standards unnecessarily, making it more difficult for schools and local authorities to implement them.

School Places Appeals

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many appeals have been made by parents to Milton Keynes council in each of the last five years over the award of school places; and how many of these appeals were successful. [84918]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* The information requested is shown in the table.

Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to maintained primary and secondary schools—each academic year 2000-01 to 2004-05—Milton Keynes local authority area

	Maintained primary				
		Appeals heard		Appeals decided in parents favour	
	Admission appeals lodged by parents	Number[1]	Percentage	Number	Percentage[2]
2000/01	50	39	78.0	17	43.6
2001/02	132	87	65.9	25	28.7
2002/03	78	53	67.9	11	20.8
2003/04	80	60	75.0	20	33.3
2004/05	101	63	62.4	31	49.2

	Maintained secondary				
		Appeals heard		Appeals decided in parents favour	
	Admission appeals lodged by parents	Number	Percentage[1]	Number	Percentage[2]
2000/01	230	207	90.0	92	44.4
2001/02	125	90	72.0	29	32.2
2002/03	227	205	90.3	90	43.9
2003/04	200	170	85.0	50	29.4
2004/05	424	371	87.5	127	34.2

[1] Number of appeals heard by a committee expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals lodged by parents. [2] Number of appeals decided in parents' favour expressed as a percentage of the number of appeals heard by a committee. *Source:* Schools Census and Admission Appeals Survey

School Staff (Assaults)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many assaults on school staff were recorded in each local education authority in the last year for which figures are available; and what each figure represents in terms of assaults on staff per thousand pupils. [83989]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The number of assaults on school staff is not collected centrally.

For the academic year 2004/05, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include "physical assault against an adult". A local authority breakdown of the number of pupils who have been excluded from school (permanently or for a fixed period) for physical assault against an adult, together with total numbers of exclusions, is given in the following table.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]. Permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult[3] and total number of exclusions (all reasons) numbers and rates per thousand pupils 2004/05: by local authority area

			Permanent exclusions			
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Exclusions for physical assault against an adult	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	Total number of exclusions (all reasons)	Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]
	England	7,606,040	1,270	0.2	9,400	1.2
	North East	398,660	90	0.2	460	1.2
841	Darlington	15,404	[6]	[6]	30	2.2
840	Durham	75,863	16	0.2	90	1.2
390	Gateshead	28,840	10	0.3	30	1.1
805	Hartlepool	16,035	[6]	[6]	20	1.4
806	Middlesbrough	20,165	8	0.4	20	0.9
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	37,260	17	0.5	60	1.7
392	North Tyneside	30,600	[7]	[7]	30	0.9
929	Northumberland	50,547	9	0.2	70	1.4
807	Redcar and Cleveland	24,083	—	[7]	20	1.0
393	South Tyneside	23,762	12	0.5	40	1.9
808	Stockton-on-Tees	30,857	8	0.3	20	0.7
394	Sunderland	45,241	[6]	[6]	20	0.3
	North West	1,086,590	240	0.2	1,440	1.3
889	Blackburn with Darwen	24,603	[6]	[6]	30	1.2
890	Blackpool	21,190	9	0.4	60	2.8
350	Bolton	45,797	6	0.1	60	1.4

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]. Permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult[3] and total number of exclusions (all reasons) numbers and rates per thousand pupils 2004/05: by local authority area

			Permanent exclusions			
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	*Exclusions for physical assault against an adult*	*Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]*	*Total number of exclusions (all reasons)*	*Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]*
351	Bury	28,254	[6]	[6]	30	1.2
875	Cheshire	104,163	30	0.3	170	1.6
909	Cumbria	76,831	11	0.1	60	0.8
876	Halton	18,910	[6]	[6]	50	2.4
340	Knowsley	26,438	8	0.3	40	1.4
888	Lancashire	173,101	62	0.4	270	1.6
341	Liverpool	73,239	[6]	[6]	80	1.1
352	Manchester	65,644	27	0.4	80	1.3
353	Oldham	40,513	7	0.2	40	1.0
354	Rochdale	34,820	[7]	—	40	1.1
355	Salford	32,960	16	0.5	90	2.6
343	Sefton	45,132	[7]	[7]	30	0.7
342	St. Helens	28,272	0	0.0	[7]	—
356	Stockport	40,944	9	0.2	50	1.2
357	Tameside	36,731	12	0.3	60	1.7
358	Trafford	35,964	[6]	[6]	20	0.5
877	Warrington	32,137	6	0.2	50	1.4
359	Wigan	48,712	12	0.2	70	1.4
344	Wirral	52,231	[6]	[6]	60	1.2
	Yorkshire and the	806,660	150	0.2	840	1.0
370	Barnsley	34,496	[6]	[6]	[7]	[7]
380	Bradford	86,686	7	0.1	60	0.7
381	Calderdale	34,765	[7]	[7]	50	1.3
371	Doncaster	50,302	17	0.3	90	1.8
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	50,036	6	0.1	30	0.6
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City	39,262	34	0.9	80	2.1
382	Kirklees	63,113	8	0.1	60	1.0
383	Leeds	111,538	24	0.2	120	1.1
812	North East Lincolnshire	26,023	—	[7]	60	2.4
813	North Lincolnshire	25,047	0	0.0	0	0.0
815	North Yorkshire	88,139	9	0.1	60	0.7
372	Rotherham	45,113	7	0.1	30	0.6
373	Sheffield	75,753	16	0.2	100	1.3
384	Wakefield	52,231	[7]	[7]	50	1.0
816	York	24,159	—	[7]	40	1.7
	East Midlands	667,600	160	0.2	970	1.5
831	Derby	37,832	14	0.4	90	2.2
830	Derbyshire	115,455	19	0.2	140	1.2
856	Leicester	47,168	22	0.5	80	1.7
855	Leicestershire	96,577	20	0.2	130	1.4
925	Lincolnshire	102,884	20	0.2	180	1.8
928	Northamptonshire	103,694	34	0.3	140	1.3
892	Nottingham	38,195	17	0.4	70	1.9
891	Nottinghamshire	120,891	18	0.2	150	1.2
857	Rutland	4,907	0	0.0	0	0.0
	West Midlands	864,790	120	0.1	1,060	1.2
330	Birmingham	175,226	37	0.2	360	2.1
331	Coventry	49,307	[6]	[6]	10	0.1
332	Dudley	50,251	7	0.1	90	1.8
884	Herefordshire	24,005	7	0.3	30	1.1
333	Sandwell	50,581	[7]	—	70	1.3
893	Shropshire	40,761	[7]	[7]	40	0.9
334	Solihull	36,360	7	0.2	60	1.6
860	Staffordshire	128,800	20	0.2	140	1.1

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]. Permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult[3] and total number of exclusions (all reasons) numbers and rates per thousand pupils 2004/05: by local authority area

			Permanent exclusions			
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	*Exclusions for physical assault against an adult*	*Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]*	*Total number of exclusions (all reasons)*	*Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]*
861	Stoke-on-Trent	36,594	[6]	[6]	10	0.4
894	Telford and Wrekin	26,491	10	0.4	40	1.5
335	Walsall	48,005	[7]	—	30	0.5
937	Warwickshire	76,698	10	0.1	150	1.9
336	Wolverhampton	40,675	[6]	[6]	20	0.4
885	Worcestershire	81,031	[6]	[6]	30	0.3
	East of England	842,380	110	0.1	930	1.1
820	Bedfordshire	63,800	11	0.2	130	2.0
873	Cambridgeshire	77,582	[6]	[6]	10	0.1
881	Essex	201,078	45	0.2	200	1.0
919	Hertfordshire	174,931	12	0.1	240	1.4
821	Luton	31,075	—	[7]	30	1.0
926	Norfolk	113,477	[7]	[7]	100	0.8
874	Peterborough	28,680	[6]	[6]	30	1.0
882	Southend-on-Sea	27,270	[7]	[7]	40	1.4
935	Suffolk	101,555	20	0.2	150	1.5
883	Thurrock	22,936	—	—	20	0.9
	London	1,060,180	160	0.2	1,510	1.4
	Inner London	360,840	60	0.2	420	1.2
202	Camden	21,565	[6]	[6]	10	0.6
201	City of London[8]	224	n/a	n/a	[6]	[6]
204	Hackney	25,572	[7]	[7]	30	1.1
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	17,102	[6]	[6]	20	0.9
309	Haringey	33,565	7	0.2	30	0.8
206	Islington	22,694	[7]	[7]	10	0.4
207	Kensington and Chelsea	10,664	[7]	[7]	20	1.6
208	Lambeth	28,220	0	0.0	40	1.5
209	Lewisham	34,117	[6]	[6]	20	0.7
316	Newham	48,646	9	0.2	80	1.7
210	Southwark	33,760	6	0.2	40	1.1
211	Tower Hamlets	36,728	7	0.2	40	1.1
212	Wandsworth	28,286	—	[7]	50	1.9
213	Westminster	19,693	[6]	[6]	30	1.7
	Outer London	699,350	110	0.2	1,090	1.6
301	Barking and Dagenham	31,005	13	0.4	50	1.5
302	Barnet	45,939	13	0.3	60	1.2
303	Bexley	39,513	[7]	[7]	60	1.6
304	Brent	39,396	15	0.4	90	2.2
305	Bromley	46,894	[6]	[6]	60	1.2
306	Croydon	49,099	[7]	—	100	2.1
307	Ealing	41,644	7	0.2	80	1.9
308	Enfield	49,670	[6]	[6]	60	1.2
203	Greenwich	36,303	19	0.5	110	3.0
310	Harrow	28,772	[6]	[6]	50	1.8
311	Havering	36,568	—	—	40	1.1
312	Hillingdon	42,027	[7]	[7]	60	1.4
313	Hounslow	35,840	0	0.0	80	2.1
314	Kingston upon Thames	21,431	[6]	[6]	10	0.3
315	Merton	23,547	—	[7]	30	1.4
317	Redbridge	44,622	[7]	[7]	60	1.3
318	Richmond upon Thames	20,108	0	0.0	20	1.1
319	Sutton	31,277	[6]	[6]	30	0.8

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: Permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult[3] and total number of exclusions (all reasons) numbers and rates per thousand pupils 2004/05: by local authority area

		Permanent exclusions				
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	*Exclusions for physical assault against an adult*	*Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]*	*Total number of exclusions (all reasons)*	*Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]*
320	Waltham Forest[6]	35,692	n/a	n/a	60	1.7
	South East	1,161,570	160	0.1	1,400	1.2
867	Bracknell Forest	15,119	[6]	[6]	40	2.8
846	Brighton and Hove	29,961	11	0.4	40	1.2
825	Buckinghamshire	75,866	[7]	—	50	0.6
845	East Sussex	66,612	16	0.2	110	1.7
850	Hampshire	173,289	17	0.1	160	0.9
921	Isle of Wight	19,586	[6]	[6]	10	0.4
886	Kent	212,811	26	0.1	360	1.7
887	Medway	43,998	6	0.1	50	1.2
826	Milton Keynes	36,186	6	0.2	50	1.4
931	Oxfordshire	85,281	6	0.1	40	0.4
851	Portsmouth	24,722	6	0.2	20	0.8
870	Reading	16,522	7	0.4	30	1.6
871	Slough	20,274	[6]	[6]	10	0.5
852	Southampton	28,576	9	0.3	30	1.1
936	Surrey	140,069	19	0.1	150	1.1
869	West Berkshire	24,626	[6]	[6]	30	1.3
938	West Sussex	105,642	12	0.1	160	1.5
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	18,984	[6]	[6]	30	1.6
872	Wokingham	23,444	[7]	[7]	40	1.5
	South West	717,610	70	0.1	780	1.1
800	Bath and North East Sor	25,161	[6]	[6]	40	1.6
837	Bournemouth	20,891	[6]	[6]	20	1.1
801	Bristol, City of	46,702	[6]	[6]	50	1.1
908	Cornwall	73,227	[7]	[7]	120	1.6
878	Devon	97,698	[7]	[7]	60	0.7
835	Dorset	55,849	[7]	[7]	50	0.8
916	Gloucestershire	85,937	12	0.1	90	1.0
420	Isles of Scilly	251	0	0.0	0	0.0
802	North Somerset	28,141	[6]	[6]	20	0.6
879	Plymouth	39,243	7	0.2	40	1.1
836	Poole	19,305	[6]	[6]	20	1.0
933	Somerset	71,328	12	0.2	70	1.0
803	South Gloucestershire	39,981	[6]	[6]	70	1.7
866	Swindon	28,735	6	0.2	30	1.0
880	Torbay	19,625	[6]	[6]	10	0.7
865	Wiltshire	65,540	11	0.2	90	1.3

		Fixed period exclusions				
		Numbers of pupils on roll[4]	*Exclusions for physical assault against an adult*	*Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]*	*Total number of exclusions (all reasons)*	*Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]*
	England	7,606,040	18,480	2.4	389,560	51.2
	North East	398,660	830	2.1	17,580	44.1
841	Darlington	15,404	78	5.1	1,430	92.5
840	Durham	75,863	145	1.9	4,800	63.3
390	Gateshead	28,840	41	1.4	710	24.7
805	Hartlepool	16,035	10	0.6	590	36.9
806	Middlesbrough	20,165	37	1.8	730	36.3
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	37,260	106	2.8	1,930	51.7
392	North Tyneside	30,600	50	1.6	760	24.8
929	Northumberland	50,547	98	1.9	2,450	48.4
807	Redcar and Cleveland	24,083	44	1.8	880	36.4

			Fixed period exclusions			
		Numbers of pupils on roll[a]	*Exclusions for physical assault against an adult*	*Exclusions per 1,000 pupils*[s]	*Total number of exclusions (all reasons)*	*Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils*[s]
393	South Tyneside	23,762	49	2.1	1,070	44.9
808	Stockton-on-Tees	30,857	120	3.9	1,050	34.1
394	Sunderland	45,241	54	1.2	1,180	26.1
	North West	1,086,590	2,700	2.5	56,720	52.2
889	Blackburn with Darwen	24,603	108	4.4	1,400	56.7
890	Blackpool	21,190	63	3.0	1,440	67.8
350	Bolton	45,797	133	2.9	3,000	65.4
351	Bury	28,254	68	2.4	1,780	62.9
875	Cheshire	104,163	249	2.4	6,270	60.2
909	Cumbria	76,831	139	1.8	5,460	71.0
876	Halton	18,910	27	1.4	570	29.9
340	Knowsley	26,438	110	4.2	1,030	38.8
888	Lancashire	173,101	476	2.7	9,480	54.8
341	Liverpool	73,239	95	1.3	1,830	25.0
352	Manchester	65,644	358	5.5	4,420	67.3
353	Oldham	40,513	91	2.2	2,640	65.1
354	Rochdale	34,820	87	2.5	1,780	51.2
355	Salford	32,960	102	3.1	1,980	60.0
343	Sefton	45,132	27	0.6	540	11.9
342	St. Helens	28,272	42	1.5	1,410	49.9
356	Stockport	40,944	102	2.5	2,350	57.4
357	Tameside	36,731	107	2.9	2,420	65.9
358	Trafford	35,964	50	1.4	1,260	34.9
877	Warrington	32,137	74	2.3	2,070	64.3
359	Wigan	48,712	174	3.6	2,580	53.0
344	Wirral	52,231	22	0.4	1,040	19.9
	Yorkshire and the	806,660	2,340	2.9	47,650	59.1
370	Barnsley	34,496	71	2.1	1,430	41.4
380	Bradford	86,686	236	2.7	4,100	47.2
381	Calderdale	34,765	91	2.6	1,660	47.8
371	Doncaster	50,302	149	3.0	3,090	61.4
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	50,036	100	2.0	2,550	51.0
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City	39,262	288	7.3	3,110	79.1
382	Kirklees	63,113	197	3.1	3,780	59.9
383	Leeds	111,538	368	3.3	7,610	68.2
812	North East Lincolnshire	26,023	99	3.8	2,310	88.8
813	North Lincolnshire	25,047	71	2.8	1,940	77.3
815	North Yorkshire	88,139	164	1.9	3,610	40.9
372	Rotherham	45,113	164	3.6	2,220	49.3
373	Sheffield	75,753	157	2.1	5,090	67.2
384	Wakefield	52,231	138	2.6	3,800	72.7
816	York	24,159	48	2.0	1,360	56.2
	East Midlands	667,600	1,790	2.7	34,610	51.8
831	Derby	37,832	99	2.6	2,600	68.6
830	Derbyshire	115,455	226	2.0	5,000	43.3
856	Leicester	47,168	108	2.3	3,030	64.2
855	Leicestershire	96,577	167	1.7	4,080	42.3
925	Lincolnshire	102,884	257	2.5	4,470	43.4
928	Northamptonshire	103,694	381	3.7	6,280	60.5
892	Nottingham	38,195	241	6.3	2,260	59.3
891	Nottinghamshire	120,891	300	2.5	6,730	55.7
857	Rutland	4,907	9	1.8	160	32.4
	West Midlands	864,790	2,170	2.5	41,210	47.7
330	Birmingham	175,226	505	2.9	8,300	47.4

		Fixed period exclusions				
		Numbers of pupils on roll[4]	*Exclusions for physical assault against an adult*	*Exclusions per 1,000 pupils*[5]	*Total number of exclusions (all reasons)*	*Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils*[5]
331	Coventry	49,307	142	2.9	1,470	29.9
332	Dudley	50,251	66	1.3	2,840	56.5
884	Herefordshire	24,005	62	2.6	1,500	62.6
333	Sandwell	50,581	120	2.4	2,170	42.8
893	Shropshire	40,761	93	2.3	2,230	54.7
334	Solihull	36,360	70	1.9	1,680	46.3
860	Staffordshire	128,800	172	1.3	5,700	44.3
861	Stoke-on-Trent	36,594	136	3.7	2,410	65.8
894	Telford and Wrekin	26,491	284	10.7	2,320	87.5
335	Walsall	48,005	127	2.6	2,770	57.6
937	Warwickshire	76,698	119	1.6	3,020	39.4
336	Wolverhampton	40,675	55	1.4	1,260	31.1
885	Worcestershire	81,031	221	2.7	3,530	43.6
	East of England	842,380	1,650	2.0	40,860	48.5
820	Bedfordshire	63,800	115	1.8	2,520	39.5
873	Cambridgeshire	77,582	89	1.1	2,510	32.3
881	Essex	201,078	472	2.3	12,210	60.7
919	Hertfordshire	174,931	249	1.4	6,730	38.5
821	Luton	31,075	72	2.3	1,250	40.1
926	Norfolk	113,477	177	1.6	5,620	49.5
874	Peterborough	28,680	54	1.9	1,490	51.8
882	Southend-on-Sea	27,270	132	4.8	1,480	54.4
935	Suffolk	101,555	214	2.1	5,310	52.3
883	Thurrock	22,936	71	3.1	1,750	76.3
	London	1,060,180	2,490	2.3	42,850	40.4
	Inner London	360,840	1,110	3.1	14,110	39.1
202	Camden	21,565	69	3.2	1,020	47.2
201	City of London[6]	224	0	0.0	—	—
204	Hackney	25,572	143	5.6	1,240	48.6
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	17,102	55	3.2	810	47.3
309	Haringey	33,565	121	3.6	1,650	49.1
206	Islington	22,694	87	3.8	530	23.2
207	Kensington and Chelsea	10,664	25	2.3	340	32.0
208	Lambeth	28,220	34	1.2	1,090	38.7
209	Lewisham	34,117	103	3.0	1,310	38.5
316	Newham	48,646	39	0.8	1,140	23.4
210	Southwark	33,760	119	3.5	1,240	36.6
211	Tower Hamlets	36,728	100	2.7	1,260	34.2
212	Wandsworth	28,286	157	5.6	1,580	55.7
213	Westminster	19,693	61	3.1	910	46.4
	Outer London	699,350	1,370	2.0	28,740	41.1
301	Barking and Dagenham	31,005	79	2.5	820	26.6
302	Barnet	45,939	86	1.9	1,490	32.5
303	Bexley	39,513	53	1.3	1,720	43.4
304	Brent	39,396	108	2.7	1,860	47.3
305	Bromley	46,894	40	0.9	1,950	41.7
306	Croydon	49,099	94	1.9	1,310	26.6
307	Ealing	41,644	68	1.6	2,000	48.1
308	Enfield	49,670	110	2.2	2,050	41.3
203	Greenwich	36,303	227	6.3	2,750	75.6
310	Harrow	28,772	47	1.6	1,090	37.9
311	Havering	36,568	44	1.2	1,820	49.9

			Fixed period exclusions			
		Numbers of pupils on roll[4]	*Exclusions for physical assault against an adult*	*Exclusions per 1,000 pupils*[5]	*Total number of exclusions (all reasons)*	*Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils*[5]
312	Hillingdon	42,027	65	1.5	1,140	27.0
313	Hounslow	35,840	0	0.0	1,270	35.5
314	Kingston upon Thames	21,431	15	0.7	700	32.8
315	Merton	23,547	77	3.3	1,280	54.3
317	Redbridge	44,622	29	0.6	450	10.0
318	Richmond upon Thames	20,108	22	1.1	900	45.0
319	Sutton	31,277	43	1.4	1,440	46.1
320	Waltham Forest[8]	35,692	167	4.7	2,690	75.3
	South East	1,161,570	2,810	2.4	67,820	58.4
867	Bracknell Forest	15,119	18	1.2	670	44.4
846	Brighton and Hove	29,961	147	4.9	2,210	73.6
825	Buckinghamshire	75,866	123	1.6	2,410	31.8
845	East Sussex	66,612	262	3.9	5,940	89.1
850	Hampshire	173,289	449	2.6	11,730	67.7
921	Isle of Wight	19,586	47	2.4	1,010	51.5
886	Kent	212,811	353	1.7	11,900	55.9
887	Medway	43,998	139	3.2	2,830	64.3
826	Milton Keynes	36,186	32	0.9	1,140	31.4
931	Oxfordshire	85,281	221	2.6	4,310	50.5
851	Portsmouth	24,722	209	8.5	2,980	120.6
870	Reading	16,522	69	4.2	1,050	63.3
871	Slough	20,274	32	1.6	540	26.5
852	Southampton	28,576	159	5.6	2,890	101.1
936	Surrey	140,069	210	1.5	7,110	50.8
869	West Berkshire	24,626	38	1.5	1,580	64.1
938	West Sussex	105,642	228	2.2	5,800	54.9
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	18,984	20	1.1	700	36.9
872	Wokingham	23,444	49	2.1	1,050	44.7
	South West	717,610	1,710	2.4	40,280	56.1
800	Bath and North East Sor	25,161	40	1.6	1,800	71.7
837	Bournemouth	20,891	45	2.2	1,120	53.4
801	Bristol, City of	46,702	297	6.4	5,610	120.1
908	Cornwall	73,227	85	1.2	3,160	43.2
878	Devon	97,698	201	2.1	5,680	58.1
835	Dorset	55,849	39	0.7	1,680	30.2
916	Gloucestershire	85,937	123	1.4	3,490	40.6
420	Isles of Scilly	251	0	0.0	0	0.0
802	North Somerset	28,141	94	3.3	1,440	51.2
879	Plymouth	39,243	96	2.4	1,390	35.5
836	Poole	19,305	69	3.6	1,340	69.2
933	Somerset	71,328	206	2.9	4,310	60.4
803	South Gloucestershire	39,981	67	1.7	2,360	59.0
866	Swindon	28,735	143	5.0	2,190	76.0
880	Torbay	19,625	79	4.0	970	49.4
865	Wiltshire	65,540	126	1.9	3,750	57.3

n/a = not available.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes maintained special schools, excludes non—maintained special schools.

[3] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from the Termly Exclusions survey and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by LEAs as part of the Schools census checking exercise.

[4] The number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2005.

[5] The number of exclusions in 2004/05 divided by how many thousands of pupils were on roll in January 2005.

[6] Less than 3, or a rate based on less than 3.

[7] Less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5.

[8] The reasons for permanent exclusions are not available for Waltham Forest and City of London.

Notes:

1. National and regional totals and total number of exclusions have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Schools (Employee Vetting)

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance his Department gives schools on the subject of vetting potential employees; and what changes to this guidance are planned should the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill be passed. [84517]

Mr. Dhanda: Pre-appointment vetting checks are necessary to ensure that people who are appointed to work with children are safe to do so. My Department's guidance to schools on the vetting of potential employees is contained in "Child Protection: Preventing Unsuitable People from Working with Children in the Education Service" (May 2002) and "Criminal Records Bureau: Managing the Demand for Disclosures" (December 2002).

As the Secretary of State announced on 20 June, we are preparing consolidated guidance to replace these documents. This will be issued for consultation shortly.

The guidance will be further revised in the light of the requirements placed on schools by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill.

Schools Sports

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria Ofsted uses to assess school sporting provision. [81590]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Maurice Smith, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Maurice J. Smith dated 5 July 2006:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what criteria Ofsted use to assess school sporting provision.

Since September 2005 Ofsted's school inspections have focused on the school's overall effectiveness. During one of these inspections Ofsted inspects sports provision in a very general way as part of the inspection of the quality of education provided. There is not a specific focus on physical education unless it is a particularly important subject in the school. Schools with specialist sports college status, for example, will have their distinctive aims and characteristics taken into account and the extent to which the specialist aims are met.

'Every child matters: The Framework for the inspection of schools in England from September 2005 sets out the principles for school inspections. The guidance outlines what inspection will cover and the work that inspectors need to do. This common inspection schedule for schools and other post-1 provision is supported by non-statutory guidance, published in two parts:

Guidance on using the schedule

Guidance on conducting inspections.

The Guidance on using the schedule contains specific criteria and benchmarks to support inspectors in knowing where to pitch their judgments. Equally, they should be an aid to schools in the process of self-evaluation. The amount of evidence on physical education will vary according to the priorities and focus of the inspection.

In addition to section five inspections, Ofsted has a new subject inspection programme which, in the case of physical education, involves 30 primary and 30 secondary schools each year. Every third year a report on physical education is published using the accumulated evidence from these visits. The first is due in 2008. General guidance is provided for the HMI and additional inspectors who are involved with this programme. Ofsted is currently developing subject-specific guidance which exists in draft form. The contents are intended to help inspectors and all other staff to evaluate standards and achievement, quality of provision, leadership and management and other factors that might have a bearing on what learners achieve in physical education. For example, when reporting on the standards achieved by pupils in physical education inspectors:

interpret test, examination results and awards gained by pupils

judge the standards of work seen, highlighting what pupils do well and could do better

evaluate how well pupils are achieving, evaluating standards by the ends of the different key stages and highlighting any differences in achievement for different groups of pupils.

During the inspection, an inspector's view of standards is supplemented by:

examining pupils' targets in physical education and the basis on which they were set and progress towards achieving them any performance trends over time

identifying strengths and weaknesses in attainment against the knowledge, skills and understanding set out in the National Curriculum attainment target.

Grade characteristics are illustrated in order to help inspectors make judgments. For example, when judging standards in physical education to be good, inspectors will look for the following characteristics:

Standards achieved in examination courses are good, above national averages or as reflected in contextual value added. Standards show upward trends over time. Learners' skills, knowledge and understanding in most of the four aspects of the attainment target and across most areas of activity are good. The progress of the great majority of learners, across key stages, is good and for some it is very good, and show that almost all achieve well compared with their prior attainment and ability in physical education, and compared with those in similar schools.

When making judgements on standards and achievement, inspectors will also look for evidence on the 10 high quality outcomes promoted by the Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy.

Most subject inspections focus on a specific subject issue, identified from the previous inspection, performance data or as part of a specific survey on, for example, the PESSCL strategy. For the subject 'issue' being inspected, a single grade is required and for this the general grade criteria have been interpreted in terms of the particular issue. Guidance pages are provided for each issue to support grading.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what provision there is for British sign language in the school curriculum; and what plans he has for changes to that provision. [85370]

Jim Knight: British sign language is not recognised as a foreign language for the purposes of the national curriculum, or for the prospective entitlement for pupils learning a language at Key Stage 2. Schools may, however, choose to offer pupils the opportunity to study British sign language over and above the national curriculum requirements. We have no plans to change this.

Somali Children

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the

number of Somali children in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education in each education authority in England. [84949]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not held centrally.

As part of the Pupil Level Annual Schools Census (PLASC), schools are required to record ethnicity data to reflect the main categories used in the 2001 National Population Census. Children of Somali ethnic origin are recorded under the category of "Black African". Following a consultation exercise in 2002, local authorities (LAs) were given the option of using extended ethnicity categories in their schools if they felt that the main ones did not meet their local management needs. The extended ethnicity categories do include a separate "Somali" code but not all LAs have chosen to use the extended categories. The majority of authorities use a mixture of main and extended codes and, therefore, the Department does not hold complete data for the extended ethnic background categories.

Specialist School Teachers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of vacancies for trained specialist school teachers in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* science, *(d)* modern languages and *(e)* information and communications technologies in rural areas in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [84964]

(2) how many *(a)* vacancies and *(b)* temporary replacements there were for head teachers in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [84965]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available in the required format because vacancy level information is collected from a local authority rather than a school level survey and it is not possible to define which of these vacancies are in schools in rural and non-rural areas or which relate to specialist schools.

Table 1 provides the number of full-time classroom teacher vacancies in local authority maintained secondary schools in England in English, mathematics, science, languages and information technology in January 2006.

Table 1: Full-time classroom teacher vacancy[1] rates in local authority maintained secondary schools in England by subject, January 2006

	[2]Number of vacancies 2006
English	160
Mathematics	190
All sciences	210
Languages	40
Information Technology	90

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.
[2] Provisional.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, (618g)

Table 2 shows the number of full-time head teacher vacancies and full-time temporarily filled head teacher posts in local authority maintained schools in England in January 2006. For comparison with table 1, it also shows figures for maintained secondary schools only.

Table 2: Full-time head teacher vacancies and full-time temporarily filled head teacher posts in local authority maintained schools in England, January 2006[2]

	All maintained schools	*Maintained secondary schools*
Full-time head teacher vacancies	180	30
Full-time temporarily filled head teacher posts[1]	660	80

[1] Temporarily-filled full-time permanent appointments. The definition used is wider than the vacancy definition (bullet points (b) and (c) below are in addition to the normal vacancy definition). A post is included in this row of the table:
a. where there is no incumbent who is expected to return to the post;
b. whether or not filled on a temporary basis, i.e. either without a contract or on a contract of les than one year;
c. whether or not advertised;
d. where an appointment has been made by not yet taken up.
[2] Provisional
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, (618g)

Student Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance has been given to employers regarding the repayment of income-contingent student loans; and if he will make a statement. [84693]

Bill Rammell: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) issues a booklet entitled "Collection of Student Loans", which outlines an employer's responsibilities in relation to making student loan deductions from pay and tables which show how much they should deduct. This guidance is available in hardcopy or employers can access it via HMRC's employer website. Employers are also able to obtain help and further guidance from the HMRC Employer Helpline and face-to-face advice is available at regular HMRC employer events.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many graduates contacted the Student Loans Company because they believe they were paying too much of their income-contingent student loan back in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [84695]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not available. While the Student Loans Company does record information about categories of inquiries made by customers at individual account level, it is unable to provide a global picture to this level of detail.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many graduates are repaying student loans on a self-assessment basis; and if he will make a statement. [84696]

Bill Rammell: As at June 2006, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) reports that 5,400[1] borrowers are recorded as repaying on a self-assessment basis (self-employed). An additional 80,700[1] borrowers are recorded as repaying under both PAYE and self-assessment arrangements (self-assessment and in employment). These figures reflect the status at the point at which HMRC originally matched the borrowers to taxpayer records.

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Student Numbers

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local authorities had an increase in the number of students in *(a)* Key Stage 3 and *(b)* Key Stage 4 between 2001 and 2005. [85776]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the Library.

This shows that 83 local authorities have reported an increase in the number of pupils in the Key Stage 3 age group between 2001 and 2005; and over the same period, 126 local authorities have reported an increase in the number of pupils in the Key Stage 4 age group.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of students continued full-time education after the age of 16 years from comprehensive secondary schools of *(a)* fewer than 100, *(b)* 100-199, *(c)* 200-299, *(d)* 300-399, *(e)* 400-499, *(f)* 500-599, *(g)* 600-700 and *(h)* over 700 students in (i) rural areas and (ii) non-rural areas in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [85946]

Jim Knight: This information is not available. The Youth Cohort Study (YCS) estimates that overall 70 per cent. of young people in England who had attended a comprehensive school in year 11 in 2002/03 were in full-time education in the spring following completion of compulsory education. Neither the breakdown by size of school or rural/non-rural area is available from the YCS.

Teacher Recruitment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on Government media advertisements and promotional activities seeking to attract people to the teaching profession in each of the last five years. [86013]

Jim Knight: The costs below relate to the costs of advertising media and include TV, press, radio, magazine, online and outdoor advertising. All costs include VAT.

	£
2001-2002	6,648,414
2002-2003	7,761,572
2003-2004	8,620,899
2004-2005	7,815,576
2005-2006	8,101,055

The key advertising objective is to increase the number of able and committed people recruited to teaching, particularly in the secondary priority subjects (mathematics, sciences, modern languages, religious education, music, design and technology and information and communications technology). The last five years have seen successive increases in the numbers of people entering initial teacher training.

Newly Qualified Teachers

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many newly qualified teachers had not taken up full-time teaching posts one year after qualification in each of the last five years. [86010]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of newly qualified teachers in service is available for March of each year. The latest information available is March 2004. The following table provides the number of teachers who attained qualified teacher status (QTS) in each year from 1999 to 2003 and the number of those who were not in full-time service in March of the following year. This number will include those in part time service.

The proportion of qualifiers without teaching service usually falls substantially over the first year or two after qualification, and in the long-term has been around 9-10 per cent.

Teachers gaining qualified teacher status (QTS)[1] in England: 1999 to 2003, service position in March of the following year.

	Calendar year of qualification				
	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002[2]*	*2003[1,2]*
Total gaining QTS[3]	24,190	21,880	21,870	23,050	24,580
Of these[4]					
In full-time maintained sector service in England	16,590	15,690	16,650	17,510	17,510
In full-time service elsewhere[5]	920	790	730	800	900
Not in full-time service	6,690	5,390	4,490	4,740	6,170

[1] Provisional data.
[2] Numbers in service are likely to be underestimated due to the late receipt of service information.
[3] Excludes teachers qualifying through employment based routes.
[4] The service position shown is at the first March following the year of qualification.
[5] In service in Wales or Further and Independent sector service in England and Wales.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers (Bristol)

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many full-time equivalent qualified teachers were employed within *(a)* primary

and *(b)* secondary schools in Bristol local education authority in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent school year for which figures are available. [84610]

Jim Knight: The table shows the full-time equivalent number of regular qualified teachers who were employed in maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Bristol local authority in January 1997 and 2005, the latest information available. The table also shows figures for England for comparison.

It is anticipated that local authority level information for January 2006 will be published in September.

Full-time equivalent regular qualified teachers in maintained nursery and primary and secondary schools in Bristol local authority and England in January 1997 and 2005

	Nursery/primary		*Secondary*	
	Bristol	*England*	*Bristol*	*England*
1997	1,540	190,660	1,120	187,660
2005	1,390	189,920	1,070	204,080

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, (618g)

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of teaching posts were filled by supply, temporary and agency teachers in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Bristol local education authority in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent school year for which figures are available. [84611]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available in the required format because the number of teaching posts in Bristol local authority is not collected centrally.

The table provides the number of occasional teachers (on contracts of less than one month) who were employed in maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Bristol local authority and England in January 1997 and 2005, the latest information available. The full-time equivalent number of regular qualified teachers is also provided.

It is anticipated that local authority level teacher numbers for January 2006 will be published in September.

Number of occasional teachers (on contracts of less than one month) and full-time equivalent regular qualified teachers in maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Bristol local authority and England in January 1997 and 2005

	Nursery/primary				*Secondary*			
	Occasional teachers[1]		*FTE regular qualified teachers*[2]		*Occasional teachers*[1]		*FTE regular qualified teachers*[2]	
	Bristol	*England*	*Bristol*	*England*	*Bristol*	*England*	*Bristol*	*England*
1997	110	8,310	1,540	190,660	60	4,390	1,120	187,660
2005	90	8,570	1,390	189,920	40	5,700	1,070	204,080

[1] 2005 figures include occasional teachers without qualified teacher status (QTS).
[2] Excludes occasional teachers.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, (618g)

University for Industry

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been spent on the University for Industry in each year since it opened; how many people graduated in each year; and if he will make a statement. [85557]

Bill Rammell: Figures for 2001-02 onwards are:

	£ million
2001-02	153.7
2002-03	164.9
2003-04	239.6
2004-05	181.9
2005-06	[1]209.4
2006-07	[2]176.3

[1] Estimated outturn
[2] Planned

Full details of UFI funding are available only from 2001-02 onwards. Prior to 2001-02 funding was made available through the FEFC, for which we do not hold information. UFI (initially called the "University for Industry"), the organisation responsible for learndirect, has successfully pushed the boundaries of learning methods, by making innovative use of technology to make learning more flexible. It is the largest Government supported e-learning initiative in the world, and provides high quality learning for the post-16 learning and skills sector. It particularly reaches those with few or no skills and qualifications who are unlikely to participate in more traditional forms of learning. It is not an awarding body and does not have the status of a university.

Since 1999, more than 2 million people have improved their skills either at a learndirect centre, from work, or from their home computer. Since April 2003, over 120,000 people have achieved their first skills for life test pass in literacy or numeracy through learndirect. UFI is now delivering over one fifth of the post-19 sector's skills for life test passes annually. Almost 200,000 small and medium sized employers have also used learndirect services. The learndirect advice service has delivered more than 33 million information and advice sessions on the telephone and online.

DEFENCE

Access to Work Scheme

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82224]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence makes full use of the Access to Work scheme in assessing the needs of its disabled staff for reasonable adjustments in the workplace. However, it does not collect the numbers of disabled staff receiving adaptations and equipment paid for by Access to Work, and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress International Security Assistance Force forces have made in implementing the NATO counter-narcotics operation in Afghanistan agreed in November 2005. [83218]

Mr. Ingram: Under the terms of NATO's operational plan for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), ISAF forces can provide, within means and capabilities, training and operational support to Afghan counter-narcotics forces. But they are not there to take direct action against the drugs trade or to eradicate opium poppy in the fields; that is a job for the Afghan Government.

Airborne Stand Off Radar

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft equipped with Airborne Stand Off Radar are in service. [84575]

Mr. Ingram: There are currently no aircraft equipped with Airborne Stand Off Radar in service.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress regarding the Future Aircraft Carrier programme. [84548]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Defence on 14 December 2005, and to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) on 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 824W, which outlined the major steps taken in our plans for the future aircraft carriers including details of our co-operation with France.

My noble Friend Lord Drayson, the Minister for Defence Procurement, subsequently announced that on 13 April the Aircraft Carrier Alliance signed a formal Alliance Agreement and individual works contracts totalling more than £140 million to continue to refine and mature all aspects of the ship design and its equipment, including mission systems. These contracts and the Alliance Agreement cover the key demonstration phase of the work and involve shipyards and industry in maturing the design to the point at which we can commit to manufacture. When we are satisfied that all this work is sufficiently mature, the main investment decision can be taken and orders placed. At this point, we will also set the in-service dates.

Approved Projects

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many approved projects fell into each approval category in 2005-06; and what the aggregated approved expenditure was for each category. [84433]

Mr. Ingram: The following table details the number of approved projects that fell into categories A to C in 2005-06 and the aggregated approved expenditure for each category.

Category	*Number of projects*	*Aggregated approved expenditure (£ million)*
A	43	20,247
B	29	954
C	32	456

Records on category D approvals are not held centrally and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces Pensions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written statement of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 60-61WS, on armed forces invaliding pensions, what his Department's policy is on the payment of interest on underpaid *(a)* pay and *(b)* pensions. [85743]

Mr. Watson: Any claims for compensation as a result of incorrect payments are considered in accordance with Government accounting procedures. The general principle adopted is that the individual may be recompensed where it can be shown that a financial loss has occurred through maladministration.

Those affected by the pension error that I announced on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 60-61 WS, will receive, in addition to any back payments due, interest in accordance with Government accounting rules. The Department is currently considering whether any additional recompense should be paid when the errors are corrected.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written statement of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 60-61WS, on armed

forces invaliding pensions, what research his Department has undertaken into the proposed merger of the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency and the Veterans Agency; what his assessment is of the *(a)* advantages and *(b)* disadvantages of such a merger; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of such a merger on Joint Personnel Administration. [85744]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the ministerial statement I made on 17 July 2006.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written statement of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 60-1WS, on armed forces invaliding pensions, when the error was found; what assessment he has made of the likelihood of further errors being uncovered; and what his estimate is of the financial liability arising from the errors. [85745]

Mr. Watson: The error was found while making payments to rectify pension errors under Projects Haven and Scribe during the period 2003-06. As these projects moved towards a conclusion, specialist resources were freed up to scope this new problem. In view of the work that has been done to review pension files, the likelihood of further errors being uncovered is low, and robust arrangements have been put in place to prevent similar problems occurring in the future.

The total pension arrears payable are estimated to be some £8.8 million plus interest, and I shall be considering as a matter of priority whether additional recompense is appropriate.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the impact of increased life expectancy on the integrity and affordability of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [85115]

Mr. Watson: New entrants to the armed forces on or after 6 April 2005 have joined the new Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005. The impact of recent improvements in life expectancy was fully taken into account in developing the benefit structure of this scheme, including by setting a preserved pension age at 65. There have also been changes to the benefit structure of the old pension scheme, the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975, to ensure its long term affordability. The age at which a preserved pension is paid was delayed from 60 to 65 for all service, from 6 April 2006. Some of these savings were reinvested in the scheme in the form of an increase in the death in service lump sum to three times pay. The impact of changing life expectancy and other relevant factors is monitored by the Government Actuary's Department, the actuary for the schemes, through regular assessments of the employer's contribution for the two AFPS schemes.

Army Continuous Attitude Survey

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1708W, on the Army Continuous Attitude Survey, why the categories included in question 66 of the seventh Serving Personnel survey 'I didn't believe anything would be done if I did complain' and 'I thought that it would cause problems in my workplace' have been omitted from the ninth Serving Personnel survey. [84895]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1352W. Whereas question 66 in the seventh Serving Personnel survey provided a menu of possible responses, question 39c in the ninth Serving Personnel survey is an open-ended question, and does not offer a menu of responses. This approach is designed to provide a richer source of data by enabling respondents to answer the question in their own terms. The breakdown of negative comments in my answer of 6 July reflects an analysis of actual responses to question 39c conducted by occupational scientists. A sample of respondents' comments was extracted and similar types were summarised into a category. Categories were arranged under appropriate headings to provide a coding framework, which was validated using a further sample of comments. Respondents typically made more than one comment and all comments were read and assigned the relevant code(s) to calculate their frequencies.

Army Personnel (Basing)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army personnel are based in each Government office region of England. [84437]

Mr. Watson: The strength of United Kingdom regular forces posted in the UK by Government office region is available in tri-service publication (TSP) 10—UK Regular Forces Distribution Across UK.

TSP 10 is published quarterly; the most recent publication shows the numbers of service personnel at 1 April 2006.

Copies of TSP 10 are held in the House of Commons Library and are also available at www.dasa.mod.uk.

Bearskins

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 996W, on bearskins, what research is taking place into producing alternatives to real bearskin; who is undertaking the research; and what the time scale is for completion of research contracts. [85293]

Mr. Ingram: At present the Ministry of Defence does not have a research contract for producing an alternative to real bearskin. A number of contracts have previously been let with commercial companies but none of these produced a useable product. A faux-fur sample has, however, been submitted by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and this is currently being assessed for its suitability.

Chinook ZD 576 (Mull of Kintyre Crash)

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the reports into *(a)* incident signal 21/4/94 from No. 1 ECU (Engine) sent to Fleetlands for investigation, *(b)* incident signal 17/5/94

from No. 1 ECU (Engine) sent to third/fourth line for investigation and *(c)* incident signal 26/5/04 of the engine change units in the engines of Chinook ZD 576 in the weeks prior to the crash on the Mull of Kintyre on 2 June 1994; and whether these reports are consistent with the problems recorded in the aircraft log. [86019]

Mr. Ingram: Officials need to research archived records and I will therefore write to the right hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Colombia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 703W, on Colombia, what types of explosive device training are being provided with UK military assistance. [85300]

Mr. Ingram: The type of training provided includes de-mining training and training in improvised explosive device disposal.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 298W, on Colombia, for what reasons listing the financial value of bespoke counter-narcotics training provided to Colombia would damage *(a)* the safety of individuals, *(b)* the prevention and detection of crime and *(c)* international relations; and if he will make a statement. [83758]

Mr. Ingram: The bespoke counter-narcotics training provided by the Ministry of Defence is in support of HMG's wider engagement with Colombia on counter-narcotics matters.

Providing further information on this issue could endanger the safety of individuals and reduce the effectiveness of the Colombian law enforcement mission by raising the public profile of this counter-narcotics work, including in Colombia. It would also be contrary to the wishes of the Colombian authorities.

Combat Troops

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many combat troops have been provided by each contributing nation to *(a)* Operation Enduring Freedom and *(b)* the International Security Assistance Force. [84802]

Des Browne: The Commanding Officer of the International Security Assistance Force has confirmed that he has the forces required to do the job asked of him. The precise composition of the force package provided by nations in support of either Operation Enduring Freedom or the International Security Assistance Force is a matter for the nations concerned.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a new strategic defence review will be conducted before the forthcoming comprehensive spending review. [85112]

Des Browne: No.

CRV 7 Multi-Purpose Sub Munition

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the UK attack helicopters in Afghanistan are equipped with the CRV 7 Multi-Purpose Sub Munition; [83978]

(2) what use has been made of the CRV 7 Multi-Purpose Sub Munition in combat in each of the last 10 years. [83980]

Mr. Ingram: The Multi-Purpose Sub Munition variant of the CRV 7 system is one of the weapons systems available for use by Apache Mk 1 Attack Helicopters in Afghanistan.

As at 10 July 2006 no use has been made of the CRV 7 Multi Purpose Sub Munition in combat by any element of UK armed forces since it came into service in 2003.

Defence Food Supply Contract

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his written statement of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on the Defence Food Supply Contract, what percentage of the meat supplied to British troops will be from British farms. [83933]

Mr. Ingram: The new food supply contact will commence on 1 October 2006. Transitional arrangements are still being discussed with the contractor, Purple Foodservice Solutions. At this stage we are therefore unable to provide the information requested.

Defence Information Structure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many additional payments have been agreed with the contractors for the Defence Information Infrastructure project since the contract was issued; to whom such payments *(a)* have been made and *(b)* are to be made; how much has been paid and on what dates; and if he will make a statement. [83716]

Mr. Ingram: All payments in respect of Increment 1 of the DII contract are and will be made to EDS as the prime contractor for DII. Payments are made through the service delivery charges of the contract. These charges are commercially sensitive and cannot be disclosed.

A range of changes to the Defence Information Infrastructure programme have taken place since contract award in March 2005. A level of change was always expected and is allowed for under the provisions of the contract. In terms of the overall value of Increment 1 of the DII contract the value of these changes is not significant.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original *(a)* estimated costs and *(b)* in service delivery date were for the Defence Information Infrastructure project; and what the current situation is in each case. [83717]

Mr. Ingram: Increment 1 of the Defence Information Infrastructure contract was awarded to the ATLAS Consortium, led by EDS, in March 2005 with an estimated value of £2.3 billion. This estimated value remains extant. There is no "in service delivery date" as such within the contract. The contracted "New Services Commencement Date" was originally March 2006. This date was subsequently revised to May 2006 and was met successfully.

Helicopters

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military helicopter flights there were in the airspace above the constituency of Hammersmith and Fulham in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [84421]

Mr. Watson: This information is not centrally held. Although individual units hold details of all flight paths undertaken by their own helicopters this information is not centrally collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* required number of helicopter crew personnel are for each regiment of the Army Air Corps. [84545]

Mr. Ingram: The number of actual and required helicopter crew personnel for each regular regiment of the Army Air Corps (AAC) is as follows:

Regiment	*Helicopter Crew Established (Required)*	*Helicopter Crew Held (Actual)*
1 Regt AAC	60	54
3 Regt AAC	85	57
4 Regt AAC	85	63
5 Regt AAC	93	64
9 Regt AAC	85	69

These figures include qualified helicopter instructors and regimental headquarters personnel, whose primary role is not as helicopter crew. The figures do not include aviation crewmen, such as air door gunners and winch operators, because this is not a long-term Career Employment Group. The established figure for 5 Regiment AAC will reduce to 31 by 1 April 2007, as part of the planned reductions in Northern Ireland. The deficits shown in the table in 3,4 and 9 Regiments AAC are mainly due to the re-roling of these regiments to Apache helicopters. As a consequence of re-roling, some aircrew are posted away for retraining.

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the availability of spare engines for each type of helicopter in service with the armed forces. [85904]

Mr. Ingram: The number of spare engines held by the Ministry of Defence differs for each helicopter type and is determined by a number of factors including the size of the fleet, the scheduled training flying hour requirement, industrial considerations (e.g. the lead time to procure an engine) and operational requirements. At any one time, some engines may be undergoing repair and maintenance. We currently have sufficient spare engines to meet operational and training requirements for each helicopter type.

HMS Argyll

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why HMS Argyll is not to be modified to operate the Merlin helicopter; and what the intended out-of-service date is for this vessel. [85380]

Mr. Ingram: The operational requirement is for 12 Type 23 frigates to be modified to operate the Merlin helicopter. The decision on which ships are to be modified is determined by the fitting opportunities within the frigate upkeep programme. HMS Argyll will not be modified as the requirement will be met by other frigates with earlier fitting opportunities within the upkeep programme. Should the programme change, the situation will be reviewed. On current plans HMS Argyll is due to be withdrawn from service in 2019.

Meal Budgets

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget is per person per day for meals for members of the armed forces serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [85099]

Mr. Ingram: The budget per person per day for meals for members of the armed forces serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan is currently £3.11 per day (July 2006 rate). It is intended to provide 2,900 calories per day, based on three meals per day. This Daily Messing Rate is based on a "basket" of food items, and is calculated on a monthly basis by applying prices obtained from the main Ministry of Defence Food Supply Contractor to the Home Ration Scale.

Meat Procurement

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of his Department's procurement policy on *(a)* beef and *(b)* lamb for members of the British armed forces serving on the Falkland Islands. [85038]

Mr. Ingram: The procurement of meat in the Falkland Islands is consistent with the Ministry of Defence's wider procurement policy. In accordance with this policy, contractors are encouraged to purchase British produce whenever it is competitive and consistent with meeting quality standards. The MOD is, however, bound by European legislation, and is required to seek value for money in the Single European Market. The MOD's Food Supply Contractor sources all meat procured for use by the UK armed forces.

Merchant Naval Ships

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he takes to ensure that wrecks of merchant naval ships lost during hostilities are protected. [84826]

Mr. Watson: Issues relating to merchant vessels are in the first instance the responsibility of the Department for Transport.

The Ministry of Defence administers the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986, which allows it to protect from unauthorised interference the remains of aircraft and ships lost while in military service.

Whether an individual merchant vessel is eligible for designation under the Act depends on whether it can be said to have been "in military service". This will be a case-by-case determination, depending on the circumstances of the individual vessel's loss.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* out-of-service date is for each Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel due for decommissioning by 2025 and *(b)* scheduled in-service date is for each planned new vessel in the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme. [85378]

Mr. Ingram: On current plans the RFA out-of-service dates are as follows:

	Date
RFA Sir Tristram	2006
RFA Sir Galahad	2006
RFA Grey Rover	2006
RFA Gold Rover	2009
RFA Brambleleaf	2009
RFA Orangeleaf	2009
RFA Black Rover	2010
RFA Oakleaf	2010
RFA Bayleaf	2010
RFA Sir Bedivere	2011
RFA Fort Rosalie	2013
RFA Fort Austin	2014
RFA Diligence	2014
RFA Fort George	2019
RFA Fort Victoria	2019
RFA Argus	2020

As with all projects, the in-service dates for the vessels in the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme will only be set following the main investment decision. This decision has not yet been taken.

Military Equipment Exports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to supply the Government of Colombia with *(a)* military equipment and *(b)* other support in each of the next three years. [85294]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence does not supply the Colombian armed forces with military equipment. We currently have no plans to alter this policy. I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's reply on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 703W.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to purchase mine-protected RG-31 vehicles, or variants thereof, for the Army. [81602]

Mr. Ingram: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 26 June we are conducting a review of the options for protected patrol vehicles to determine what can be done as soon as possible and in the longer term.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the wheelbase dimensions are of *(a)* the Snatch Land Rover, *(b)* the RG-31 and *(c)* variants of the RG-31; and if he will make a statement. [81603]

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the dimensions of the *(a)* Snatch armoured Land Rover, *(b)* RG-31M and *(c)* Tempest Truck, the Mine-Protected Vehicle are; what is the time for each vehicle to accelerate from stationary to normal cruising speed; what their maximum speeds are; and what their turning circles are. [80572]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested on Snatch, the Mine Protected Vehicle and RG-31 is:

Vehicle	*Length*	*Width*	*Height*	*Max Speed*	*Acceleration*	*Turning Circle*[1]
Snatch	4.80m	1.69m	2.37m	100km/h[2]	Not measured	12.8m
MPV[3]	6.28m	2.75m	3.04m	80km/h	Not measured	17m
RG-31[4]	6.40m	2.47m	2.84m	100km/h	Not stated	16m

[1] Kerb to kerb distance.
[2] For Snatch 2; Snatch 1 and 1.5 are slightly less. Since high speed is not a requirement for Snatch, its maximum speed has not been tested precisely.
[3] The vehicle chosen to replace Mamba as the Mine Protected Vehicle (MPV) was initially called Tempest but this name is no longer used and the in service vehicle, based on the Cougar vehicle produced by Force Protection Inc, is known simply as MPV.
[4] RG-31 is not in service with the UK armed forces, but this data was obtained from BAES during the ongoing review of our patrol vehicle capability.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost per track mile excluding crew costs is of operating *(a)* a Warrior MICV and *(b)* a RG-31M in Iraqi conditions. [82495]

Mr. Ingram: The full capitation cost for the Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle (all variants) based on peacetime usage is calculated for financial year 2006-07 as £154.04 per kilometre. Specific operational track mile data is not held centrally and

could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Ministry of Defence does not own any RG-31M vehicles.

Phoenix UAV

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Phoenix unmanned aerial vehicle has cost since the programme's inception. [84268]

Mr. Ingram: The Phoenix unmanned aerial vehicle system has cost approximately £345 million since inception.

Premature Voluntary Releases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many premature voluntary release exits there were from the regular *(a)* infantry, *(b)* Royal Artillery, *(c)* Royal Engineers, *(d)* Royal Corps of Signals, *(e)* Royal Armoured Corps, *(d)* Household Cavalry and *(e)* Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers in each of the last five years. [85761]

Mr. Watson: Between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2006, there were 18, 660 voluntary outflow release exits in these arms/services.

Voluntary outflow exits[1] (officers[2] and soldiers: 2001-02 to 2005-06

Arm/service	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Total*
The Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps	330	320	330	310	350	1,650
Royal Regiment of Artillery	410	390	430	450	420	2,100
Royal Corps of Engineers	560	500	530	660	660	2,910
Royal Corps of Signals	630	450	400	470	420	2,380
The Infantry	1,600	1,460	1,430	1,460	1,530	7,480
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	420	370	440	480	440	2,140
Total	3,950	3,500	3,550	3,830	3,830	18,660

[1] The term premature voluntary release (PVR) has been changed to voluntary outflow (VO) although the methodology for producing this information remains the same. voluntary outflow is defined as all exits from trained personnel which are generated by the individual before their time expiry.

[2] Figures for officers in the general staff (officers with the rank of colonel or above) are excluded.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding the totals may not equal the sum of the pans.

Private Land (Military Use)

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many private sites are used for military exercises in Herefordshire; and whether rent is paid for use of such sites. [85225]

Mr. Watson: In financial year 2005-06, 161 sites were used for military training on private land in Herefordshire. So far this financial year, 92 sites have been used of which nine were for adventure training. The military training undertaken on private land in Herefordshire is primarily, though not exclusively, operational in nature rather than being designated exercises.

No rent is paid for military training on private land in Herefordshire, apart from camp site fees which are sometimes paid for adventure training exercises. Fees have been incurred for five of the adventure training exercises that have taken place this year.

The owners' permission is sought in advance of any training on private land.

Raptor Reconnaissance Pods

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Raptor reconnaissance pods are fitted to Tornado aircraft. [84585]

Mr. Ingram: There are currently four Reconnaissance Airborne Pod Tornado pods undergoing acceptance flight trials for the Tornado GR4/4A. A further four pods are undergoing maintenance activity with the equipment manufacturer, Goodrich Company.

Recruitment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people joined the Army from each Government office region of England in 2005. [84417]

Mr. Watson: Estimated soldier enlistments for 2005 are shown in the following table:

Government office region	*Enlistments*
North East	440
North West	1,870
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,160
East Midlands	730
West Midlands	990
East of England	700
London	590
South East	800
South West	860

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
2. Figures are based on the location of armed forces career office to which the applicant applied rather than the residence of the applicant. Due to the nature of Army officer recruitment procedures, it is not possible to provide an estimate for the number of Army officers recruited from each Government office region.

Reserve Forces

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of members of reserve forces who belong to ethnic minorities. [85489]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* The proportion of ethnic minorities[1] in the volunteer reserve forces for 1 April 2006[2]:

	Percentage
Tri-Service	4.5
Royal Navy Reserve	2.8
Royal Marines Reserve	2.7
Territorial Army[3]	4.7
Royal Auxiliary Air Force	3.1

[1] Ethnic minority proportions are calculated as a percentage of those personnel for whom we hold a record of ethnic origin, ie excluding those of unspecified ethnic origin.
[2] Due to the introduction of a new Personnel Administration System for RAF, all RAF data are for 1 March 2006.
[3] Figures include Mobilised TA personnel and University Officer Training Corps but exclude Non Regular Permanent Staff and Full Time Reserve Service personnel.

Royal Navy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving naval *(a)* engineering mechanics, *(b)* submariner nuclear watchkeepers and *(c)* medical assistants there are; and what the requirement is for each category. [85753]

Mr. Watson: The requirement and numbers serving for engineering ratings, submariner nuclear watchkeepers and medical assistants, as at 1 June 2006, are:

Specialisation	Trained requirement	Trained strength	Untrained strength
Engineering ratings	10,020	9,670	1,580
Submariner nuclear watchkeepers	850	730	0
Medical assistants	680	640	70

Notes:
1. The Navy is currently restructuring the engineering branches, moving from the artificer/mechanic career streams to a single technician stream. This process is in mid transition, so no meaningful figures can be obtained for mechanics alone. The figures provided are for all ratings engineers (mechanics, technicians and artificers).
2. The figures for submariner nuclear watchkeepers are for the petty officer. Chief petty officer and warrant officer 2 ranks of the marine engineer (submariner) specialisations.
3. The figures for medical assistants are for the medical assistant (general service), medical assistant (submariner) and medical assistant (commando) specialisations.
4. The requirement relates to posts that need to be filled by trained personnel. To enable valid comparisons the "numbers serving" figures have been split into trained and untrained.
5. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of armaments purchased from the UK by the Government of Saudi Arabia in each year since 1997. [84347]

Mr. Ingram: Statistics on the value of exports of military equipment have been published by country for each year since 1997 in the Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls. It is planned to publish the Annual Report for 2005 towards the end of this month.

Service Children (Education)

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of children in service children's education schools achieved three A-level passes each year since 1997. [83701]

Mr. Watson: Of the students who sat three or more A-level examinations at service children's education schools since 1997, the following percentages achieved a pass mark graded at A-E in three or more subjects:

	Percentage
1997	72
1998	84
1999	78
2000	94
2001	88
2002	98
2003	89
2004	91
2005	94

These figures relate to A-level examinations only and not A-level equivalent examinations which are becoming an increasingly common option for students.

Spectrum Utilisation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list mobile and fixed linked bands that *(a)* were and *(b)* were not subject to spectrum pricing in each financial year from 2004-05. [83353]

Mr. Ingram: The bands subject to spectrum pricing in 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the basis of pricing were as follows:

2004-05			2005-06		
Band Min. (MHz)	Band Max. (MHz)	Pricing Basis	Band Min. (MHz)	Band Max. (MHz)	Pricing Basis
70	70.5	Mobile	70	70.5	Mobile
72.8	74.8	Mobile	72.8	74.8	Mobile
75.2	76.7	Mobile	75.2	76.7	Mobile
78	80	Mobile	78	80	Mobile
84	85	Mobile	83.5	85	Mobile
137	138	Mobile	137	138	Mobile
141.9	143	Mobile	141.9	143	Mobile
149	149.9	Mobile	149	149.9	Mobile
153.5	154	Mobile	153.5	154	Mobile
401	406	Mobile	401	406	Mobile

2004-05 Band Min. (MHz)	2004-05 Band Max. (MHz)	2004-05 Pricing Basis	2005-06 Band Min. (MHz)	2005-06 Band Max. (MHz)	2005-06 Pricing Basis
406.1	410	Mobile	406.1	410	Mobile
410	430	Mobile	410	430	Mobile
430	450	Mobile	430	450	Mobile
870	872	Mobile	870	872	Mobile
876	880	Mobile	876	880	Mobile
915	917	Mobile	915	917	Mobile
921	925	Mobile	921	925	Mobile
1375	1400	Fixed	1375	1400	Fixed
1427	1452	Fixed	1427	1452	Fixed
2025	2070	Fixed	2025	2070	Fixed
2200	2245	Fixed	2200	2245	Fixed
2290	2300	Fixed	Released to Ofcom		
2310	2390	Fixed	2310	2390	Mobile
2390	2450	Fixed	2390	2450	Mobile
3400	3600	Fixed	3400	3600	Fixed
4400	5000	Fixed	4400	5000	Fixed
5650	5850	Fixed	5650	5850	Fixed
7900	7975	Fixed	7900	7975	Fixed
8025	8400	Fixed	8025	8400	Fixed
8500	8750	Fixed	8500	8750	Fixed
8850	9000	Fixed	8850	9000	Fixed
9500	10125	Fixed	9500	10125	Fixed
10125	10225	Fixed	10125	10225	Fixed
10225	10475	Fixed	10225	10475	Fixed
10475	10500	Fixed	10475	10500	Fixed
13400	14000	Fixed	13400	14000	Fixed
14620	15230	Fixed	14620	15230	Fixed

Pricing for 2006-07 is yet to be concluded with Ofcom but it is expected that the priced bands and the basis (either fixed or mobile) for pricing will remain as in 2005-06.

The bands used by the MOD that are not subject to pricing other than the above are those available for military use that are listed in the United Kingdom Frequency Allocation Table (2004 Issue No. 13) that is issued by the National Frequency Planning Group on behalf of the Cabinet Official Committee on UK Spectrum Management.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what spectrum price was paid by his Department for the bands which it managed in each financial year from 2004-05; and what estimate he has made for each financial year from 2006-07 to 2009-10. [83354]

Mr. Ingram: The payments made to Ofcom for spectrum in each of the last two financial years were:

	£ million
2004-05	24
2005-06	55

The change in cost was as a result of agreements reached following a review of spectrum pricing policy and procedures.

A sum of £56 million has been allocated for spectrum expenditure in financial year 2006-07 but funding for subsequent years is still under discussion.

Type 23 Frigates (Sonar 2087)

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what future roles are planned for the five Type 23 frigates which are not to be fitted with Sonar 2087; and what the scheduled out-of-service date is for each of these ships. [85382]

Mr. Ingram: HM Ships Montrose, Monmouth, Iron Duke, Lancaster and Argyll are not scheduled to receive Sonar 2087. These ships will be employed across the normal range of standing strategic, home and overseas commitments. These include Fleet Ready Escort duties around home waters, operational deployments to the Gulf and Arabian Sea, and standing tasks in the South Atlantic (APT(S)), Caribbean (APT(N)) and within NATO's Standing Maritime Group in the Mediterranean (SNMG2). They will also continue to contribute to the UK's Maritime Joint Rapid Reaction Force (JRRF) held at high readiness for contingent operations, and deploy on pre-planned activities as JRRF elements within a Task Group.

On current plans the ships will be withdrawn from service in:

	Date
HMS Argyll	2019
HMS Lancaster	2019
HMS Iron Duke	2020
HMS Monmouth	2021
HMS Montrose	2021

Veterans

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on ensuring that employers are informed of the skills that veterans bring to the workplace. [84822]

Mr. Watson: We have seen no need so far for specific discussions between my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Defence and for Work and Pensions on ensuring that employers are informed of the skills of Service leavers. High rates of employment for Service leavers are already achieved through the Department's Career Transition Partnership (CTP) as part of the resettlement process. Of those who wish to work and are eligible for the service, over 50 per cent. are in employment within one month of discharge, rising to about 95 per cent. six months post-discharge.

The CTP commercial partner, Right Management Ltd. is a highly experienced outplacement company with a proven track record. It has a very effective marketing arm that carefully targets prospective employers who can offer quality jobs to Service leavers. Those employers who engage Service leavers are seldom disappointed and tend to seek more when vacancies arise.

The cultivation of prospective employers is a continuing process, not only for Right Management but for all others involved in the resettlement of departing Service personnel. It is an area of further

development under the new CTP contract, with particular emphasis on tying together, at both local and national level, jobs and resettlement training opportunities and exploiting those who have passed successfully through the CTP process to attain posts of influence in civilian employment.

For the minority of early Service leavers who are not eligible for CTP services, a resettlement briefing is provided which signposts employment help available from Other Government Departments and ex-Service charities: contacts are arranged on their behalf as necessary, and these are followed up by the briefing officer. This group of early leavers is also assessed for vulnerability to social exclusion and extra help is given where this is identified as a concern. The effectiveness of these arrangements is being kept under review.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on meeting the health needs of veterans through the NHS. [84823]

Mr. Watson: There have been no recent discussions on the subject between Secretaries of State. Since 1948, it has been the policy of successive Governments that health care for veterans should be provided by the NHS. Priority NHS treatment applies to veterans who are war pensioners for their accepted disorders. Officials in the Ministry of Defence and the four UK Health Departments work closely together, and they are at present developing delivery models to ensure high quality mental health services for veterans across the UK. My predecessors and I have been closely briefed on this and other work in the area of veterans' health. Should there be any issues following this work, or otherwise, I will discuss these with Ministers from the Department of Health and devolved Administrations through the Veterans Ministerial Task Force, as appropriate.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance is given to service personnel leaving the armed forces on finding appropriate housing; and what guidance has been given to housing authorities on assisting service personnel. [84824]

Mr. Watson: Assistance is given through such schemes as Long Service Advance of Pay and advice offered by the Joint Services Housing Advice Office. Guidance is available to local authorities generally about the allocation of accommodation, the provision of homelessness assistance and the prevention of rough sleeping. This includes guidance on the circumstances when people leaving the armed forces would have a priority need for accommodation.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department is undertaking into *(a)* homelessness among veterans and *(b)* veterans in prison; and if he will make a statement. [84827]

Mr. Watson: The Ex-Service Action Group, of which the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Communities and Local Government are members, has commissioned research to look into the effectiveness of interventions in preventing rough sleeping and homelessness among ex-Service personnel in London. The MOD will meet about 70 per cent. of the cost of this research from the Veterans Challenge Fund. The Department is not currently undertaking any research into veterans in prison but is leading a project with the Home Office, ex-Service charities and other voluntary sector organisations to assist ex-Service offenders in custody and on release, and their families, to reduce the risk of re-offending. In a related area, the Department has funded research on the possible merits of mentoring for vulnerable veterans which looked in particular at the needs of personnel discharged from the Military Corrective Training Centre. We are currently considering how best to take forward the results of this work.

Weapons Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the development of the 40 mm Case Telescoped Ammunition weapon; and what assessment has been made of its *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* in service cost. [85307]

Mr. Ingram: The 40 mm Cased Telescope Ammunition weapon has been developed using private venture capital by CTA International. The Ministry of Defence is conducting a Technology Demonstrator Programme to assess its effectiveness when vehicle-mounted. No study has yet been made of the through-life costs of the system.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81913]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The dates and costs are given as follows:

Financial year	*(a) Date of activity*	*£000 (b) Annual cost*
Age Partnership Group		
2005-06	April 2005 to March 2006	19
2006-07	April 2006 to May 2006	8
Age Positive		
2004-05	April 2004 to March 2005	29
2005-06	April 2005 to March 2006	68
Council Tax Benefit		
2004-05	January 2005 March 2005	674
2005-06	January 2005 to February 2005 March 2005	526

Financial year	(a) Date of activity	£000 (b) Annual cost
Direct Payment		
2004-05	April 2004	8,379
	June 2004 to December 2004	
	January 2005 -March 2005	
Disability Discrimination Act		
2004-05	March 2004 to September 2004	1,992
	January 2005 to March 2005	
2005-06	December 2005 to May 2006	888
IB Reforms Pilot		
2004-05	April 2004 to May 2004	106
Images of Disability		
2005-06	September 2005	2
Lone Parent Leaflet Promotion Marketing		
2004-05	March 2005	216
National Sector Campaign		
2005-06	July 2005 to September 2005	23
	October 2005 to December 2005	
	January 2006 to March 2006	
National Vacancy Campaign		
2004-05	October 2004 to March 2005	390
Pension Credit		
2004-05	April 2004 to July 2004	4,388
2005-06	January 2005 to March 2005	362
State Pension Deferral		
2004-05	November 2004 to July 2005	115
2005-06	January 2006 to March 2006	392
2006-07	April 2006 to May 2006	51
State Second Pension		
2005-06	January 2006 to February 2006	675
Targeting Benefit Fraud		
2004-05	June 2004 to July 2004	6,017
	October 2004 to November 2004	
	December 2004 to February 2005	
2005-06	June 2005 to July 2005	7,042
	October 2005 to November 2005	
	February 2005 to March 2005	
Winter Fuel Payments		
2004-05	June 2004 to March 2005	515
2005-06	June 2005 to March 2006	918

Notes:
1. The table does not include the following as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost: spend by non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing businesses recruitment or procurement advertising.
2. The figures refer to media spend only, excluding production and other costs.
3. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. 4. All figures are exclusive of VAT.

Benefit Take-up

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people who were entitled to but not claiming (i) unemployment benefit and (ii) incapacity benefit in (A) rural and (B) non-rural areas in each year since 1997 and *(b)* what proportion each figure represents of all those entitled to each benefit. [85921]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates are not available below national level for income-based jobseeker's allowance. The national estimates are available in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up". Copies of the latest publication, which describes patterns in take-up since 1997-98, together with past reports, are available in the Library.

No estimates are available for incapacity benefit.

Computer Software

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on the treatment of depreciation of computer software; and whether any extraordinary charges in respect of computer software assets have been made in the last three years. [82526]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has a policy to depreciate software using a straight-line method, at rates calculated to write off the current replacement cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset in equal instalments over its expected useful life.

Assets are depreciated from the month following acquisition or from when the asset is brought into use, if later.

Software purchases are depreciated over a period of five years. Software licences and software development

costs are depreciated over a period of five years or the life of the asset or licence period, if shorter.

No extraordinary charges have been made in the last three years in respect of software.

Crisis Loans

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on crisis loans for people in *(a)* Stroud and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each of the last five years. [84153]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table.

Crisis loans for area covered by Gloucestershire Jobcentre Plus district

	Expenditure (£)
2001-02	229,000
2002-03	322,000
2003-04	332,000
2004-05	273,000
2005-06	279,000

Notes:
1. Data is not available by parliamentary constituency or county, but only by Jobcentre Plus district.
2. From April 2002, Stroud parliamentary constituency and the county of Gloucestershire were in Gloucestershire Jobcentre Plus district, previously known as Gloucestershire Social Fund district. This district merged with another district in April 2005. The figure for 2005-06 in the table is for the area covered by the former Gloucestershire Jobcentre Plus district.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on crisis loans for people in Coventry, South in each of the last five years. [84848]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table.

Crisis loans for area covered by Coventry and Warwickshire Jobcentre Plus district

	Expenditure (£)
2001-02	762,000
2002-03	765,000
2003-04	907,000
2004-05	915,000
2005-06	1,100,000

Notes:
1. Data is not available by parliamentary constituency but only by Jobcentre Plus district.
2. The parliamentary constituency of Coventry South is in the Jobcentre Plus district of Coventry and Warwickshire. This district was formed in September 2002 by merging the Social Fund district of Coventry and the Social Fund district of Warwickshire. The expenditure for these two districts has been combined in the table.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1296W, on departmental staff, how many staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days in two or more of the years for which he has provided figures. [84045]

Mrs. McGuire: Full information on how many staff in the DWP have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days or more in two or more years is not collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Oxfordshire include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest rate, *(b)* middle rate and *(c)* lowest rate. [82202]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 17 July 2006:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many households in Oxfordshire include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest rate *(b)* middle rate and *(c)* lowest rate.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The information available is in the following tables:

Recipients of disability living allowance with learning difficulties by rate of care award as at November 2005 in Oxfordshire parliamentary constituencies

		Care component		
	Total with care component	Highest rate	Middle rate	Lowest rate
County of Oxford total	1,940	540	340	1,070
Banbury	370	90	70	220
Henley	200	60	30	110
Oxford East	430	120	70	240
Oxford West and Abingdon	290	70	50	170
Wantage	320	100	60	170
Witney	330	100	60	160

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Figures are based on the care component condition only.

Source:
DWP, WPLS 100 per cent. data.

Recipients of Disability Living Allowance with learning difficulties by rate of care award as at November 2005 in Oxfordshire local authorities

	Care component			
	Total with care component	*Highest rate*	*Middle rate*	*Lowest rate*
Oxfordshire total	1,940	530	340	1,070
Cherwell	440	110	70	250
Oxford	480	120	80	280
South Oxfordshire	330	100	60	160
Vale of White Horse	370	90	70	220
West Oxfordshire	320	100	60	160

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Figures are based on the care component condition only.

Source:
DWP, WPLS 100 per cent. data.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Somerset include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate. [82282]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 17 July 2006:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many households in Somerset include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the (a) highest (b) middle and (c) lowest rate.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The information available is in the following table:

Recipients of disability living allowance with learning difficulties by rate of care award as at November 2005 in Somerset local authorities.

	Care Component			
	Total with care component	*Higher rate*	*Middle rate*	*Lowest rate*
Somerset total	2,010	520	430	1,060
Mendip	430	100	110	220
Sedgemoor	430	110	90	230
South Somerset	560	160	120	280
Taunton Deane	440	130	90	220
West Somerset	160	30	30	110

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Figures are based on the care component condition only.
5. Information is only available for the Somerset local authorities.

Source.
DWP, WPLS 100 per cent. data.

I hope this is helpful.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what additional resources his Department estimates would be needed to extend the provision of the financial assistance scheme to those aged *(a)* between 59 and 62, *(b)* between 55 and 59 and *(c)* under 55; and if he will make a statement; [69545]

(2) what estimate he has made of the additional resources needed to extend the provision of the financial assistance scheme to those who otherwise fulfil the eligibility criteria but who are aged *(a)* below 55 and *(b)* between 55 and 59; and if he will make a statement. [70747]

James Purnell: Eligibility for the financial assistance scheme is based on the number of years to normal scheme retirement age when the financial assistance scheme was introduced in May 2004. People within three years of their normal scheme retirement age qualify for payments when they reach 65. Not all schemes have a retirement age of 65. Estimates of the cost of extending the financial assistance scheme to individuals of specific ages are not available.

Health and Safety

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Health and Safety Executive inspectors have been employed in the field operations division in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [81115]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of Health and Safety inspectors employed in the Field Operations Directorate for each of the last five years broken down by region are listed in the following table.

On 1 April 2005, management responsibility for 72 inspectors transferred from field operations directorate to policy group but their role remains essentially unchanged.

As at 1 April each year	*Scotland*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and North East*	*Midlands*	*Wales South West*	*East South East*	*London*	*Total*
2002	120	119	129	163	105	183	83	902
2003	110	98	108	155	144	195	86	896
2004	103	96	133	141	112	164	77	826
2005	87	86	111	133	107	168	73	765
2006	89	91	113	121	112	159	70	755

From October 2004, we have also had a front-line force of health and safety awareness officers, numbering 97 in 2006. The proportion of front-line staff remains at 21 per cent. of HSE staff in 2006 as it was in 2005, so essentially front-line delivery remains the same.

Over the last four years, the FOD has consistently increased the proportion of time it spends on front-line activities—standing at 61 per cent. for the 2005-06 work year.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* work on contract for overseas Governments and public bodies, *(b)* work on contract for overseas commercial interests and *(c)* collaborative work with other agencies abroad is carried out by (i) the Health and Safety Executive and (ii) the Health and Safety Laboratory; and if he will make a statement. [81940]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive carries out no work under contract for overseas Governments, public bodies and commercial interests. It does, however, carry out a considerable amount of collaborative work with other agencies abroad. The principal items of such work and the agencies, etc., with whom they are done are listed in table A.

The work currently being carried out by Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) on contract for overseas Governments and public bodies and for overseas commercial interests is set out in tables B1, B2 and B3.

In addition, HSL operates the Great Britain Explosives Notified Body, which offers a service to industry throughout the world to certify explosives falling within the scope of the European Directive 93/15/EEC and the Placing on the Market and Supervision of Transfers of Explosives Regulations (POMSTER). Explosives that meet the requirements of the directive and POMSTER may be marked with the CE mark. HSL currently has 80 overseas commercial applicants for certification.

HSL collaborates with a large number of overseas laboratories, principally in the area of quality control. In addition, HSL has formal collaboration agreements in place with the following overseas organisations: Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency; Canadian Explosives Research Laboratory; Institut de Recherche Robert Sauve en Sante et en Securite du Traveil (IRSST) Canada; and the National Institute for Occupational Health of the National Health and Laboratory Service, South Africa. Together with 11 other laboratories in member states of the EU, HSL is a signatory to the Framework Agreement on the Foundation of the Partnership for European Research in Occupational Safety and Health (PEROSH); and is also a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre.

In addition to these formal collaborative arrangements, Both HSE and HSL staff also regularly exchange information with the counterparts, experts and scientists throughout the world, both in the public and private sectors.

Table A: Collaborative work carried out by HSE with Overseas Agencies

Organisation	*Area of work*
World Health Organisation	Health effects of exposure to static/time varying electro magnetic fields; occupational safety and health statistics.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency	Nuclear energy safety.
International Labour Organisation	Developing and maintaining occupational safety and health standards.
International Social Security Association: International Agriculture Section	Occupational safety and health in agriculture.
International Organisation for Standardization	International health and safety standards.
International Atomic Energy Agency	Nuclear energy safety.
United Nations Group of Experts on the Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	Classification and labelling of chemicals.
International Conference of Chief Inspectors of Explosives	Exchange of information and good practice on the regulation of explosives.
International Association of Labour Inspectorates	Exchange of information and good practice on occupational safety and health enforcement.
International Regulators' Offshore Safety Forum	Offshore occupational safety and health.
International Group of Experts on the Explosion Risk of Unstable Substances	Energetic and oxidising substances and explosives, propellants and pyrotechnics.
International Collaborative Group on Environmentally Assisted Cracking	Nuclear energy safety.
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work	European Week of Safety and Health at Work, occupational safety and health statistics.
European Union Administration and Cooperation Groups	Occupational safety and health in machinery, pressure, lifts and equipment for use in explosive atmospheres.
European Commission: Eurostat	Occupational safety and health statistics.
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions	Occupational safety and health statistics.
European Committee for Standardization (CEN)	Occupational health and safety standards.
European Trade Union Institute for Research, Education and Health and Safety	Collaboration to develop methodology to obtain user information for the design of tools.
European Senior Labour Inspectorate Committee	Exchange of information and good practice on occupational safety and health enforcement.
European Working Group on Reactor Dosimetry	Nuclear energy safety.
European Chemicals Bureau and competent authorities in all EU Member States	Classification, labelling and safe use of chemicals.
North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum	Offshore occupational safety and health.
French Government-Ministere des Affaires Sociales (Ministry for Social Affairs)	Developing joint policy on machinery safety issues.

Table A: Collaborative work carried out by HSE with Overseas Agencies

Organisation	Area of work
German Government-Ministerium fur Umwelt und Verkehr (Ministry for Environment and Transport)	Machinery safety issues.
Dutch Government-Arbeidsinspectie Expertisecentrum	Developing procedure to deal with the application of EU Supply Directives.
Dutch State Supervision of Mines	Offshore occupational safety and health.
Danish Energy Authority Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs	Offshore occupational safety and health.
Petroleum Safety Authority Norway	Offshore occupational safety and health.
US Occupational Safety and Health Administration	Occupational safety and health in ground handling activities in air transport.
Atlantic Alliance (UK, USA, Germany, Ireland, Australia)	Occupational safety and health in quarries.

Table B1: Work carried out by HSL on contract for overseas governments and public bodies

Organisation	Area of work
European Commission	Creation and the promotion of an inclusive risk governance culture.
European Commission	Quantification and control of the hazards associated with the transport and bulk storage of fireworks.
European Commission	Handbook for approval of hydrogen refuelling stations.
European Commission	Sharing experience on risk management to design future industrial systems.
European Commission	Safety of hydrogen as an energy carrier.
European Commission	Safe production and use of nanomaterials.
Health and Safety Inspectorate, Gibraltar	Dock work safety.
Health and Safety Authority, Ireland	Exchange of information, advice and support on process safety issues.
Finnish Institute of Occupational Health	Occupational health and safety research topic centre.
Institut National de l'Environment Industriel et des Risques (INERIS), France	Hydrogen safety course.
Institut Quimic de Sarria, Spain	Explosives and explosives prevention.
National Institute of Occupational Hygiene, South Africa	Assessment of measurement and analysis of chemicals.
County Wexford Garda, Ireland	Diving equipment examination.
University of Wuerzburg, Germany	Risk assessment

Table B1: Work carried out by HSL on contract for overseas governments and public bodies

Organisation	Area of work
TNO Quality of Life, The Netherlands	Development of worked examples for exposure scenarios of biocidal products to humans.
CRP Centro para la Prevencion de Riesgos Professionales, Columbia	Urine sample analysis.

Table B2: Work carried out by HSL on contract for overseas commercial interests

Organisation	Area of work
European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), Belgium	Analysis of chemicals.
The Oil Companies European Organisation for Environment, Health and Safety (CONCAWE), Belgium	Analytical support for gasoline risk assessment.
Hilti Aktiengesellschaft, Leichtenstein	Tests on two fastening tools to assist the client in self-certification.
Adisseo France SAS, France	Measurement of dustiness of one powder.
Saint Gobain Cree, France	Measurement of dustiness of three carbon powders.
Microclean Environmental Ltd, Ireland	Analysis of chemical samples.
EHS Risk Management Services, Ireland	Nitrous oxide sampling.
AB Achema, Lithuania	Testing resistance to detonation.
Borax Rotterdam NV, The Netherlands	Testing chemicals in air filter samples.

Table B3: Work carried out by HSL on contract for a consortium of overseas public bodies and commercial interests

Organisation	Area of work
Danish Gas Technology Centre, Denmark; Gastec Technology BV, The Netherlands; Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning, Norway	Group sponsored research project on area classification for secondary releases from low-pressure natural gas systems in naturally and mechanically ventilated indoor locations.

Housing Benefit

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average level of housing benefit was paid to claimants in *(a)* local authority, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private rented accommodation in each London borough in (i) the latest month for which information is available and (ii) the same month in 2005-06. [85006]

Mr. Plaskitt: The most recent available information is for November 2005. Information for November 2004 has been provided for comparison. The information is in the table.

Average amounts of housing benefit in payment by tenure in London boroughs: November 2004 and 2005

London borough	November 2004			November 2005		
	LA	RSL	Private	LA	RSL	Private
Barking	61.46	70.27	117.92	65.32	74.97	124.07
Barnet	75.61	125.66	143.45	78.07	125.15	148.85

Average amounts of housing benefit in payment by tenure in London boroughs: November 2004 and 2005

London borough	November 2004			November 2005		
	LA	RSL	Private	LA	RSL	Private
Bexley	253.40	69.47	112.63	303.64	71.98	116.12
Brent	88.11	113.09	135.05	91.61	117.11	139.48
Bromley	[1]—	75.36	121.71	[1]—	78.33	127.93
Camden	80.68	96.81	135.21	84.12	101.08	141.62
City of London	75.53	85.77	110.38	76.44	89.77	111.83
Croydon	69.09	90.35	127.80	71.58	91.80	133.00
Ealing	92.41	98.10	130.38	99.98	99.26	137.08
Enfield	98.23	106.05	128.97	103.04	108.71	137.66
Greenwich	60.94	76.02	112.39	63.19	78.93	119.36
Hackney	76.67	86.32	128.13	78.59	90.91	137.90
Hammersmith and Fulham	78.40	87.04	120.70	85.42	94.85	141.35
Haringey	105.11	107.77	116.30	114.35	111.44	121.95
Harrow	71.75	139.92	138.63	72.12	142.06	143.18
Havering	52.33	73.71	113.11	58.64	75.67	117.82
Hillingdon	97.76	80.94	121.59	105.93	80.89	128.95
Hounslow	72.63	80.71	122.84	77.47	82.33	128.36
Islington	75.14	83.13	118.71	77.55	89.17	126.52
Kensington and Chelsea	101.99	84.59	165.65	113.43	89.19	170.65
Kingston upon Thames	89.74	82.26	127.91	91.23	86.42	132.34
Lambeth	81.02	73.48	110.43	86.58	77.75	115.03
Lewisham	59.12	80.29	88.31	63.52	85.00	137.71
Merton	60.85	80.87	125.17	65.18	84.05	132.83
Newham	100.09	120.11	116.30	120.81	120.60	123.35
Redbridge	130.24	92.45	123.13	141.16	94.38	131.01
Richmond upon Thames	251.81	69.50	130.61	245.84	72.82	138.23
Southwark	65.45	78.87	118.05	67.95	81.51	119.76
Sutton	60.29	78.44	120.86	63.31	82.80	126.01
Tower Hamlets	89.13	79.20	120.60	92.91	82.18	140.05
Waltham Forest	89.11	76.67	105.61	96.46	79.13	114.55
Wandsworth	77.78	100.29	130.60	83.01	101.83	175.69
Westminster	119.12	115.58	171.96	144.40	109.52	179.86

[1] Data is nil or non applicable. This includes cases where the average amounts have been suppressed if the corresponding caseloads are nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Average amounts have been rounded to the nearest penny.
2. "LA" = local authority, "RSL" = registered social landlord.
3. LA figures include non-HRA rent rebates.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 2004 and November 2005.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* out-turn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71817]

James Purnell: Information that is available is in the following table.

Contract	Supplier	Original contract estimate (£ million)	Most recently estimated (£ million)
Accord / Standard Services Business Allocation (SSBA)	EDS	3,433.5	2,396.8
Accord / Integrated Communications and Network Services (ICONS)	BT	1,411.3	870.0
Pensions Transformation Project	Accenture	129.0	122.0
Benefits Processing Replacement Programme / Working Age Transformation and Change Programme	IBM	123.4	79.7
Central Payment System	Siemens	59.6	59.6

Medical Assessments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of medical assessments for benefit entitlement have been appealed in each of the last five years; and what proportion of appeals for each benefit has been successful. [76883]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave to his question of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 286W, as the information asked for is not available in the format requested. Data are collected by benefit type rather than by whether a medical assessment is carried out.

New Deal for Disabled People

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will take steps to make the New Deal for Disabled People open to those who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance who are partially sighted; and if he will make a statement; [83326]

(2) what equipment is available for those on New Deal for Disabled People. [83327]

Mrs. McGuire: New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) services are available to people with a health condition or disability, including those who are partially sighted, who are in receipt of a range of benefits. Eligible benefits include incapacity benefit and income support with a disability premium, but not jobseeker's allowance (JSA). We have no plans to change the eligibility criteria for the programme.

There is no specific funding for equipment for NDDP customers and it is not a requirement of the programme to provide equipment. However, NDDP job brokers have the flexibility to use their funds to provide equipment, if they feel it is appropriate to do so. Equipment can also be accessed through other provision, for example, the adviser discretion fund (ADF), which enables the purchase of almost anything, up to a limit of £100 within a 12-month period, that will help a customer obtain a job or take up an offer of employment. NDDP customers can access ADF through Jobcentre Plus advisers.

Access to Work also helps disabled people enter and stay in employment by providing a range of practical help to them and their employers, including the provision of equipment to help overcome barriers faced at work as a result of disability.

Office Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* personal computers, *(b)* laptops, *(c)* servers, *(d)* printers, *(e)* scanners, *(f)* photocopiers and *(g)* fax machines (i) his Department and (ii) each (A) non-departmental public body, (B) Executive agency and (C) other public body for which his Department is responsible in (1) Scotland, (2) Wales, (3) each English region and (4) Northern Ireland owned in (x) 2003-04 and (y) 2004-05. [40089]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP central asset registers do not hold the requested data in national and regional splits. Assets owned by DWP are held against individual business units and by financial cost centre. The information is therefore provided below by year and by business unit.

In addition to the assets owned by DWP, the Department also utilises equipment owned by our major IT service provider EDS, under PFI arrangements. The figures for these supplier-owned assets are included separately.

There were approximately 130,000 staff in DWP in March 2005 and significantly more PCs than people. There are several reasons for this, including PCs allocated to;

Part-time staff on an individual basis

Staff who work from more than one site or from home

Business testing and training (e.g. for our large modernisation programme)

The time lag between staff reductions and equipment removals.

The figure continues to fall. We estimate that the current figure is 147,794 PCs and 8,169 laptops. The contractual and budgetary provisions of the recently aligned contract with EDS are designed to drive the numbers down further and to provide significantly improved asset management services.

The returns for non-departmental bodies for which DWP is responsible have been obtained from each individual body.

Photocopiers can be purchased or leased by local management and central figures are not available, however, a central DWP leasing arrangement for mid-range copiers indicates that 5,123 copiers were leased as at March 2005.

The information is contained within the following tables:

March 2004

	PCs	*Laptops*	*Servers*	*Printers*	*Scanners*	*Copiers*	*Fax*
Appeals Agency (inc Tribunal non-Departmental Public Bodies)	1,384	238	55	686	10	7	90
Jobcentre Plus	69,742	2,618	951	14,498	195	408	27
Child Support Agency	13,408	1,080	135	1,525	14	43	27
Corporate Centre	34,803	4,362	3,981	6,932	179	53	0
Disability and Carers	60	7	1	11	0	0	0
Pensions	19,457	2,562	134	2,894	58	13	8
Health and Safety Executive, Health and Safety Commission, Health and Safety Laboratory	904	207	50	292	65	164	45
Rent Service	Part of Office of Deputy Prime Minister so no data available for this year						

March 2004

	PCs	Laptops	Servers	Printers	Scanners	Copiers	Fax
Disability Rights Commission	294	71	33	38	9	7	9
Independent Living Funds	190	19	11	53	0	4	8
Pensions Protection Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Commission[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pensions Regulator	280	55	43	40	6	5	10
Remploy Limited	800	900	123	1,600	200	100	250
Disability Employment Advisory Committee[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Employment Panel	39	10	0	13	1	0	1
Social Security Advisory Committee	5	1	0	2	0	0	1
Office Pensions Ombudsman	43	2	1	14	1	2	1
Motability	150	9	11	15	2	6	3
Independent Review Service and Social	189	3	5	51	3	5	12
Fund Commissioner							
Pensions Advisory Service	44	4	3	16	1	3	2
EDS owned equipment	48,237	4,002	1,900	13,265	117	0	0
Total	190,034	16,150	7,437	41,945	861	820	494

[1] Included in House
[2] Included in Corporate Centre
Note:
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board has no equipment.

March 2005

	PCs	Laptops	Servers	Printers	Scanners	Copiers	Fax
Appeals Agency (inc Tribunal non Departmental Public Bodies)	1,358	233	47	706	7	4	81
Jobcentre Plus	65,310	1,552	1,084	11,336	116	404	27
Child Support Agency	12,830	835	151	1,350	14	43	27
Corporate Centre	20,702	3,657	3,699	3,579	131	35	10
Disability and Carers	8,020	263	161	1,739	14	4	0
Pensions	18,915	2,874	148	2,802	61	13	1
Health and Safety Executive, Health and Safety Commission, Health and Safety Laboratory	981	270	56	131	22	132	27
Rent Service	908	235	161	333	25	39	90
Disability Rights Commission	314	82	43	51	14	7	9
Independent Living Funds	250	33	17	54	0	4	9
Pensions Protection Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Commission[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pensions Regulator	400	60	65	42	6	5	12
Remploy Limited	800	900	123	1,600	200	120	300
Disability Employment Advisory Committee[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Employment Panel	39	10	0	13	1	0	1
Social Security Advisory Committee	6	2	0	2	0	0	1
Office Pensions Ombudsman	43	2	1	14	1	2	1
Motability	120	15	11	15	4	6	3
Independent Review Service and Social Fund Commissioner	211	5	6	51	3	5	12
Pensions Advisory Service	44	4	3	16	1	3	2
EDS owned equipment	44,975	4,553	1,900	12,757	121	0	0
Total	176,231	15,585	7,659	36,591	741	826	613

[1] Included in House
[2] Included in Corporate Centre
Note:
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board has no equipment.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83907]

Mrs. McGuire: In the last 12 months the Secretary of State has made the following number of official visits to each region:

	Number
East	1
East Midlands	5
London	3
North East	1
North West/	2
Northern Ireland	1
Scotland	2
South West	1
West Midlands	1
Yorkshire and Humber	1

All visits were conducted in accordance with the ministerial code. The official visits figures do not include speeches in London or departmental visits without an external dimension.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what administrative functions for which his Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment he has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81550]

Mrs. McGuire: None of the administrative functions for which the Department for Work and Pensions is responsible are outsourced overseas.

Currently the Department has no intention to locate administration functions overseas, therefore no assessment has been made of the merits.

Pension Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pensioners receiving pension credit in (i) 2020, (ii) 2030, (iii) 2040 and (iv) 2050 on the basis of the proposals made by the Pensions Commission; and if he will make a statement. [70294]

James Purnell: The Pensions Commission made no projections of receipt of pension credit in its second report "A New Pension Settlement for the Twenty-First Century", giving figures for eligibility instead. These are shown in figure 6.42 on page 294.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83167]

Mrs. McGuire: Details of the public appointments to public bodies sponsored by The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) can be found in "Public Bodies", copies of which are in the Library. "Public Bodies" has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of "Public Bodies" contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. DWP was established in June 2001 and stewardship of those of its public bodies in existence before this time sat within its predecessor Departments. Comparable information for 1976, 1986 and 1996 in respect of DWP public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the latest remuneration for each of the 130 public appointments to the bodies sponsored by DWP are set out in the following table:

Non-departmental public body (NDPB)/Year established	*Public appointments*	*Remuneration*
Disability Employment Advisory Committee (DEAC) 2002	Chair	Unpaid[1]
	14 Members	Unpaid[1]
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board (DLAAB) 1991	Chair	£286.00 per day
	7 Medical Members	£243.00 per day
		£121. 50 per half day
	10 Non-Medical Members	£134.00 per day
		£67.00 per half day
Disability Rights Commission (DRC) 2000	Chair	£117,000 per annum
	14 Members	£150.00 per day
Health and Safety Commission (HSC) 1974	Chair	£126,594 per annum
	9 Members	£15,435.00 per annum

Non-departmental public body (NDPB)/Year established	Public appointments	Remuneration
Independent Living Funds (ILF) 1993	Chair	Unpaid
	6 Members	Unpaid
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council IIAC) 1948	Chair	£260.00 per full council meeting and
		£141 per council sub-group meeting
	15 Members	£141.00 per meeting
National Employment Panel (NEP) 2001	Chair	Unpaid
	23 Members	Unpaid
Pensions Ombudsman (PO) 1991 Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman (PPFO) 2005	Ombudsman	£122,186.00 per annum
	Deputy Ombudsman	£83,946.00 per annum
Pensions Protection Fund (PPF) 2005	Chair	£82, 934. 80 per annum
	5 Members	£15,171.00 per annum
Remploy Ltd. 1945	Chair	£38,634 per annum
	6 Non-Executive Directors	£7,500.00 per annum
Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) 1980	Chair	£21,000 per annum
	13 Members	£210.00 per day
The Pensions Regular (TPR) 2005	Chair	£103,668.50 per annum
	5 Members	£10,114.00 per annum

[1] Loss of earnings up to a maximum daily rate of £138 may be claimed.

Redundancies

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which he has responsibility spent on redundancy payments in each of the last four years. [82564]

Mrs. McGuire: The amount spent by the Department on all staff early release schemes in each of the last four years is in the following table.

£ million

Business Area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
The Pension Service	0.2	0.19	1.29	14.1	15.7
Child Support Agency	0.83	0.82	0.84	4.5	7.0
Disability and Carers Service	n/a	n/a	0	7.0	7.0
The Appeals Service	0.15	0.17	0.2	0.2	0.7
Jobcentre Plus	0	0.18	0.55	69.0	69.7
Health and Safety Executive	2.08	0.65	0.75	0.0	3.5
The Rent Service	n/a	n/a	1.7	0.0	1.7
Departmental Corporate Units	16.17	14.11	9.58	43.5	83.3
Total	19.43	16.12	14.91	138.3	188.6

n/a = Denotes that the Agency did not exist in the Department in the year in question.

Notes:

1. A proportion of the ongoing annual pension payments for early retirement cases are held centrally and included in the Departmental Corporate Units' line from 2004-05 and 2005-06.
2. The figures do not include the provisions made in the accounts for costs associated with staff approved for early release in 2006-07.

Remploy

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer Question 77480, on the review of Remploy, tabled by the hon. Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole on 9 June. [80325]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 64W.

Sulphuric Acid

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Levels has made progress in determining whether sulphuric acid should be classified as a carcinogen; and if he will make a statement on current occupational exposure limits to sulphuric acid mist. [84510]

Mrs. McGuire: The European Commission's Scientific Committee for Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) does not make formal recommendations concerning the classification of chemicals. The responsibility for this falls to the Classification and Labelling Working Group established by the European Chemicals Bureau and this Group has not considered the classification of sulphuric acid as a carcinogen. However, in its deliberations leading to recommendations on occupational exposure limits, SCOEL undertakes an assessment of the evidence on all aspects of the substances under consideration, including whether or not a substance may have particular properties, including the potential to cause cancer in humans.

In relation to sulphuric acid mist, for which a Recommendation for an occupational exposure limit was published in October 2004, SCOEL felt that the balance of evidence from studies in worker populations was sufficient to indicate that sulphuric acid mist has the potential to cause laryngeal cancer in humans. However, there were insufficient data to reliably inform on the airborne exposure conditions that were associated with the increased incidence of laryngeal cancer in these studies. In relation to the mechanism whereby sulphuric acid mist causes laryngeal cancer, SCOEL concluded that it is based on long-term chronic irritation of the laryngeal epithelium, and that airborne exposures that are below the threshold for the induction of such irritant effects would not lead to any increased risk of cancer.

SCOEL recommended that an 8-hour time-weighted average occupational exposure limit, set at 0.05 mg.m-3, would not lead to any adverse health effects in workers, and would not be associated with any increased risk of cancer.

In November 2001 the Health and Safety Executive published a Chemical Hazard Alert Notice for sulphuric acid mist, which recommended that employers should control mist exposure to below 0.3 mg.m-3, in line with advice from the National Sulphuric Acid Association. The 8-hour time-weighted average occupational exposure standard (OES) for sulphuric acid, formerly set at 1 mg.m-3, was withdrawn by the Health and Safety Commission in May 2003. There is currently no British occupational exposure limit.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library all documents regarding discussions held between his Department and HM Revenue and Customs on the use of National Insurance numbers in determining the eligibility for tax credits of an individual who has failed verification rule 12 of the Tax Credits Manual on Residency Criteria Not Met. [85792]

Mr. Plaskitt: Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations both within Government and outside as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the practice to provide details of all such meetings.

HEALTH

Animal-based Insulin

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of Novo Nordisk's discontinuation of pork insulin crystal production in Brazil; and what representations she has *(a)* made and *(b)* received on the matter; [84481]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the supply of raw materials required to produce animal-based insulin; and if she will make a statement. [84720]

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that the availability of animal insulin in the UK is not adversely affected by the discontinuation of animal insulin crystal production at Novo Nordisk's Brazilian manufacturing facility which supplies raw materials to Wockhardt UK; and if she will make a statement. [85274]

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Wockhardt UK uses raw materials sourced from the Biobras pharmaceuticals facility in Brazil to manufacture their animal insulin products. [85977]

Andy Burnham: The Department has had no involvement with NovoNordisk's production of insulin crystals, although I am aware that it acquired the Brazilian company, Biobras, a number of years ago. NovoNordisk has announced that it is discontinuing its animal derived insulins on a worldwide basis. However, animal insulins will remain available from Wockhardt UK, who has confirmed that future supplies of these products are independent of NovoNordisk.

Avian Influenza

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account she took of the 50 per cent. fatality rate from H5N1 in determining the 2.5 per cent. fatality rate assumption for the relevant UK contingency plan. [85996]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Although the H5N1 virus has a reported fatality rate of around 50 per cent. in humans, there is some question regarding the accuracy of this figure. This is partly because we cannot guarantee that all H5N1 cases have been recorded. It is important to remember that fatality rates for pandemic flu have historically been lower than H5N1 avian flu. For example, the 1918 pandemic was the most severe in the

20th century and this had a fatality rate of around 2 per cent. This 2.5 per cent. figure was informed by international consensus and expert advice. Our modellers have taken the fatality rate of the H5N1 virus into consideration when agreeing this figure.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of community hospital beds in the Yorkshire Wolds and Coast Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997. [85322]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of community hospital beds likely to be needed in east Yorkshire over the next five years. [85323]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held by the Department. It is now for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to her oral statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 826, on community hospitals, how many community hospitals have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in the Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire strategic health authority area since 1997; and how many are being considered for closure. [85999]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 820, in which primary care trust areas the pilot community hospitals tariff to which she referred will be introduced next year. [85174]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* We will set out shortly our plans for the national tariff in 2007-08, but we have never said there will be a community hospital tariff.

Crystal Blue Consulting

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms are of the contract her Department has with Crystal Blue Consulting in respect of a review of the impact of the market forces factor in the funding and operation of local health trusts; and what timetable has been set for *(a)* completion of the work and *(b)* publishing its findings. [81957]

Andy Burnham: The advisory committee on resource allocation (ACRA) is carrying out a review of the approach to calculating the staff market forces factor (MFF). To inform the review and following a competitive tendering exercise, the Department has let a contract with Crystal Blue Consulting to examine the feasibility of using national health service costs in calculating the staff MFF. It is expected that the work will be completed by autumn this year. The publication of the findings will be considered later.

Dentistry

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome was of discussions between her Department, the North West London Strategic Health Authority and Hillingdon Primary Care Trust on the estimated £200,000 shortfall in the devolved dentistry budget for Hillingdon. [84372]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No formal discussions have been held between the Department, the then North West London strategic health authority and Hillingdon primary care trust (PCT) about the devolved dentistry budget for Hillingdon. However, I have been informed that Hillingdon PCT has now resolved this matter to its satisfaction.

Electrical Fields

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been conducted *(a)* by and *(b)* for her Department into the health impacts from electrical fields from (i) mobile phones, (ii) other electronic equipment in the home or workplace and (iii) major external sources, including power cables, mobile phone masts and other transmitters; and what steps she (A) has taken and (B) plans to take to tackle the potential effects on health of electrical fields. [84059]

Caroline Flint: The Health Protection Agency's radiation protection division (HPA-RPD) keeps the worldwide research findings on electric and magnetic fields (EMF) and health under review. In 2004 the HPA-RPD, previously the National Radiological Protection Board, undertook a comprehensive review of the existing body of research to date and formally recommended the adoption of EMF exposure guidelines published in 1998 by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The HPA advice is available on its website at www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/documents_of_nrpb/pdfs/doc_15_2.pdf. The ICNIRP guidelines also form the basis of the 1999 European Recommendation (EC/519/1999) on limiting EMF public exposure.

English Partnerships

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006 to question 77864, *Official Report*, column 817W, how many of the 96 national health service sites acquired by English Partnerships on 6 April 2005 have been sold. [83220]

Yvette Cooper: Of the 96 former hospital sites acquired by English Partnerships in April 2005, the following four sites have been sold so far:

Park Prewett, Basingstoke (part)
Linton Hospital, Maidstone
Renny Lodge, Newport Pagnell
Sheppey Hospital, Isle of Sheppey

Three of these sites—Renny Lodge, Linton Hospital and part of Park Prewett— will provide over 300 homes as part of the Design for Manufacture competition.

English Partnerships is working with partners to bring forward sites as quickly as possible and hopes to be able to announce preferred developers for a further four sites later this year.

Environmental Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if she will make a statement. [81185]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This Department is committed to maintaining the best possible standards of environmental management. We are working towards certification under IS014001. We have not been externally certified but are working towards certification.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which matches *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83620]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State for Health and Ministers in her Department attended none of the FIFA World Cup matches in their ministerial capacity, so there was no cost to public funds.

Fraser Day Hospital

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate has been made by Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust of the value of the Fraser Day Hospital site in Newport Pagnell; [84915]

(2) what estimate she has made of the annual saving to Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust (PCT) of the proposed closure of the Fraser Day Hospital in Newport Pagnell, expressed in *(a)* real terms and *(b)* as a percentage of the PCT's annual budget. [84916]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* The continued use of the suite of rooms forming the Fraser Day Hospital for health-related services is being investigated and, as such, the value of the primary care trust's legal interest in this accommodation is not required at the present time. The provision of local health care facilities is the responsibility of the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust (PCT), with the support of their strategic health authority. It is for the PCT to estimate any costs of changes in service arrangements.

Healthcare Commission

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Healthcare Commission will begin consideration of the case of Alan Jones (Case No. C200506_0165). [84665]

Andy Burnham: The Chairman of the Healthcare Commission has confirmed that the Commission has now started to review this case. The Chairman has added that a member of the Commission's complaints staff has contacted the complainant.

In-patient Operations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* patients resident in Wales and *(b)* other patients had been waiting more than six months for an NHS in-patient operation at an English hospital at the end of June 2006. [85012]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not currently available. Waiting times data relating to the end of June will be published on Friday 28 July.

Maternity Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence report on maternity services was altered after completion and before publication; and if she will make a statement. [84152]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is developing a guideline on care during labour. During the preparation of the draft guideline, the Department, as one of the instituted stakeholders, asked whether or not the available evidence precisely supported one of the recommendations made in the guideline. This related to advice on the risks and benefits of the different places of birth. NICE reflected on this, took further advice, and made a minor change to the relevant recommendation.

Multiple Sclerosis

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations she has received on the availability of disease-modifying therapies for people with multiple sclerosis in Staffordshire; and if she will make a statement; [84176]

(2) if she will meet the MS Society to discuss the terms of reference of the North Staffordshire Review Panel assessing the cost-effectiveness of disease-modifying therapies for people with multiple sclerosis. [84178]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State has received no recent representations on the availability of disease modifying therapies for people with multiple sclerosis in Staffordshire. The local health community is responsible for decisions around the provision of national health service treatment. The Multiple Sclerosis Society may

wish to discuss its concerns about the terms of reference of the North Staffordshire review panel with NHS West Midlands.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has considered amending its assessment of cost effectiveness to include a factor of care time in the outcome. [84002]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) "Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal" is published on NICE's website at www.nice.org.uk, and gives details of the methodology NICE uses in carrying out its appraisals. NICE reviews its methods guide approximately every three years following consultation with stakeholder organisations, including those representing patients, carers, health care professions and manufacturers. The guide was last updated in 2004.

Newham PCT

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of Newham Primary Care Trust's financial position; and if she will make a statement. [82064]

Andy Burnham: The 2005-06 provisional unaudited financial position of all national health service organisations was announced on 7 June. A full report on the 2005-06 NHS financial performance and a series of tables showing the financial position of all NHS organisations is available in the Library.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards the six national NHS priorities in Newham Primary Care Trust area; and if she will make a statement. [82073]

Andy Burnham: It is for the local national health service to assess the primary care trust's progress in meeting the six national NHS priorities.

NHS Complaints

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of complaints against the NHS brought to the attention of the Healthcare Commission have been referred back to the trust of origin for resolution without further investigation. [82587]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The chairman of the Healthcare Commission has confirmed that in 2005-06 31 per cent. of cases were referred back for further work by the health care provider concerned following a review of the local complaint handling by the Healthcare Commission.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints against the NHS brought to the attention of the Healthcare Commission and not referred back to the trust of origin without further investigation are waiting to be investigated by a case manager of the Healthcare Commission; how long on average these cases have been waiting; and how many of these cases have been waiting more than *(a)* eight weeks, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year from receipt of the complaint. [82588]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The chairman of the Healthcare Commission has confirmed that the Commission which faces a higher than expected numbers of referred cases, has introduced an eight week target to cases received since 1 April 2006. There are currently 2,261 cases awaiting further investigation, of which 1,136 are over six months old with none over 12 months old.

NHS Finance

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the financial position of primary care trusts that are significantly under their weighted capitation target; and if she will make a statement. [82063]

Andy Burnham: Our analysis of the 2005-06 financial positions of national health service organisations has shown that there is no strong relationship between financial performance and any single factor, including distance from capitation target. A full report on 2005-06 financial performance is available in the Library.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much notice was given to primary care trusts of their financial obligation to the London risk pool; [82065]

(2) what assessment she has made of the likelihood of there being a need for additional contributions by London primary care trusts to the London strategic health authority risk pool in 2007-08; [82069]

(3) when London primary care trusts are expected to be informed of any need to contribute funds to a London strategic health authority risk pool for 2007-08; [82070]

(4) when Newham Primary Care Trust is expected to receive a refund of its contribution to the risk pool for the London strategic health authority. [82072]

Andy Burnham: The new strategic health authorities (SHAs) will take the lead locally in developing and implementing a service and financial strategy for managing the financial position within their locality. This will include creating local reserves to deal with local problems.

It is for SHAs locally to determine the level of contribution to reserves and the application of those reserves. The level determined will reflect local financial circumstances.

London primary care trusts (PCTs) were advised of their financial obligation to the London risk pool formally at the beginning of March 2006. London PCTs were made aware of this matter some weeks prior to that date via briefing from their previous local SHAs. PCT contributions will be repayable within three years with 2006-07 contributions expected to be repaid over the period 2007 to 2010. Repayment schedules are currently being agreed with deficit organisations.

The London SHA is still working on its plans for this year and is closely engaged with the Department on this issue. There is no timetable yet for the 2007-08 national operating framework and any contributions for 2007-08 will be subject to review.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the effectiveness of the weighted capitation targets in addressing health inequalities in the NHS. [82068]

Andy Burnham: Tackling health inequalities is within the remit of all primary care trusts (PCTs). Those PCTs with the worst health and deprivation indicators work to support public service agreement targets to narrow the health inequalities gaps in life expectancy, cardiovascular disease and cancer between their areas and the England average. To support this work, the weighted capitation formula takes account of deprivation.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether spearhead primary care trusts will be given priority when primary care trust contributions to strategic health authority risk pools are repaid. [82074]

Andy Burnham: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are responsible for the performance management of their national health service organisations and ensuring they achieve financial balance. SHAs should take the lead locally in developing and implementing a service and financial strategy for managing the financial position within their locality. For 2006-07, this will include creating local reserves to deal with local problems.

The reserves will have to be paid back to organisations in future years when the organisations currently in deficit start producing surpluses. It will be repaid, normally in the three-year allocation period. SHAs have been asked to ensure that primary care trusts with the greatest health need are the first to be repaid.

NHS IT Support

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made against each target on pages five and six of her Department's publication "Delivering 21st century IT support for the NHS"; what the completion date was for each target that has been met; and what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* targets are for phases 1, 2 and 3 set out in paragraph 3.3.1. [75123]

Caroline Flint: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Nurses

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of nursing graduates found nursing jobs within *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months in each year since 1997. [86017]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to public funds was of training a nurse in each year since 1997. [86018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimated average annual cost to public funds of training a nursing student in each year since 1997 is shown in the table, although the data have been collected on different basis thereby making comparisons difficult.

	Cost per individual—bursary or salary and tuition (£)
1997-98	11,625
1998-99	10,500
1999-2000	11,000
2000-01	13,000
2001-02	12,850
2002-03	13,690
2003-04	14,710
2004-05	15,000

Notes:
1. 1997-98 and 2004-05 are forecasts (actual outturn was only collected from 1999 onwards and the last data collected was in November 2004 covering 2003-04 outturn).
2. Average bursary costs for nurses and midwives added to tuition costs from 2000-01 onwards.

Nursing and Care Homes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nursing and *(b)* residential care homes there were in (i) the Stroud constituency and (ii) Gloucestershire in (A) 1996, (B) 2001 and (C) 2005. [77823]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of homes was collected by the Department for the years 1996 and 2001. Table 1 shows the numbers of residential and nursing care homes in Gloucestershire as at 31 March in 1996 and 2001. Data are not available at constituency level.

Table 1: Number of residential and nursing care homes in Gloucestershire, as at 31 March 1996 and 2001

		Rounded numbers
Type of home	*1996*	*2001*
Residential[1]	200	305
Nursing[2,3]	140	110
Total homes[4]	345	415

[1] Residential data are for Gloucestershire unitary authority.
[2] Nursing data are for Gloucestershire health authority.
[3] Nursing data include general nursing homes, mental nursing homes and private hospitals and clinics.
[4] Totals may not equal the sum of parts due to rounding.
Sources:
For 1996—Department of Health RAC 5 and K036 returns. For 2001—Department of Health RA and RH(N) returns.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) produces data on the number of care homes and places registered as at 31 March each year, beginning with 2003. There are some definitional differences between this data and that for the years up to 2001.

I understand from the chair of CSCI that the numbers of residential and nursing care homes, as at

31 March 2005, in Gloucester and South Gloucester local authorities are as shown in table 2. Data are not available at constituency level.

Table 2: Numbers of registered care and nursing homes in Gloucester and South Gloucester local authorities, as at 31 March 2005

Local authority	*Gloucester*	*South Gloucester*	*Total*
Residential care	276	97	373
Nursing	64	23	87
Total	340	120	460

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database.

Ormskirk Hospital Site

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which out-patient clinics are delivered from the Ormskirk hospital site; and with what frequency each occurs. [85326]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally. It can be obtained directly from the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital National Health Service Trust.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the new Independent Sector Treatment Centre scheduled for the Ormskirk Hospital site will be available to provide care to the residents of *(a)* West Lancashire and *(b)* the North-West. [85485]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Ormskirk Hospital site is one of several locations, named by the preferred bidder, from which services will be provided as part of the Cheshire and Merseyside electives surgery scheme, part of the next phase of the procurement in the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme. The scheme is still currently being negotiated.

As stated in "The NHS in England: the operation framework for 2006/07", patient choice will be extended to include any national health service foundation trust and any nationally procured ISTC, and any other subsequently centrally accredited independent-sector providers.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the medical interventions planned at the Independent Sector Treatment Centre scheduled for the Ormskirk Hospital site require support from *(a)* an intensive care unit and *(b)* a high dependency unit. [85486]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The case mix planned for the Cheshire and Merseyside electives surgery scheme includes gynaecology, ear, nose and throat, gastroenterology, orthopaedics, general surgery and plastics. Detailed discussions are still in progress between the bidder and the Southport and Ormskirk National Health Service Trust but at this stage, it is anticipated that, if required, the independent sector treatment centre will follow the protocol established at Ormskirk Hospital, which is to use intensive care and high dependency facilities at Southport Hospital.

Osteoporosis

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice and assistance is made available to encourage GPs to take advantage through practice-based commissioning of programmes to identify patients at risk of osteoporosis; and if she will make a statement. [81621]

Andy Burnham: To maximise the benefits of practice-based commissioning (PBC), the Department has resourced and put in place a comprehensive programme providing training, support, and guidance material for general practitioner (GP) practices and primary care trusts (PCTs).

This includes publication of the document "Practice based commissioning: early wins and top tips", which contains tips to support PBC and suggestions as to how it can be used to redesign care pathways. This publication is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/12/82/74/04128274.pdf and has been issued directly to all GP practices.

This document does not specifically encourage GPs to take advantage of programmes to identify patients for their risk of osteoporosis. However, the document does encourage GP practices to take the principles of the case studies featured and extend these to providing services tailored to a particular practice's local population.

Oxygen Supplies

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of whether the companies which hold Home Oxygen therapy contracts are meeting the required service levels. [83992]

Andy Burnham: The transfer of patients to new suppliers is taking place over a six-month transitional period that ends on 31 July 2006. Working with the national health service, we are closely monitoring each company's capacity to deliver the required standard of service to all patients using oxygen therapy in the home. During this period, there is continuous assessment of suppliers with regular meetings to discuss suppliers' reports on progress and action to tackle emerging issues.

Paediatric Special Care

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that sick babies receive the special care they require. [86014]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has facilitated the development of 24 neonatal managed clinical networks to provide the safest and most effective service for mothers and babies. Since April 2003 over £70 million additional funding has been made available to support the development of networks. It is for individual networks to ensure there is an appropriate level of provision, including special care, to meet prevalent local demand.

Payment by Results

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to review the policy of payment by results in respect of the treatment and care of premature babies in the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [85724]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are currently no tariffs for neonatal intensive care. Critical care is outside the scope of payment by results, and funding for the service continues to be locally negotiated between commissioners and providers. The range of services covered by payment by results is kept under review.

Prescription Charges (Exemptions)

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the list of foods and medicines exempt from prescription charges for those with certain medical conditions will be reviewed. [84886]

Andy Burnham: Certain foods are listed in part XV of the drug tariff in order that they may be prescribed. We have no plans to extend the existing list of medical conditions that give exemption from prescription charges.

Prescription charges are currently being looked at by the Health Committee as part of its inquiry into national health service charges.

Primary Care Trust Budgets

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether funding for specialist myalgic encephalomyelitis/encephaliopathy and chronic fatigue syndrome services is contained within the baseline budget of primary care trusts. [85325]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I can confirm that funding for specialist chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis services is included in the baseline budgets for primary care trusts.

Waiting Time Target

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many category A projects have so far been established, as described on page 26 of her Department's document "18 Week Patient Pathway: Delivery Resource Pack", where they have been established in each case; for which medical procedures they have been established; what conclusions have so far been drawn from the projects; when she expects the projects to conclude; and if she will make a statement; [84418]

(2) which pioneer sites to assess the prospects for delivery of the 18-week waiting time target amongst category B procedures deemed high risk have so far been established; on which procedures they are concentrating in each case; where they are situated; and if she will make a statement. [84419]

Andy Burnham: The areas of greatest challenge identified in the delivery resource pack in relation to 18 weeks are orthopaedics, endoscopy, echocardiography and audiology. National projects are required in these category 'A' areas.

In orthopaedics, a co-ordinating group of key stakeholders has been established, and a musculoskeletal services framework was published on 12 July 2006 on the Department's and the 18 week patient pathway websites. Work continues to identify and then tackle local performance levels.

In endoscopy, work is well under way to identify performance levels and best practice, building on the work begun by the NHS Modernisation Agency. In cardiology, the project is identifying those tests that present the greatest challenge in terms of intervention rates and performance, including echocardiography.

In audiology, most adult hearing services are accessed directly from primary care, and are therefore provided outside of the pathways covered by the 18-week target. However, waiting times for adult hearing services are too long and do need to be tackled, not least to ensure that referrals to such services are not diverted via ear, nose and throat departments (which are covered by 18 weeks) to benefit from the 18-week maximum wait that will apply by December 2008. Work is under way at official level, with stakeholders to be involved, and a plan will be published in due course, following ministerial approval.

In terms of the high risk, category B areas, the eight 18-week pioneer health communities will soon turn their attention from developing the mechanisms by which whole pathways will be measured to redesigning pathways in the high risk areas identified in the delivery resource pack. The table shows the specialties being addressed by each of the pioneers. Magnetic resonance imaging, computerised tomography and non-obstetric ultrasound diagnostic tests are being addressed as part of these pathways.

Pioneer health community	*Delivery solutions being addressed*
East Kent	General surgery, gastroenterology, orthopaedics, cardiology
Huntingdonshire	Orthopaedics, endoscopy, neurology, dermatology
North Nottinghamshire	Gastroenterology, gynaecology, rheumatology, diabetes
Devon and Exeter	Cardiology, oral surgery, diabetes, plastic surgery
Gateshead	Orthopaedics, cardiology, rheumatology
King's	Orthopaedics, audiology, respiratory medicine
North East Sector of Greater Manchester	Trauma and orthopaedics, general surgery, general medicine
South Bedfordshire	Urology, ears, nose and throat, cardiology, ophthalmology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she has identified an 18-week pathway clinical lead; and what the role of the clinical lead will be; [84456]

(2) what progress she has made in establishing the stakeholder group to support delivery of the 18-week waiting time target. [84458]

Andy Burnham: Dr. David Colin-Thomé has been appointed clinical lead for the 18 weeks programme in addition to his role as national clinical director for primary care, as announced in "Tackling Hospital Waiting: The 18 Week Patient Pathway—An Implementation Framework" (paragraph 3.4). Dr. Colin-Thomé's role on 18 weeks is to lead engagement with the clinical community, act as national lead for the clinical leads of particular specialty areas, co-chair the 18-week stakeholder group and provide advice on implementation issues as they arise.

The 18-week pathway stakeholder group is made up of nominees from a range of national organisations, senior clinicians, managers and patients. It is intended that the group should normally meet monthly, alternating between the full group and a subset made up of the strategic health authority leads for 18 weeks. The subset met for the first time in June. The full group should meet for the first time in September.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what challenges to delivering the 18-week waiting time target have so far been identified by her Department; and which of these challenges are being used in the campaign to highlight key challenges from May; [84468]

(2) what key messages have been agreed to support delivery of the 18-week waiting time target, as stated on page 22 of her Department's document, "18 Week Patient Pathway: Delivery Resource Pack", published on 10th May 2006. [84486]

Andy Burnham: Key areas of challenge to delivering the 18-week waiting target were outlined in section two of the publication, "Tackling Hospital Waiting: The 18 Week Patient Pathway—An Implementation Framework". Since publication, national projects have begun in orthopaedics and endoscopy, and the national project in cardiology is in development. Work is under way at official level on an audiology action plan and this will be published in due course following ministerial approval. The 18-week programme team and the Department have highlighted the key challenges at numerous events in the past few months, including the NHS Confederation conference. The team will shortly be holding events in each of the new strategic heath authorities to help prepare for delivery.

This publication, which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/46/69/04134669.pdf also sets out the key messages for all groups involved in the delivery of 18 weeks, including the key actions required by various parties.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 18 July 2006

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his suggested alternatives are for income generation for poppy growers in *(a)* Helmand province and *(b)* other Afghan provinces. [85758]

Hilary Benn: After decades of conflict, the lack of investment in basic infrastructure, poor governance and drought, much of Afghanistan's productivity has been lost or re-directed towards poppy cultivation and drug trafficking. As 70 per cent. of the population are rural, agriculture provides the best opportunity for alternative income generation.

Helmand province was once one of the most agriculturally advanced and productive areas in Afghanistan. It might have the potential to be so again. For examples, the DFID-funded research into alternative livelihoods programme (RALF) is looking at the export potential of grapes, tomatoes, mushrooms egg plants and okra in Helmand and has made contacts with raisin importers, which involves organic and fair trade. The programme is also evaluating at least 10 different small scale agri-processing industries such as tomato paste production.

Growth in small and medium enterprises and construction has the potential to bring new employment opportunities in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. DFID supports the micro finance investment support facility programme, which provides much needed credit for investment in agriculture, manufacturing, retail and service industries. To date, the programme has brought financial services for some 161,000 people in and around half of the provinces of Afghanistan.

The development of Afghanistan's natural resources could also provide alternative jobs. Afghanistan possesses energy and mineral resources, many of which are underdeveloped, such as coal, gas, oil, precious metals and semi-precious stones. DFID is funding the British Geological Survey to strengthen the Afghan Geological Survey to develop and promote the mining sector.

Angola

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support is *(a)* provided and *(b)* planned for (i) land mine clearance and (ii) transport infrastructure developments in Angola. [85537]

Hilary Benn: DFID has provided over £1.1 million for land mine clearance work in Angola since 2003. A further £400,000 will be spent this year to support land mine clearance activities in the country.

DFID is currently funding the work of two mine action NGOs operating in Angola—the Halo Trust and the Mine Awareness Group. Most of this work is taking place in areas where humanitarian operations are ongoing in order to allow UN Agencies such as the World Food Programme to access populations in need, and to do so safely.

DFID's aid programme in Angola is focused on providing support to meet urgent humanitarian needs. Funding for transport infrastructure has been made in the context of support provided for humanitarian programming. DFID provided £1.15 million to the WFP last year to support the construction of bridges to enable quicker humanitarian access to populations in need. This support has also reduced costs because aid can now travel by road instead of only by air transport.

Support for infrastructure development in southern Africa has been identified as a priority area in DFID's southern Africa regional plan. Angola will benefit from this work, which is currently at the design stage.

Darfur

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the joint UN-African Union technical assessment mission report on Darfur. [85341]

Hilary Benn: The United Nations-African Union technical assessment mission recently returned from Darfur. Their report has yet to be released, though it is expected before the end of July. We expect that it will make recommendations on how the UN can support the African Union, and ultimately take over in Darfur. We do not know yet what form the report will take. It may be an oral briefing, a letter from Kofi Annan or a formal written report. Assuming any written report is made public, I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Malawi

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding the Government are providing for water and sanitation projects in Malawi. [85916]

Hilary Benn: DFID is co-financing a Concern Universal project with the European Union Water Facility. The project is in two districts of Malawi and will deliver 550 boreholes, household sanitation, and training, and help build capacity in the districts. DFID is contributing £620,000 over five years, which is 25 per cent. of the overall funding.

DFID has agreed to co-finance a project in 13 districts of Malawi if the NGO consortium involved can secure European Union Water Facility funding. The consortium of six NGOs is led by Concern Universal and also includes Oxfam, Emmanuel International and World Vision. This project will work with local government and is expected to deliver over 3,000 functioning boreholes and safe sanitation for

250,000 people. DFID has agreed to contribute £860,000 over five years which is 25 per cent. of the overall funding.

DFID is funding WaterAid to complete a nationwide digital map showing who has and does not have access to a safe water supply. This tool will help the Government and others to concentrate their efforts on supplying water to those who have no access at present. DFID is spending £65,000 on this work.

As part of support to primary education, DFID has been funding improvements to primary school water supply and sanitation for the past nine years. In 2005, DFID spent approximately £1,000,000 on primary school water supply and sanitation in Malawi. Apart from their health benefits, the availability of latrines and their sensitive siting is one of a number of factors that can help keep girls at school.

Somalia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid programmes are supported by his Department in Somalia; and by which local administrations aid is delivered. [85004]

Hilary Benn: DFID has a rising aid programme in Somalia. Subject to political and other developments within Somalia, this year we plan to disburse approximately £15.5 million, of which around 40 per cent. is likely to be spent in Somaliland. This is planned to rise further next year, again with a substantial portion benefiting Somaliland—either as support for specific Somaliland activities or as part of a Somalia-wide programme.

Our programmes in Somalia are focused around three objectives agreed:

i. To help achieve a just and viable political settlement in Somalia. Programmes include a Dialogue for Peace project and Democratisation project through WSP International.

ii. To work with others to establish the basis for effective development assistance, with an initial focus on improving governance and service delivery. Programmes include a partnership agreement with UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for support to primary education and a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Rule of Law Programme supporting re-establishment and strengthening of police services and justice systems.

iii. To ensure timely provision of humanitarian relief. For example, we provided approximately £13 million in response to the recent drought in the Horn of Africa, specifically for relief in Somalia.

We do not provide bilateral aid directly to any Somali authority; however, projects under the objectives above, undertaken by the UN and NGOs, involve collaboration with local and regional authorities and the Transitional Federal Government in their delivery.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Solicitor-General how much was spent on foreign travel by the Law Officers' Departments in each of the last eight years. [76066]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have spent the following amounts on foreign travel in the last eight years. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand, or hundred if under 1,000. All foreign travel by Ministers and officials is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

£

	Crown Prosecution Service	*Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office*	*Serious Fraud Office*	*Treasury Solicitor's Department*	*Attorney General's Office*	*HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate*
1998-99	25,000	[1]—	55,000	8,000	21,000	—
1999-2000	39,000	[1]—	114,000	200	15,000	—
2000-01	77,000	[1]—	191,000	600	25,000	—
2001-02	151,000	[1]—	203,000	5,000	28,000	—
2002-03	166,000	[1]—	110,000	7,000	61,000	—
2003-04	281,000	[1]—	204,000	8,000	82,000	—
2004-05	135,000	[1]—	186,000	12,000	23,000	1,000
2005-06	166,000	20,000	[2]317,000	14,000	63,000	—

[1] RCPO was established on 18 April 2005.
[2] Provisional figures pending finalisation of 2005-06 accounts.

Law Officers Departmental Report

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General how many copies of the Law Officers departmental report 2006, were produced; at what cost; to whom copies were sent; at what cost; who was consulted prior to publication; how members of the public can obtain copies; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [78601]

The Solicitor-General: The Stationery Office produced 780 copies of Cm 6821, "Law Officers' Departments Report 2006". Of the 780 copies, the Law Officers' Departments received 320 copies at a cost of £4,248. The 320 were allocated as follows:

	Number of copies allocated
Attorney-General's Office	20
Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)	180
HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	20

	Number of copies allocated
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	50
Serious Fraud Office	25
Treasury Solicitor's Office	25

Copies of the report are circulated within departments, including the 42 CPS geographical areas, and to criminal justice system partners. No central records are kept of individual recipients or cost of distribution.

The report is prepared within all the Law Officers Departments. Treasury and other CJS Departments are consulted during preparation.

A hard copy of the report can be obtained through the Stationery Office priced £14.75. It is also available on the Law Officers departments websites.

TRANSPORT

A303

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the level of traffic flow on the A303 during the 2012 Olympics. [86099]

Gillian Merron: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will be responsible for identifying the roads to be included in the Olympic route network and considering their impact on traffic flows, as well as on the roads adjoining them. The ODA will also consider the general traffic flow caused by Olympic spectators.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the economic effects on the south-west region of the implementation of the published scheme for improvements to the A303 at Stonehenge in the first year after construction. [86100]

Dr. Ladyman: Our estimate of the economic benefits of this scheme does not distinguish between the economic benefits to the south-west and to other regions.

Air Traffic Control

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reports he has received on the possible effects of wind turbines and wind farms on air traffic control radars; and what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Civil Aviation Authority on the matter. [86264]

Gillian Merron: On 3 July 2006, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued a Civil Aviation Publication (CAP 764) entitled "Policy and Guidelines on Wind Turbines". This guidance provides assistance to aviation stakeholders when addressing wind energy related issues and includes a description of the various areas of aviation, including radar, which have the potential to be affected by wind turbine developments. The guidance is available on the CAA website at www.caa.co.uk/cap764

We have regular meetings with various stakeholders, including representatives from the CAA, to discuss a range of issues.

Asylum Seekers

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many asylum seekers have applied for *(a)* full and *(b)* provisional driving licences in the last year for which figures are available. [85102]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not retain the information requested.

Automatic Identification System

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to tackle the vulnerability of automatic identification systems to pirates. [86263]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has already advised masters of UK and Red Ensign Group registered shipping that they may temporarily cease broadcasting automatic identification system signals when in open waters, if they judge that the security of the vessel is being compromised by them. More detailed advice to masters on this issue is contained in the Department's counter piracy note issued to mariners, published in November 2005, as Marine Guidance Note 298.

The Department has also reached an agreement with an internet provider of AIS information to introduce a package of risk mitigation measures including a time delay and a reduction in the quantity of information accessible from the site.

Cycling

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of the introduction of regulations requiring all *(a)* new bicycles to be fitted with operational lights and *(b)* purchasers to be provided with safety helmets; and if he will make a statement. [85529]

Derek Twigg: No formal assessment has been made of the merits or otherwise of introducing regulations to require all new bicycles to be fitted with operational lights and all purchasers to be provided with safety helmets.

Existing regulations require the use of lights on pedal cycles between sunset and sunrise: non-compliance is an offence. Requiring the fitment of operational lights at point of sale would not ensure that the lights were thereafter maintained in working order, nor would it ensure that riders turned them on. However, such regulation would deprive cyclists of choice, as there are several legally acceptable varieties of cycle lights, ranging from dynamo to battery-operated and steady to flashing, from which cyclists are currently free to choose.

Our policy on cycle helmets is to persuade cyclists to protect themselves by using them, but providing helmets with each new bicycle would not guarantee

that they would be used. The Government will keep their policies in this—as in all areas—under review in the light of discussion in Parliament and elsewhere.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to promote cycling in cities outside London; and how much was paid in grants supporting the promotion of cycling in each of the last five years. [85530]

Derek Twigg: Funding for cycling outside London is primarily provided through the local transport plan system which funds local highway authorities. We do not have a breakdown between cities and other areas. Expenditure on cycling outside London for the past five years is set out in the following table:

LTP spend on cycling schemes as reported by local highway authorities

	Spend on cycling (£000)
2001-02	29,583
2002-03	39,889
2003-04	32,128
2004-05	39,891
2005-06	35,387

In addition, we created Cycling England in March 2005 with a budget of £5 million per annum to work with local authorities and others to co-ordinate the development of cycling. The Secretary of State recently announced a doubling of its annual budget to £10 million per annum for the next three years. Cycling England is investing £8.4 million over three years in six cycle demonstration towns—Aylesbury, Brighton, Darlington, Derby, Exeter and Lancaster.

In addition the Department has spent over £12 million on the links to school programme between 2003-04 and 2004-05. We also provided £4.47 million between 2002-03 and 2003-04 through our cycling projects fund to support nearly 300 local cycling projects across England.

Bus Routes

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many applications *(a)* to change and *(b)* to modify bus routes have been made to the traffic commissioners in each area of England in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [85372]

(2) on how many occasions the traffic commissioners have intervened *(a)* to prevent and *(b)* to modify a change to a bus route of which they had been notified in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [85373]

Gillian Merron *[holding answers 14 July 2006]:* The traffic commissioner must accept all properly completed applications to register or vary a local bus service. New registrations can only be refused where the operator concerned has a condition on their licence which prevents them from providing the service as applied for.

Information on the number of new and varied local bus service registrations is published in the traffic commissioners annual report. Copies of the publications are available in the House of Commons Library and can also be found on the DFT website at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.hcst?n=9759&l=3

Child Seats (Cars)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for publicising the new regulations on the use of child seats in cars. [84828]

Dr. Ladyman: Advertising consisting of press, online, and radio activity will commence on 24 July and will run until mid-September explaining the change to the law and encouraging people to ring our campaign hotline for further information.

PR activity will run from week commencing 17 July beginning with the GMTV car safety week with features on TV each morning. Thereafter, we shall continue to target national and local press and broadcast media, online media and magazines until the end of September, encouraging features as children return to school.

Road safety officers in local authorities will also be raising awareness of the new regulations. Stakeholder and brand partner materials have been developed for local use including posters, leaflets and online creative, full details of which are available on the THINK! road safety website—www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk—along with full details of the new regulations.

Commercial partners are also lending support—Mothercare, Halfords and Toys R Us will be raising awareness of the new regulations and disseminating literature to their customers.

Congestion (Liverpool)

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to relieve congestion in the Hall lane strategic gateway; and if he will make a statement. [86093]

Dr. Ladyman: The local highway authority, Liverpool city council, is responsible for tackling congestion and the delivery of improvements in the Hall lane strategic gateway.

We provisionally approved the Hall lane improvement scheme for funding through the local transport plan programme in 2000 and the Edge lane west scheme in 2004. It is for the city council to obtain the necessary statutory powers for the implementation of these schemes before seeking final funding approval from the Department.

Correspondence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reason is for the delay in his reply to the letter of 24 April 2006 from Wiltshire county council about rail services in Wiltshire. [85215]

Derek Twigg: My officials replied on 12 July. I apologise for the delay.

Crossrail

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on the Crossrail project in each year since 2004-05. [84606]

Derek Twigg: The amounts spent on the Crossrail project in each year since 2004-05 are shown in the following table. The figures provided set out expenditure by both Cross London Rail Links Ltd, and the Department for Transport.

		£ million
Financial year	*CLRL costs*	*DfT costs*
2004-5	44.4	2,657,209
2005-06	41.4	3,664,948
2006-07 (to June 06)	21.1	944,571

Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 33W, on the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority, when he expects to provide the substantive reply. [86440]

Dr. Ladyman: Our intention is to determine this case and issue the substantive reply before August.

Detrunking

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1267W, on detrunking, what additional funds have been provided to each local authority in the 2006-07 financial year to meet the cost of maintaining the detrunked roads; what proportion of that authority's total allocated funds for its local transport plan the additional amount represents; and if he will make a statement. [85047]

Dr. Ladyman: The data required to make the calculation can be found on the Department's website.

The breakdown of routine maintenance funding for 2006-07 for each local authority in England with a detrunked road can be found in the maintenance of roads grant determination 2006. The grant information is available on the Department's website at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_roads/documents/page/dft_roads_611492.hcsp

The additional capital maintenance funding provided to each of these local authorities for their detrunked roads can be found in the local transport plan settlement decision letters, issued in December 2005. The letters also contain details of each authority's local transport capital settlement for financial year 2006-07. These letters are also available on the Department's website at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_localtrans/documents/divisionhomepage/610730.hcsp.

Digital Tachographs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when driver cards for digital tachographs will be available in the UK. [84834]

Dr. Ladyman: Driver cards for digital tachographs have been available in this country for over a year. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency issued its first such card on 5 July 2005.

Driving Licences

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what facilities there are for non-UK nationals to obtain a driving licence from a local Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [85164]

Dr. Ladyman: The agency operates a premium checking facility at four local offices located at Wimbledon, Glasgow, Nottingham and DVLA reception area in Swansea. It is available to holders of full EEA, Gibraltar and designated countries driving licences exchanging their licences for a UK one. The designated countries are:

Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Falkland Islands, Hong Kong, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea[1], Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland and Zimbabwe.

Applicants opting to use this service must hold a current passport from one of the countries referred to above. In these circumstances staff will check their application for accuracy and completeness and return their passport to them over the counter. A fee of £4 is levied for this service.

[1]Motorcycle entitlement from the Republic of Korea is not exchangeable.

First Great Western

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he was first informed of First Great Western's plans for increases in peak-time travel prices. [84097]

Derek Twigg: The Department was first informed of First Great Western's intended fares strategy in its franchise bid received in September 2005. First Great Western has already implemented a new range of fares which offer significantly lower prices than anything previously available for both first and standard class travel for passengers who book ahead. In addition, since the commencement of the franchise in April, First Great Western has obtained secure station accreditation status at a further five stations as part of a continuing programme and have also signed two major contracts worth nearly £150 million which will significantly improve the interiors and technical reliability of the high speed train fleet over the next 18 months.

Foreign Vehicle (Road Traffic Offences)

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action his Department is taking to ensure that owners of foreign vehicles guilty of traffic offences in the UK pay their fines. [85687]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government are aware that it can be too easy for non-UK resident drivers to avoid paying fines when found guilty of traffic offences. We are determined to address this and enabling provisions for a new system of graduated fixed penalties are contained in the Road Safety Bill currently before Parliament. These provisions will also allow enforcement agencies to take an immediate cash

deposit, equal to a fixed penalty notice or court-imposed fine, from foreign drivers who commit offences, bringing us into line with our continental neighbours.

The graduated fixed penalties and deposit scheme, could be in place during next year and should improve compliance through increased deterrence as well as providing for more effective enforcement.

Freight Containers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1268W, on freight containers, what proportion of the containers in use on the UK's roads will be affected by these changes. [84862]

Dr. Ladyman: Directive 96/53/EC effectively prohibits the carriage of conventional 45ft ISO deep sea containers. In 2004 there were an estimated 142,000 of these containers in circulation worldwide—around 1.4 per cent. of the deep sea container market—but we have no data on the numbers that may be in use on UK roads.

As the directive includes a 10-year derogation until 31 December 2006 which permits the carriage of such containers on oversize vehicles in service before implementation, there are expected to be few in number, and that those containers still in circulation can be used elsewhere other than on the EU road network.

Government Car Fleet

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what safety considerations are taken into account when choosing Government vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [85168]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport is a member of the European new car assessment programme (EuroNCAP). Performance against the EuroNCAP tests is one of the criteria the Government Car and Despatch Agency uses when choosing suitable official cars.

Heysham M6 Link

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Heysham M6 Link has received funding approval. [86397]

Dr. Ladyman: We are currently considering Lancashire county council's business case for the inclusion of the Heysham to M6 link road in the Department's programme of major schemes. A decision on programme entry for this scheme and funding from the Department will only be taken once we have resolved a number of appraisal issues. Should the scheme be approved for programme entry, our response of 6 July to the north-west region on Regional Funding Allocations confirms that we would expect to provide funding for this scheme during the period 2009-10 to 2015-16 but only subject to it securing all necessary statutory approvals.

High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is his policy to prevent coaches from using high occupancy vehicle lanes. [84832]

Dr. Ladyman: The issue of whether to allow coaches to use high occupancy (HOV) lanes is still being considered. Coaches are clearly high occupancy vehicles but they are speed restricted, which could therefore impede the flow of traffic in the HOV lane. A key consideration is whether the proposed HOV lane is on the outside of the motorway (as proposed for M1 junction 7 to 10) or the inside of the motorway (as proposed for M62/M606).

A final decision will only be made once we have finalised the exact details of each scheme and we have satisfied ourselves that the lanes will operate safely.

Left-hand Drive Vehicles

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of left-hand drive vehicles on British roads; what estimate he has made of the proportion of road accidents which involved left-hand drive vehicles in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [84836]

Dr. Ladyman: Information on the number or percentage of left-hand drive vehicles on British roads is not available. In 2005, there were 1,760 personal injury road accidents reported to the police involving left-hand drive foreign registered vehicles. The total number of personal road injury accidents was 198,735. The proportion of road accidents involving left-hand drive foreign registered vehicles was just under 1 per cent.

Rail Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the east coast main line south of York will be operating at full capacity when additional train paths are allocated to GNER on the Leeds to London section; and if he will make a statement. [85014]

Derek Twigg: A route utilisation strategy for the east coast main line is being prepared by Network Rail. The analysis that will underpin this strategy will include an assessment of the capacity of the route, and an assessment of the most effective use of that capacity. The consultation draft for this strategy is expected to be published before the end of this year.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work he has commissioned on the development of a high speed rail link from London to Scotland. [85236]

Derek Twigg: The Government made a manifesto commitment to look at the feasibility and affordability of a new north-south high speed link. The Government have committed to take this forward in the development of a long-term strategy for the railways, drawing on Sir Rod Eddington's advice on the

long-term impact of transport decisions on the UK's productivity, stability and growth. In so doing the Department will draw on a range of evidence and commissioned work.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 264W, on South West Trains, when he expects to respond to the letter from the South Hampshire Rail Users Group; and if he will place a copy of his response in the Library. [85278]

Derek Twigg: The letter was replied to on 13 July, and a copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason and upon whose authority King's Cross station was closed for several days recently following a fire on a nearby building site; what provisions are in place to ensure that major transport routes into London are not prematurely or unnecessarily closed; and if he will make a statement. [85285]

Derek Twigg: These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Mr. John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to authorise the transfer of railway interchange stations in London from Network Rail to Transport for London; and if he will make a statement. [85531]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Transport is currently involved in discussions with Transport for London regarding the manner in which rail interchange stations within London are operated in the future. As these stations are Network Rail's assets, the final arrangements for any transfer would be a matter for Transport for London and Network Rail.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice he has given to Transport for London in respect of the operation of services on the East London line after the proposed extension has been completed. [85532]

Derek Twigg: The operation of services on the East London line is a matter for Transport for London.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on Crossrail; and how much he expects to spend by the end of the 2007-08 financial year. [85565]

Derek Twigg: The then Secretary of State allocated £154 million to CLRL for Crossrail in 2001. The amount spent by CLRL is shown in the table, as well as expenditure within the Department for Transport since 2003-04, when the Crossrail hybrid Bill was introduced. In December 2005, the then Secretary of State allocated a further £100 million for the continued development of the project and support of the hybrid Bill. The Department is discussing with CLRL what further sums would be needed for the period to Royal Assent, which is hoped for during 2007.

Financial year	*CLRL costs (£ million)*	*DfT costs (£)*
2001-02	5.3	—
2002-03	25.2	—
2003-04	31.5	1,445,019
2004-05	44.4	2,657,209
2005-06	41.4	3,664,948
2006-07 (to June 2006)	21.1	944,571

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of people riding on the outside of moving trains were reported to the British Transport police in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005; how many have been reported in 2006; what measures are being taken to prevent such incidents; and if he will make a statement. [85813]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Information relating to incidents of people riding on the outside of moving trains and reported to the British Transport police is held by the force who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London NW1 9LN
E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

Road Safety

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents were caused *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly by the driver using a mobile phone in the last period for which figures are available. [85414]

Dr. Ladyman: The information available relates to factors that are judged by the police as having contributed to a road accident in which someone was injured. The number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police that have "Driver using mobile phone" assigned as a contributory factor in 2005 was 429.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries in road accidents there were in (i) Sunderland city council area and (ii) Houghton and Washington, East constituency in each year since 1997. [85423]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries in personal injury road accidents reported to the police in (i) Sunderland local authority and (ii) Houghton and Washington, East constituency in each year from 1997 to 2005 are shown in the table. Constituency level data for 2005 are not yet available.

	Sunderland local authority		Houghton and Washington, East constituency	
	(a) Killed	(b) Injured	(a) Killed	(b) Injured
1997	15	1,460	8	454
1998	11	1,344	5	456
1999	11	1,295	9	421
2000	4	1,342	1	454
2001	8	1,307	6	449
2002	10	1,245	5	406
2003	8	1,338	6	442
2004	8	1,228	5	402
2005	10	1,091	—	—

Roads

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which road repair project being carried out by the Highways Agency has been allocated the most funding. [85490]

Dr. Ladyman: The M25 Holmesdale tunnel refurbishment project has a total forecasted cost of £70 million. It comprises repairs to the existing road, the tunnel structure and associated mechanical and electrical equipment.

Roadside Checks

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many roadside checks have been carried out on defective brakes during each of the past 24 months; what the nature is of such tests; and what conclusions he has drawn from the results. [85167]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for roadside enforcement. Greater detail on the results of their work is published in its effectiveness report which is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk.

The following table is based on financial year and amalgamates roadside checks and fleet checks. The data cannot be broken down further without disproportionate cost.

	2004-05	2005-06
Prohibitions issued in relation to brakes	24,955	25,357
Percentage of vehicle encounters that resulted in such prohibitions	14.4	13.9

Although visual inspection will identify the majority of potential defects, VOSA staff can also utilise temperature checks and roller brake tester equipment.

Brake defects are in the top 10 fail items for heavy goods vehicles, trailers and passenger service vehicles at roadside and fleet checks and annual test. Defects in braking systems are a concern.

Stansted Airport

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the new owners of the British Airports Authority on the continued development of a second runway at Stansted airport; and if he will make a statement. [86266]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State for Transport has met the chairman of Grupo Ferrovial SA to discuss their plans for BAA.

On 6 July, ADI, the consortium led by Ferrovial, confirmed its commitment to developing a second runway at Stansted as soon as possible although it would review the costs and plans for the second runway. A press release on this announcement can be found on BAA's website.

Transport Direct

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the value for money of the Transport Direct portal. [85818]

Dr. Ladyman: The original business case for Transport Direct recorded three key value for money measures:

Achieve one million user sessions in the first year of service.

Achieve 10 million user sessions by the end of 2006.

10 per cent. of users reassess their travel habits as a result of the information provided by Transport Direct.

Of these measures:

The one millionth user session was achieved ten months after soft-launch of the service (soft-launched in July 2004, achieved in May 2005)

We are on course to achieve our ten millionth user session by the end of 2006.

Early results of user surveys have indicated that 64 per cent. of those who completed our surveys were considering a change of travel mode preference.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the impact of the Transport Direct portal on journey decisions, including modal shift. [85820]

Dr. Ladyman: The portal service includes a self-completion feedback questionnaire that has been designed to form part of the independent evaluation framework for the portal. The analysis of the first 1,002 forms (December 2005) indicates that:

64 per cent. of users who responded indicated a change of original travel mode preference for at least part of the journey.

In 33 per cent. of cases the respondent had made the journey previously and of these 51 per cent. indicated a change in original mode preference.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many visitor hits Transport Direct has received; and what its advertising expenditure has been since it became operational. [85821]

Dr. Ladyman: Transport Direct usage is recorded in "user sessions". A user session is defined as:

"One continuous dialogue with the Transport Direct Portal through one browser window".

By the end of June 2006 Transport Direct had recorded 6,055,702 user sessions. The current rate is around 150,000 user sessions a week, viewing an average of seven to eight pages each.

Advertising costs across the financial years 2004-05 to 2005-06 were £1,063,000.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why the default setting for the cost of car travel on the Transport Direct portal is for fuel costs. [85822]

Dr. Ladyman: The portal provides the user with two choices for assessing the costs of car travel. One is "fuel costs"; including exceptional costs such as tolls, ferry charges and congestion charges, and the other is 'total running costs' which take into account the cost of owning a car.

Transport Direct's purpose is to give users an impartial series of travel options and to enable them to select choices that meet their needs. Market research strongly indicates that motorists are overwhelmingly interested in seeing information about the 'point of use' of costs of their car. Therefore the default is to display the fuel costs and other direct costs. Showing full costs as the default would result in this functionality not being used by the majority of motorists, thus negating any potential effect on their travel choice.

Users do have the option to select an estimate of the total running costs. This is based on advice and information provided by the major motoring organisations and provides a figure which reflects the total cost of motoring, on a per mile basis. If the user chooses this option, then fuel costs, the exceptional costs and the total ownership costs are displayed.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much it cost to construct www.transportdirect.info; and how much it has cost to operate a month on average. [82210]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is as follows:

Construction of www.transportdirect.info.

Overall capital spend on the Transport Direct portal design, build and operate (DBO) contract has been as follows:

Period	*£ million*
2002-03	1.3
2003-04	9.3
2004-05	9.6
2005-06	7.3
2006-07	0.4
Total to end March 2006	27.9

These figures represent the sums paid to Atos Origin (the DBO contractor) for all aspects of the DBO contract excluding non-capital elements.

The DBO contract has been just one part of the overall Transport Direct programme. Whilst the portal DBO contract cost more than we originally estimated, the overall programme budget under spent.

Operational costs are in the region of £225,000-£250,000 per calendar month, while data supply costs are in the region of £100,000 per month.

Vehicle Excise Duty Licences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle excise duty licences were paid in each band, including goods vehicles, for the most recently available year; and how many licences in each band were paid for by *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* incorporated businesses. [83959]

Dr. Ladyman: DVLA estimates the number of vehicle licences issued within each band for the "Private and Light Goods" tax class, as the following table:

Estimate of licences issued for Private and Light Goods vehicles, 2004-05

Class	*Licences issued*
Band A	543
Band B	392,320
Band C	4,710,235
Band D	3,907,106
Band E	3,039,718
Band F	2,945,879
Band G	1,618,549
Cars registered before 1 March 2001	22,388,865
Total	39,003,215

Additionally, 554,153 licences were issued for heavy goods vehicles in 2004-05. No statistical information is available to indicate how many licences in each band were paid for by *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* incorporated businesses.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 18 July 2006

SCOTLAND

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81054]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office subscribes to the energy efficiency policies adopted by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice), on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1615W.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81381]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office subscribes to the principles of environmental performance adopted by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice), on 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1344W.

Environmental Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81189]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office subscribes to the environmental management principles adopted by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, East (Bridget Prentice), on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1992W

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [78840]

David Cairns: Since the Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999, one private Member's Bill has been drafted and has subsequently received Royal Assent—my Sunday Working (Scotland) Act 2003.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list those Private Members' Bills in respect of which his Department has adopted a policy of neutrality in each session since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [72484]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has not adopted a policy of neutrality on any of the private Members' Bills since session 2001-02 for which it had the lead interest.

Scottish Affairs Select Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what action has been taken by his Department to implement Scottish Affairs Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 session; and if he will make a statement. [78843]

David Cairns: The Government have responded to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee's recommendations in the period in question in the following published memoranda:

Session 2001-02

The Drinks Industry in Scotland: Response by the Government and the Scottish Executive (HC 696), published on 18 March 2002.

Customs Services in Scotland: Response by the Government (HC 1287), published on 5 November 2002

Session 2002-03

Employment in Shipbuilding on the Clyde: Response by the Government (HC 199), published on 19 December 2002

Homeworkers in Scotland and the Minimum Wage: Response by the Government (HC 816), published on 19 June 2003

Session 2003-04

The Coincidence of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries in Scotland and the Consequences of Change: Response by the Government (HC514), published on 7 April 2004

The Proposed Whisky Strip Stamp: Response by the Government (HC 822), published on 5 July 2004

Session 2005-06

Meeting Scotland's Future Energy Needs: Government Response (HC 579), published on 24 October 2005

Each memorandum stated whether the Government accepted the recommendations in the relevant report.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Access to Work Scheme

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82231]

Paul Goggins: The table provides information on the numbers of NIO staff with disabilities for whom NIO requested support through the Access to Work scheme. This relates to the provision of workplace assessments to identify individual needs and recommend special aids and equipment and, where applicable, the provision of assistance with the cost of providing reasonable adjustments. While the scheme also assists with the cost of travel to work, the Department has no knowledge of assistance provided for NIO staff, as individuals must apply direct to the scheme.

	Number
2001-02	2
2002-03	2
2003-04	2
2004-05	4
2005-06	1
2006-07	[1]

[1] To date.

Building Regulations

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to assess compliance with building regulations in Northern Ireland. [80954]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments do not hold this information. Enforcement of building regulations is the responsibility of district councils. Having written to district councils I can confirm that Building Control employ professionally qualified and trained staff to carry out independent and impartial plan assessments and detailed inspection of all sites to ensure compliance. Applicants must notify Building Control at various stages of projects, and if remedial action is necessary, it is always carried out prior to the issue of the completion certificate.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many homes built in the last 10 years in Northern Ireland do not comply with environmental building regulations. [80953]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland civil service departments do not hold this information. Enforcement of building regulations is the responsibility of district councils. Having written to district councils I can confirm that no homes built in the last 10 years contravene the environmental building regulations.

Further Education

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what provision for those with *(a)* mental health difficulties and *(b)* learning disability is offered by further education colleges in the Province. [83728]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Employment and Learning is unable to provide the information in the format requested but can confirm that in 2004-05, the last year for which figures are available, further education colleges in Northern Ireland enrolled 14,231 students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities on a range of mainstream courses and, where more appropriate, on courses designed specifically for students with learning difficulties. FE colleges have also been provided with additional resources to make such physical adjustments as may be required to assist those with disabilities and learning difficulties.

Prisons

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of providing assistance to prisoners in Northern Ireland to cease smoking in each of the last three years. [78738]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available for 2003 and 2004.

In 2005 the cost of providing nicotine replacement patches under prescription to prisoners was £12,082.09 and for the period 1 January to 31 May 2006 the cost was £4,692.45.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners have absconded from custody in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [80444]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service undertakes a thorough risk assessment prior to decisions being taken in respect of prisoner release, and has a low incidence of absconds.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service classifies absconds as prisoners released from lawful custody under Rule 27(2), who are accompanied outside the confines of the prison establishment.

Numbers of prisoners absconding from custody - 2001 to date

	Maghaberry	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank Wood*
2001	1	1	1
2002	2	1	1
2003	2	1	1
2004	1	—	—
2005	1	—	—
2006	2	1	—
Total	9	4	3

Road Improvements

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what improvements are planned for the A26 road between Ballymena and Coleraine over the next two years. [85725]

David Cairns: The Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, Mr. Geoff Allister, has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Geoff Allister, dated 18 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding what improvements are planned for the A26 road between Ballymena and Coleraine over the next two years.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

I have to advise that there are no planned improvements for the A26 between Ballymena and Coleraine over the next two years.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85180]

Mr. Hain: Two statutory instruments sponsored by my Department since October 2005 have been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective. Details are as follows:

(a) The Prison and Young Offenders Centre (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005/153). See the Fourth Report of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments for session 2005-06, published on 19 October 2005; and

(b) The Pollution Prevention and Control (Amendment) and Connected Provisions (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005 No. 285). See Sixth Report of the JCSI for 2005-06, published on 26 October 2005.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Avian Flu

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1341W, on avian influenza, when and in what manner the discussion took place between a departmental official with Mr. Steve Moon at which an offer was extended to Mr. Moon, or another representative of the Association of Local Government Ecologists, to participate in the avian influenza stakeholder group; and who the official was. [81142]

Mr. Bradshaw: There appears to have been some misunderstanding over this matter. A Defra official has written to Mr. Moon to express regret for this. I have also written to the Secretary of the Association of Local Government Ecologists inviting the association to participate in the AI Stakeholder Group.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the vaccination of domestic birds against avian influenza; and if he will make a statement. [85232]

Mr. Bradshaw: The advice from the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) is that we should not vaccinate poultry in advance of an avian influenza outbreak, or as an immediate disease control response. Although currently available vaccines are able to reduce mortality, it is possible that some vaccinated birds would still be capable of transmitting the disease if they become infected, but might not display symptoms of disease. This would increase the time taken to detect and eradicate the virus. High standards of surveillance and biosecurity, early reporting of suspect cases and culling remain the most effective ways of preventing avian influenza and tackling an outbreak.

However, as I informed the House on 11 July, in order to be fully prepared we have invited tenders to supply us with a further 10 million doses of avian influenza vaccine for potential use in poultry and other captive birds. This is not a change in policy. The CVO has recommended this step as part of sensible contingency planning in the light of uncertainties about the future spread and nature of the virus, and the possibility of as yet unforeseen circumstances. The vaccine would only be used if a risk assessment and scientific evidence indicated it would help to prevent disease spread.

Fisheries

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the status is of the investigation into possible blackfish landings of pelagic fish. [86438]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is an issue for the Scottish Executive. As it is an ongoing investigation we are unable to comment.

Fly-tipping

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fly-tipping incidents were recorded by Flycapture in 2004-05, broken down by local authority area. [85710]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on fly-tipping incidents recorded by each local authority on the Flycapture database between April 2004 and March 2005 have been placed in the Library of the House.

Waste

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* printer cartridges were (i) recycled, (ii) reused overseas and (iii) disposed of within the waste stream in the last 12 months. [84068]

Mr. Bradshaw: This Department does not collect information on the recycling or reuse of mobile phones or printer cartridges. The mobile phone industry estimates that 18 million handsets are replaced every year and that in 2003 and 2004, about five million handsets were collected by mobile phone recycling and refurbishment companies in the UK. The industry estimates that about 60 per cent. of these were refurbished and the remaining 40 per cent. were sent for materials recycling.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Administrative Savings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what administrative savings have been made by his Department in each of the last eight years. [34937]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's annual reports contain information on departmental management and public service delivery, including on measures taken to improve efficiency and value for money.

For the years 1997-98 and 1998-99, value for money and efficiency savings were not reported separately in the Department's annual reports but were contained within the chapters on the management of the Department.

During the period covered by the 1998 Comprehensive Spending Review (1999-2002), the Department had a strategic efficiency target to achieve savings of 2.5 per cent. of its running costs each year. In 1999-2000 DTI achieved a saving of 2.6 per cent. of running costs (£10.6 million on projected costs of £406.6 million); and in 2000-01 a saving of 4.6 per cent. (£19.3 million on projected costs of £418.8 million).

The CSR98 efficiency target was replaced for the 2000 Spending Review period (2001-04) by a Public Service Agreement Target to "achieve value for money improvements of 2.5 per cent. a year across the Department", which was carried over into the 2002 Spending Review (2003-06). In 2001-02 value for money improvements under this target amounted to 3.79 per cent. (£16 million on projected costs of £422.3 million); and in 2002-03 amounted to 4.5 per cent. (£20.2 million on projected costs of £449.9 million).

Value for money improvements related to administration under the SR2002 PSA12 value for the money target amounted to £35.4 million in 2003-04 and £351.7 million in 2004-05. The Department's performance for 2005-06 against this PSA target will be covered in the 2006 departmental report, which was due to be published in spring 2006.

In the 2004 Spending Review the Department committed to achieve annual efficiencies of at least £380 million by 2007-08. The 2005 Autumn Performance Report, published last December, provides the most recent assessment of the Department's performance against this target. £27.97 million efficiency gains related to administration spend were achieved by the end of Quarter 2.

Airbus

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what Government grants were awarded to BAE Systems for the purchase of shares in Airbus in 1979. [82416]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has no record of grants being given to either British Aerospace or its successor BAE Systems for the purchase of shares in Airbus.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost *(a)* gross and *(b)* net after loan repayments was of support by the UK Government to Airbus programmes in each year since 1985. [83570]

Margaret Hodge: Launch investment is a risk-sharing Government investment in the design and development of civil aerospace projects in the UK. It is not a loan. The investment is repayable at a real rate of return, usually via levies on sales of the product.

The amounts paid to Airbus in launch investment and the amounts received from Airbus in repayment of launch investment in each of the years from 1984-85 to 2005-06 inclusive are set out in the following table, with the net figures (Receipts-Payments) in the final column.

£ million

	Payments	Receipts	Net
1984/85	46.5	0.0	-46.5
1985-86	73.0	0.0	-73.0
1986-87	86.0	0.0	-86.0
1987-88	44.5	0.0	-44.5
1988-89	87.8	0.0	-87.8
1989-90	122.5	10.0	-112.5
1990-91	134.0	34.0	-100.0
1991-92	73.5	55.4	-18.1
1992-93	28.6	40.9	12.3
1993-94	0.0	29.4	29.4
1994-95	0.0	19.2	19.2
1995-96	0.0	29.3	29.3
1996-97	0.0	42.7	42.7
1997-98	0.0	85.4	85.4
1998-99	0.0	134.6	134.6
1999-2000	0.0	167.4	167.4
2000-01	0.0	119.7	119.7
2001-02	136.0	103.4	-32.6
2002-03	139.0	88.7	-50.3
2003-04	255.0	78.3	-176.7
2004-05	0.0	91.7	91.7
2005-06	0.0	110.5	110.5
Total	1,226.4	1,240.5	14.1

Businesses (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many businesses in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* the Peterborough city council area (i) started up and (ii) ceased trading in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [85970]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1484-85, which contains data for each year starting nine years ago up to the latest available.

Canatxx

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether *(a)* he has and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have received official hospitality from Canatxx Ventures Ltd and Canatxx UK and its associated companies in the last four years. [85272]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No DTI Ministers have received official hospitality from Canatxx UK Ltd, Canatxx Energy Ventures Ltd or any of its associated companies in the last four years.

Civil Service Secondees

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people from science and technology backgrounds have been seconded into the civil service in his Department in each of the last three years. [48412]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI has had and continues to have people seconded who have science and technology backgrounds. Where an S and T background is an

essential requirement for a secondment we will take the appropriate steps to check the applicant's qualifications.

The DTI has had a number of people seconded from science and technology backgrounds in the last three years, although we do not hold this information centrally. As the Department dedicated to maximising the contribution of the science and technology fields to the UK's economic development—and the quality of our lives—we are delighted to have such expertise within the DTI.

Miners' Compensation

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which solicitors have received payments under the *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease conditional fee agreement for coal health compensation claims for claims registered by claimants living in Leicester, South constituency; and whether Vendside Ltd has received any payment from his Department for coal health compensation claims registered by claimants living in that constituency. [84113]

Malcolm Wicks: Conditional fee agreements do not form part of either the vibration white finger (VWF) or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) schemes. Solicitors are paid according to a tariff set out in the respective Claims Handling Agreement. The tables list the solicitors, including Vendside/UDM, that have received payments in accordance with those tariffs for representing claimants from the Leicester, South constituency:

VWF

Solicitor	*Costs paid (£)*
Ashton Morton Slack Solicitors	757
Beresfords Solicitors	470
Moss Solicitors	4,678
Oxley and Coward Solicitors	2,697
Vendside / UDM	1,351
Watson Burton LLP	737
Total	10,690

OPD

Solicitor	*Costs paid (£)*
Ashton Morton Slack Solicitors	1,770
Atteys	3,393
Avalon Solicitors	10,495
Beresfords Solicitors	8,543
Blackett Hart and Pratt Solicitors	1,223
BRM Solicitors	4,175
Browell Smith and Co.	6,059
Delta Legal	2,586
Bac Solicitors	2,977
Dodds and Partners	2,888
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	5,451
Hugh James	15,562
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	2,079
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	1,834
Mark Gilbert Morse	9,066
Marrons Solicitors	1,090
Moss Solicitors	46,148

OPD

Solicitor	*Costs paid (£)*
O. H. Parsons and Partners Solicitors	3,055
Proddow and Mackay Solicitors	2,963
Raleys Solicitors	1,792
Thompsons Solicitors	5,659
Vendside Ltd	10,557
Watson Burton LLP	23,393
Wilson Browne incorp. Holyoak and Co.	3,055
Total	175,814

In addition, Vendside have been paid an additional £2,333 in costs for handling claims for Industrial Deafness for Leicester, South constituents which are dealt with under common law.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which mining contractors have signed the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims handling agreement with his Department. [85431]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 12 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 576-77W.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been spent in each year since 1997 by his Department on salaries paid to civil servants. [41589]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's expenditure on civil servants' salaries for 1998-99 to 2004-05 is detailed as follows. Figures from 1999-2000 are taken from the Department's Resource Accounts, which are published annually by the Stationery Office. Total resource budgets for 2002-03 and 2003-04 included exceptional provisions to reflect accounting adjustments in respect of the Department's liabilities. Prior to 1998-99, figures were not produced on the same basis and comparable figures are not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*£000*	*Percentage of total resource budget*
1998-99	198,857	7.0
1999-2000	197,643	7.0
2000-01	211,943	4.8
2001-02	207,108	4.8
2002-03	217,359	3.0
2003-04	243,155	2.2
2004-05	232,200	4.6

Energy Review

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which external consultants were contracted to process submissions to the energy review; what criteria were adopted in choosing the consultants; whether the contract was subject to competitive tender; what the total value was of each contract; what responsibility each consultant was given; and what the length was of each contract. [85540]

Malcolm Wicks: AEA Technology Environment were contracted, by competitive tender, to support the analysis of the submissions to the Energy Review consultation exercise.

Their report is on the DTI website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file31631.pdf

Enterprise

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his oral statement of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 537WH, on Enterprise, on what date the manufacturing day during enterprise week will be held. [85684]

Margaret Hodge: Enterprise Week is to be held from 13 to 19 November 2006. On 14 November there will be a strong focus on the manufacturing sector, with regional events taking place led by industry.

Enterprise Insight

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in which local authorities Enterprise Insight will be establishing local campaign hubs; on what basis these areas were selected; and how other local authorities can apply for campaign hubs to be based in their locality. [85679]

Margaret Hodge: Local Enterprise Campaign Hubs are being set up in Coventry, Liverpool, Lowestoft, Tees Valley and Wakefield. The local authorities looking after these areas are Coventry city council, Liverpool city council, Waveney district council, Redcar and Cleveland borough council and Wakefield metropolitan district council respectively.

These areas were selected as they have low levels of entrepreneurial activity, and high levels of deprivation.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what independent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of money spent by the Enterprise Insight campaign. [85682]

Margaret Hodge: Enterprise Insight employs a variety of monitoring tools to assess the effectiveness on the campaign.

These include an annual survey that monitors young people's attitudes across the country and tracks changing levels of awareness of the campaign.

Enterprise Insight is currently commissioning an independent organisation to develop monitoring and evaluation systems for each enterprise campaign hub as it is rolled out. In early 2008, this organisation will produce an evaluation that will assess the impact of the campaign hubs.

Enterprise Insight has put in place a number of more specific monitoring tools that:

(a) Capture through on-line reporting all the events taking place during Enterprise Week.

(b) Independently, through 'Growth from Knowledge—National Opinion Polls', run a post Enterprise Week survey of all organisations that ran activities during Enterprise Week.

(c) Independently monitor the level and range of media coverage.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* salary and *(b)* benefits are paid to the Chief Executive of Enterprise Insight; and what salary was advertised when this position was last vacant. [85683]

Margaret Hodge: Enterprise Insight is an independent organisation, founded and run by the four main business organisations (Institute of Directors, British Chambers of Commerce, CBI and Federation of Small Businesses), with support from DTI.

The DTI's Small Business Service co-funds Enterprise Insight, but the Enterprise Insight Board independently determines its staff remuneration levels.

Equal Pay

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are employed in the Department; what the average pay was for (i) women and (ii) men in the Department in (A) 1997 and (B) 2006; what women's average pay is as a percentage of men's average pay; and how many (1) women and (2) men the Department employed in each of the last five years, broken down by grade. [67780]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Cabinet Office collects and publishes annually statistical information on the civil service by Department. This includes data on the employment of men and women. Information on the numbers of women and men employed in the civil service broken down at 31 December 2005 is available in the Libraries of the House and on the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/employment/index.asp

It should be borne in mind that the figures for DTI published by Cabinet Office include additional staff such as those employed in Executive agencies.

The Department of Trade and Industry (including UK Trade and Investment and Small Business Service, but excluding Executive agencies) employs *(a)* 1,682 women (1,596.3 full-time equivalent) and *(b)* 2,176 men (2,165.3 full-time equivalent) at 9 November 2005.

DTI measures equal pay for those not in the senior civil service as part of a regular and ongoing equal pay review programme. Equal pay is measured for the senior civil service by the Cabinet Office.

The average pay was for (i) women and (ii) men in the Department in (A) 2000-01 and (B) 2005-06 and what women's average pay is as a percentage of men's average pay are shown in the following table.

2000-01 is the earliest period for which an accurate comparison can be provided.

	2005-06	*2000-01*
Women	25,740	20,011
Men	29,070	24,968
Women's pay as percentage of men's	88.5	80.2

The number of (1) women and (2) men the Department employed in three of the last five years, broken down by grade, is shown in the following table. Data for 2001, 2003 and 2005 are readily available having previously been used for other purposes. Data for 2002 and 2004 can be provided, but at disproportionate cost.

Permanent staff by responsibility level and gender: 2001, 2003 and 2005—Department of Trade and Industry (core staff including UKTI and SBS)

Responsibility level[1]	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Percentage female staff*
		Headcount: Full-time staff		
1 February 2001				
All non-industrial staff	2,374	1,537	3,911	39.3
SCS level	134	39	173	22.5
All staff below SCS level	2,240	1,498	3,738	40.1
Grades 6/7	543	184	727	25.3
SEO/HEO level	856	354	1,210	29.3
EO level	409	349	758	46.0
AO/AA level	432	611	1,043	58.6
3 April 2003				
All non-industrial staff	2,446	1,717	4,163	41.2
SCS level	156	73	229	31.9
All staff below SCS level	2,290	1,644	3,934	41.8
Grades 6/7	548	245	793	30.9
SEO/HEO level	951	435	1,386	31.4
EO level	390	385	775	49.7
AO/AA level	401	579	980	59.1
Unknown	13	6	19	31.6
10 November 2005				
All non-industrial staff	2,140	1,414	3,554	39.8
SCS level	136	46	182	25.3
All staff below SCS level	2,004	1,368	3,372	40.6
Grades 6/7	592	268	860	31.2
SEO/HEO level	844	441	1,285	34.3
EO level	307	307	614	50.0
AO/AA level	261	352	613	57.4

Responsibility level[1]	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Percentage female staff*
		Headcount: Part-time staff		
1 February 2001				
All non-industrial staff	33	246	279	88.2
SCS level	4	14	18	77.8
All staff below SCS level	29	232	261	88.9
Grades 6/7	4	51	55	92.7
SEO/HEO level	8	48	56	85.7
EO level	12	32	44	72.7
AO/AA level	5	101	106	95.3
3 April 2003				
All non-industrial staff	46	301	347	86.7
SCS level	—	—	—	—

	Headcount: Part-time staff			
Responsibility level[1]	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Percentage female staff*
All staff below SCS level	46	301	347	86.7
Grades 6/7	14	63	77	81.8
SEO/HEO level	12	62	74	83.8
EO level	10	60	70	85.7
AO/AA level	10	116	126	92.1
Unknown	—	1	1	100.0
10 November 2005				
All non-industrial staff	36	268	304	88.2
SCS level	4	11	15	73.3
All staff below SCS level	32	257	289	88.9
Grades 6/7	10	68	78	87.2
SEO/HEO level	12	62	74	83.8
EO level	6	38	44	86.4
AO/AA level	4	89	93	95.7

	Full-time equivalent[2]			
Responsibility level[1]	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Percentage female staff*
1 February 2001				
All non-industrial staff	2,395.8	1,702.5	4,098.3	41.5
SCS level	137.2	49.4	186.7	26.5
All staff below SCS level	2,258.6	1,653.1	3,911.6	42.3
Grades 6/7	545.9	219.8	765.7	28.7
SEO/HEO level	861.3	386.6	1,247.8	31.0
EO level	415.5	370.7	786.2	47.2
AO/AA level	435.9	676.0	1,111.9	60.8
3 April 2003				
All non-industrial staff	2,553.7	1,929.2	4,482.9	43.0
SCS level	156.6	69.8	226.4	30.8
All staff below SCS level	2,397.1	1,859.4	4,245.4	43.7
Grades 6/7	630.3	302.0	932.2	32.4
SEO/HEO level	962.9	476.8	1,439.7	33.1
EO level	395.7	426.6	822.3	51.9
AO/AA level	408.3	653.9	1,062.2	61.6
Unknown	13.0	6.7	19.7	34.0
10 November 2005				
All non-industrial staff	2,165.3	1,596.3	3,761.6	42.4
SCS level	138.8	53.5	192.3	27.8
All staff below SCS level	2,026.5	1,542.8	3,569.2	43.2
Grades 6/7	599.6	316.2	915.8	34.5
SEO/HEO level	852.8	485.0	1,377.7	36.3

Responsibility level[1]	Full-time equivalent[2] Male	Female	Total	Percentage female staff
EO level	310.2	334.0	644.2	51.8
AO/AA level	263.8	407.7	671.5	60.7

[1] This table shows staff in their substantive responsibility level, and therefore ignores the effect of temporary promotions.
[2] Part-time staff are recorded according to the proportion of full-time hours worked.

Fuel Bills

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median household (i) gas and (ii) electricity bill was in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will estimate the bill paid at each decile of income distribution in each case. [84736]

Malcolm Wicks: The Expenditure and Food Survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics showed that in 2004-05 the mean amount spent on gas was £287 per annum, while the mean amount spent on electricity was £313.

The median spend on gas was £271, while the median spend on electricity during 2004-05 was £276.

The amount of spend for the top of each decile in the distribution is shown for both gas and electricity in the table:

£

Decile (top of):	Annual spend on fuel according to position in spend decile (2004-05) Gas	Electricity
1	0	44
2	0	156
3	130	199
4	221	241
5	271	277
6	325	317
7	373	373
8	445	456
9	577	574

Source: Office for National Statistics

Those in the lowest deciles of gas spend will pay nothing for their fuel due to a lack of connection to the gas network.

The amount spent on gas and electricity by each decile in the income distribution is as follows:

£

Income decile	Annual spend on fuel per income decile[1] Gas	Electricity
Lowest	177	219
Second	219	250
Third	240	266
Fourth	266	287
Fifth	287	308
Sixth	292	318
Seventh	308	344
Eighth	339	360
Ninth	349	370
Tenth	417	428

[1] *Source:*
Family Spending: A Report on the 2004-05 Expenditure and Food Survey (ONS: 2005)

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to eliminate fuel poverty in vulnerable households in England by 2010. [85461]

Malcolm Wicks: Responsibility for tackling fuel poverty in England is shared between the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Following the Energy Review, we will be taking forward work with energy suppliers and other key players to examine how the continuing challenge of fuel poverty can be best addressed. The Energy Review also commits us to looking hard at how we can maximise the contribution made by our existing schemes. The Department of Trade and Industry will play an important role in this analysis.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs leads on the Warm Front scheme in England. The Warm Front scheme has resulted in improvements to the energy efficiency of the housing of those on a range of qualifying benefits and has provided assistance to over a million vulnerable households since 2000.

The Department of Trade and Industry itself has a number of policies to tackle the issue of fuel poverty. It has liaised closely with energy suppliers on the development of the Home Heat Helpline, which provides vulnerable customers and their representatives with a central point of information relating to the help available from their energy supplier and Government. It has encouraged the introduction of social tariffs and price freezes for fuel poor and low income customers.

The Department's Design and Demonstration Unit is a team of private sector secondees that works in support of Energy White Paper objectives. As part of the Unit's work, it has designed and delivered projects to provide gas connections to deprived communities, and it is now developing community projects utilising renewable technologies.

Fuel Prices

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his estimate is of the difference in the average price of a litre of petrol in rural and non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [85880]

Malcolm Wicks: I am not aware of any data source that provides information on rural and non-rural petrol prices. There is anecdotal evidence that petrol prices in rural areas are likely to be higher than non-rural areas.

There are a variety of reasons why this is likely to be the case. These include:

Fuel throughput, in that the higher the throughput the lower the retail margin required to give a return on the investment. Rural garages are likely to have lower throughputs.

Bulk delivery charges, many sites have relatively small storage tanks since they are cheaper to install. However, they require more frequent replenishment and this results in some sites paying higher delivery charges. Again smaller tanks are likely to be more prevalent is smaller, rural petrol stations.

Competition; large, particularly supermarket sites in close proximity to one another in urban areas do tend to lead to lower prices.

Regional petrol prices are available on the AA website at http://www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/fuel/index.html.

Home Computing Initiative

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with representatives of the home computing industry about the consequences of the abolition of the Home Computing Initiative. [63837]

Mr. Darling: I would like to apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying to the matter raised. In response to his query I can confirm that the DTI has regular discussions with the industry on all matters of concern relevant to their sector.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date the Home Computing Initiative was made available to staff in his Department; and how many staff had *(a)* applied for and *(b)* expressed interest in the scheme before the Budget. [63838]

Mr. Darling: The Home Computing Initiative was made available to staff in DTI and Insolvency Service (an executive agency of DTI that is participating in the DTI scheme) on 15 March 2006 as part of a wider scheme incorporating computers, childcare and bikes.

Over 400 staff in DTI expressed an interest in the scheme when it was initially contemplated in mid-2005.

Sixty-four people had registered for computers in the period 15 to 22 March (Budget day) and approximately 240 had registered by the computer closing date of 30 March. These figures include staff from DTI and Insolvency Service.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library the communications from his officials to HM Treasury on the home computing initiatives relating to the abolition of the tax exemption in the Budget. [66512]

Mr. Darling: I would like to apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying to the matter raised. In response to his query I can confirm that the DTI have regular discussion with the Treasury on budgetary initiatives.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost was of setting up his Department's Home Computing Initiative scheme, including consultancy and administrative costs. [66513]

Mr. Darling: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke) on 20 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 762W.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he was first informed by the Treasury of the withdrawal of the tax exemption for loaned computer equipment under the Home Computing Initiative Scheme. [64166]

Mr. Darling: *[holding answer 18 April 2006]:* I would like to apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying to the matter raised. In response to her query the DTI have regular discussions with the Treasury on budgetary issues.

Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people in his Department have been enabled to work from home in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [67998]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All members of staff with an appropriate job are allowed to work from home subject to their line manager's approval. Laptops have been provided to staff that allow access to the Department's IT Systems. Many of these were configured to allow staff to share them.

2003-04

1,400 Laptops were in use for secure remote access. The shared facility enabled up to 2,200 staff to use these machines if approved to do so.

2004-05

1,550 Laptops were in use for secure remote access. The shared facility enabled 2,550 staff to use these machines if approved to do so.

2005-06

1,550 Laptops were in use at the start of the year but this reduced to 1,200 by end-March 2006, as a consequence of the efficiency programme and reduction in staff numbers. A corresponding reduction in shared usage was applicable.

Ministerial Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [84009]

Margaret Hodge: The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has visited the North West twice and the North East, South East and East Midlands once.

Nuclear Energy

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to paragraph 5.134 of the Energy Review, Cm 6887, whether the Environment Agency will be able to recover *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part from any company putting forward proposals to build new nuclear plants the costs of the pre-licensing work. [86082]

Malcolm Wicks: Paragraph 5.9 of the Environment Agency submission to the Energy Review stated that:

"We will need to recover the costs associated with pre-authorisation/licensing assessments. There are legal provisions in the EA 95 to enable our costs to be recovered."

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether it is his policy to replace those nuclear stations that he identifies in the Energy Review as coming to the end of their operational lives. [86114]

Malcolm Wicks: Any new power stations would be proposed, developed, constructed and operated by the private sector. It is for the private sector to make judgements on the future relative costs of different generating technologies, within the market framework established by Government. Developers will make their proposals for new generating capacity based on these judgments.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the level of government subsidies likely to be required to stimulate the commissioning of new nuclear generating stations by energy companies. [85568]

Malcolm Wicks: It will be for the private sector to initiate, fund, construct and operate any new nuclear power station, and also meet full decommissioning costs and their full share of long term waste management costs.

Nuclear Materials (Transportation)

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether vessels transporting nuclear material are escorted by the Royal Navy. [84866]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* All shipments of civil nuclear material on a UK flagged vessel are carried out in accordance with the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations (NISR) 2003 which are administered and enforced by the Government's independent security regulator, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS). Before any shipment can commence, OCNS must be satisfied that the overall security measures are adequately robust to prevent the theft or sabotage of the material being transported.

British flagged transport vessels carrying nuclear material are not routinely escorted by the Royal Navy, but, where appropriate, prior coordination with the Royal Navy will be an important factor in the assessment of a Transport Security Plan. The ships will carry an escort unit of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary's (CNC) Marine Escort Group, which provides armed security for nuclear materials in transit. The Marine Escort Group has been specially trained to a high standard by the Royal Navy.

Offshore Transmission Regime

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to paragraph 5.57 of the Energy Review, what the scope is of the work being conducted on developing an offshore transmission regime; and if he will make a statement. [85723]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* Following my announcement on 30 March 2006 that the Government had decided to extend the regulated price control model to offshore transmission, DTI and Ofgem are working with industry to develop that new regime.

Ofgem issued a scoping document setting out the main issues that need to be considered on 3 April 2006. The document can be found at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/14533_6006.pdf

Further information about the project to deliver the new regime including project structure, governance and timetable can be found at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/policy/offshore-transmission/page28604.html

and

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/policy/offshore-transmission/offshore-transmission-experts-group/page28711.html

Post Office Closures

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the closure of the Shrewsbury post office. [85484]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I understand that the directly managed office in Shrewsbury is to be relocated to premises 50 yards away under a franchising agreement and customers will benefit from extended opening hours and have access to the same full range of services. Decisions on individual offices are an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. The 500 directly managed post offices made combined annual losses of some £50 million in 2005-06 and Post Office Ltd are seeking more cost-effective ways of providing main post office services to the public.

Recruitment

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on recruitment, search and selection agencies in each of the last five years. [68337]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure on recruitment for the past three financial years has been extracted from the Department's finance system. Information for the other years requested is not readily available on a consistent basis and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the breakdown on recruitment, search and selection agencies by DTI and its agencies.

Financial year	*Expenditure on recruitment, search and selection agencies (£000)*
2003-04	1,427
2004-05	784
2005-06	1,009

Renewable Energy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made when benchmarking UK performance of the proportion of *(a)* energy and *(b)* electricity in other EU countries which is supplied from renewable sources. [84956]

Malcolm Wicks: According to data published by Eurostat in 2004 the United Kingdom ranked 17th of the 25 member states of the EU in terms of the share of electricity from renewable energy to gross electricity consumption. In 1995 the UK ranked 19th and if all countries meet their 2010 targets the UK will move up to 15th. It should be noted that the countries that rank highest (Austria, Latvia and Sweden) have significant and well developed hydro resources and plentiful supplies of biomass (mainly wood).

The International Energy Agency (IEA) produces statistics that exclude hydro generation from the renewables share of electricity production, but this is available for only 19 of the 25 EU member states that are also IEA members. On this basis the UK ranked 13th out of 19 in the latest available year (2003) with Denmark the highest ranking because of its well-developed wind power sector.

The IEA also produces statistics on the contribution of renewable sources to total primary energy supply for the 19 EU member states. Here the UK ranked 17th out of 19 in 2003.

The spring 2006 edition of the "Ernst and Young Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Indices", which provide scores for national renewable energy markets, support mechanisms, renewable energy infrastructures and their suitability for individual technologies, placed the UK fifth most attractive in the world (third in Europe) of all countries http://www.ey.com/global/content.nsif/International/ECU_Library

The UK has a target that by 2010, 10 per cent. of all UK electricity produced will come from renewable sources. It was recently announced in the Energy Review (2006) that, in order to further boost investors' confidence, the Renewables Obligation would be extended to 20 per cent.

Restriction of Hazardous Substances

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances regulations from small business and sole traders; and if he will make a statement. [85583]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI consulted on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive on three separate occasions before the regulations were laid before Parliament. On each occasion we received representations from a wide range of stakeholders including small businesses, sole traders and trade bodies representing these interests.

Russia

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how much gas his Department estimates the UK will import from Russia in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2020, (i) as a percentage of total consumption and (ii) in cubic metres; and what percentage of that gas his Department estimates will be (A) produced by Gazprom and (B) transported through Gazprom's pipeline network; [85082]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the impact on the security of gas supply to the UK of the law passed by the Russian State Duma on Gazprom's control of gas exports from Russia; [85083]

(3) what his assessment is of the impact on UK businesses of the proposed amendments to Russia's Subsoil Law on foreign participation in Russian oil and gas projects; [85084]

(4) what his assessment is of the impact on security of energy supplies to the UK of the Russian Federation's *(a)* level of compliance with the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty and *(b)* policy on the Transit Protocol to the Energy Charter Treaty; [85085]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the impact on UK investments in Russia of the Russian Federation's level of compliance with the Energy Charter Treaty; [85086]

(6) what plans he has to make representations to his Russian counterpart about the proposed amendments to Russia's Subsoil Law on foreign participation in Russian oil and gas projects. [85088]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK's gas import dependence is set to rise to 80-90 per cent. by 2020, of which a significant proportion is expected to be imported from the European mainland through existing and planned interconnection capacity. The International Energy Agency forecast that the EU will import 25 per cent. of its gas needs from Russia by 2030. It is, therefore, possible that some Russian gas will be imported into the UK, albeit indirectly and commingled with gas from other sources (such as Norway, the Netherlands and LNG from outside Europe) as part of the European gas system.

The contractual origin of imports into the UK is a decision for companies operating in the UK's liberalised gas market, taking into account elements such as cost, reliability, availability and the need for a diverse range of sources to provide security of supply. Given that there is no direct physical interconnection capacity with Russia and contractual flows do not necessarily follow physical flows, estimates of the type requested are not made.

Given that the UK does not import directly from Russia, any impact on the UK from Russia's legislation or compliance with international agreements such as the Energy Charter Treaty will be felt most directly through its effect on European markets. As such, the UK will continue to press for open, competitive and liberalised European energy markets.

In the short term, we expect the Russian gas export laws to have very little real effect on European security of supply, as Gazprom's already holds a defacto monopoly on exports by virtue of their network ownership. Longer-term effects are unclear; however, should gas transit through Russia become too commercially unattractive, Caspian and Central Asian

producers will begin to seek alternative supply routes for their products to European and global markets.

The proposed legislative changes surrounding Russia's subsoil law continue to be subject to discussion in the Russian government. The DTI and FCO are in contact with UK businesses involved in the Russian Energy market, in order to remain updated on the impact that any final series of laws may have.

The UK, with other EU member states, will continue to encourage Russia to liberalise its domestic markets and provide fair and open access to its resources and pipelines in order to foster further competition in energy supplies into Europe and to ensure best use is made of its finite resources.

The UK, with other G7 members, has encouraged Russia to move forward during its G8 presidency and ratify the Energy Charter Treaty, of which it is already a signatory and applies on a provisional basis. We would envisage that these Global Energy Security discussions will continue during the Russian presidency of the G8.

Russia has called for the negotiations on the Transit Protocol to be completed before it can ratify the full Treaty. Through the EU, we continue to work with Russia towards an agreed text for the Transit Protocol while at the same time emphasising to Russia the importance of open, transparent, efficient and competitive markets at all stages of the energy supply chain as the key to global energy security..

Whilst the absence of ratification may bring some uncertainty to the rights of both foreign and domestic investors, it is important to note that the UK has a separate bi- lateral investment Treaty with Russia that protects the investment of UK firms.

Sir Alistair Graham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when Sir Alistair Graham was appointed to the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of the Telephone Information Services; when he took up his position; and what his rate of remuneration is. [85541]

Margaret Hodge: Sir Alistair Graham was appointed as Chairman of ICSTIS on 2 February 2006. Sir Alistair took up his appointment on 1 June 2006 and he receives an annual salary of £45,000.

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. [72015]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None specifically. The Department already promotes healthier lifestyles by providing its employees with gym facilities; healthier eating choices and fresh fruit are always available in the staff canteen.

Staff Development

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost was of *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises in his Department in each of the last three years. [69005]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Uranium

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what analysis his Department has undertaken of the security and sustainability of the UK's supply of uranium for civil use. [85462]

Malcolm Wicks: In addition to responses to the Energy Consultation the Department analysed the following:

OECD Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency, "Uranium 2005—Resources, Production and Demand". OECD Publications, Paris, June 2006.

OECD Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency, "Uranium 2003—Resources, Production and Demand". OECD Publications, Paris, July 2004.

Sustainable Development Commission, "The role of nuclear power in a low carbon economy—Paper 8: Uranium Resource Availability". March 2006.

Morgan Stanley, Supply/Demand Outlook: Uranium Oxide—Inventory Cycle Coming to an End, "Basic Materials: Global Insights". December 15, 2004, pp 47-52

Morgan Stanley, Uranium Oxide—Gaining Momentum on a Forecast Supply Deficit, "Metals & Mining: Global Insights"—April 6, 2005 pp 16-19

TradeTech, LLC's Uranium Information web site: http://www.uranium.info/ind.ex.html

World Nuclear Association, Resources and Uranium Market: http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/info.htm#resourcesumarket

Welsh Energy Policy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which aspects of energy policy in Wales are *(a)* devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government and *(b)* reserved matters for the United Kingdom Government. [86423]

Malcolm Wicks: In energy policy the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the areas of fuel poverty, energy efficiency and some aspects of planning.

The Energy Review document, "The Energy Challenge" provides detail about which areas of planning are devolved, and which are reserved.

This information can be found on pages 138-141 of the above document, which can be accessed on the DTI website: www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complimentary tickets his Department has received for games taking place at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany. [63907]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have not been notified of any employees receiving complimentary tickets for World Cup matches that took place in Germany this summer.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Projects

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department provided to 4ps in each of the last five years; and how much funding has been allocated for 2006-07. [86252]

Angela E. Smith: The Government paid the following amounts of Revenue Support Grant to the Public Private Partnerships Programme:

	£
2001-02	1,109,000
2002-03	1,250,000
2003-04	2,875,000
2004-05	2,947,000
2005-06	3,947,000
2006-07	4,447,000

In addition, the Department's predecessors paid the 4ps the sum of £80,250 for the development of a procurement pack for Joint Service Centre PFI projects, of which £35,250 was paid in 2002-03 and £55,000 in 2003-04.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role 4ps has in the decision-making process during procurement; and if she will make a statement. [86253]

Angela E. Smith: Subject to their legal duties, including the duty of best value and public procurement law, local authorities are responsible for taking their own decisions on procurement. In conjunction with other change agents, such as the regional centres of excellence, 4ps offers support to local authorities, including through the national efficiency and strategic procurement skills programme.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to 4ps about its responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to make available, on request, its reports on projects which it has considered. [86254]

Angela E. Smith: 4ps is an independent company owned by the Local Government Association. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), alongside other bodies, provides 4ps with funding to meet the capacity building needs of local authorities. DCLG has not issued guidance to 4ps on its responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Consultation Papers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what extent her Department stores responses to consultation papers *(a)* electronically and *(b)* solely in hard copy. [85707]

Angela E. Smith: Where responses to consultation papers are received electronically, they are stored in that format, but they are made available in hardcopy where requested. Where responses are received as hardcopy we do not normally convert to electronic format, although the need to do so may be considered on a case by case basis.

The Department for Communities and Local Government welcomes consultation responses in any format as consultation is a key part of the policy making process. All public consultations are subject to the Consultation Code of Practice.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Government has made of the proportion of an average Band D council tax bill in England that funds *(a)* domestic waste collections and *(b)* domestic waste disposal. [85714]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to say how much of council tax income can be attributed to pay for any particular service. This is because it is not possible to say whether any item of revenue expenditure is funded from council tax or from the government grants and business rates that also finance revenue expenditure.

Domestic waste collection and disposal costs for local authorities in England in 2004-05 are estimated at £1.3 billion and £1.4 billion respectively. This is 1.4 per cent. and 1.5 per cent. respectively of net current expenditure by local authorities in England.

Source:

2004-05 Revenue Outturn (RO) forms

Departmental Website

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what internet domain names her Department owns; and for what purpose they were purchased. [83102]

Angela E. Smith: The following domain names are owned by DCLG:

Domain name	*Purpose*
bmespark.com	Black Minority Ethnic Supporting people web site
bmespark.co.uk	Alias of bmespark.com
bmespark.org.uk	Alias of bmespark.com
bvpi.gov.uk	Best value performance indicators website

Domain name	*Purpose*
cleanersafergreener.gov.uk	Best practice website on building cleaner safer greener communities
communities.gov.uk	Corporate DCLG web presence
community-fire-safety.co.uk	Alias of firekills.gov.uk
community-fire-safety.org.uk	Alias of firekills.gov.uk
dclg.gov.uk	Alternative corporate website address—redirects to communities.gov.uk
fire.gov.uk	Fire gateway website
firekills.gov.uk	Fire safety website
firekills.co.uk	Alias of firekills.gov.uk
fire-kills.co.uk	Alias of firekills.gov.uk
firelink.org.uk	National Wide Area Radio system for the fire and rescue service website
firesafetytoolbox.org.uk	Fire safety campaigning material for fire service
firesafetytoolbox.co.uk	Alias of firesafetytoolbox.co.uk
futureleadership.gov.uk	Management development programme for local authorities
getfirewise.com	Children's fire safety guidance
getfirewise.co.uk	Alias of getfirewise.com
getfirewise.gov.uk	Alias of getfirewise.com
homeinformationpack.gov.uk	Website providing details of new home information packs
homeinformationpacks.gov.uk	Alias of homeinformationpack.gov.uk
iggi.gov.uk	Intra Governmental Group on Geographic Information website
info4local.gov.uk	Provides local authorities with quick and easy access to information from central Government
irfs.org.uk	Independent review of the fire service website—now defunct
localegov.gov.uk	Local egovernment programme website
local-egov.gov.uk	Alias of localegov.gov.uk
mapsontap.gov.uk	Information and mapping service for government
mycouncil.gov.uk	Directs public to direct.gov.uk/mycouncil
neighbourhood.gov.uk	Neighbourhood renewal unit website
neighbourhoods.gov.uk	Alias of neighbourhood.gov.uk
neighbourhoodrenewal.gov.uk	Alias of neighbourhood.gov.uk
nlud.org	National Land use database website
odpm.gov.uk	Former corporate web presence—redirects to communities.gov.uk
planningportal.gov.uk	Online planning and building regulations resource
propertylicense.gov.uk	Alias of propertylicence.gov.uk
propertylicence.gov.uk	Direct public to information on mandatory licensing for landlords of homes in multiple occupation
renewal.net	Neighbourhood renewal guidance website
spdirectory.org.uk	Supporting People Programme Directory of Services
spkweb.org.uk	Supporting People programme for vulnerable people—website
togetherwecan.info	Together we can campaign website
womenandequality.gov.uk	Women and equality unit website

Departmental Websites

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what websites come under her Department's responsibility; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* number of visitors to those sites were in 2005-06. [83099]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) on 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 958W for the list of websites under the Department's responsibility and the cost of those sites. Visitor figures are shown as follows for DCLG sites April 2005-March 2006. DCLG websites are hosted on a number of platforms with different methodologies for evaluating usage. I have listed those sites for which visitor figures are available. Where estimated, figures are based on averages or projections of available data where hosting arrangements changed during the year.

	Visitor figures
Main corporate site (odpm.gov.uk and subdomains)	[1]2,271,208
Planning portal (planningportal.gov.uk)	834,432
Renewal net (renewal.net)	752,190
Women and equality unit (womenandequality.gov.uk)	[1]272,400
Info4local (info4local.gov.uk)	246,500
Neighbourhood renewal unit (neighbourhood.gov.uk)	164,137
Supporting people (spkweb.org.uk)	137,579
Fire Kills (www.firekills.gov.uk)	316,813
Other DCLG sites for which statistics are available	246,714

[1] Estimated

Employment Opportunities (Ethnic Minorities)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to promote opportunities for *(a)* women and *(b)* men of ethnic minority origin to gain employment in (i) Coventry, South and (ii) the West Midlands. [83418]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

We are committed to helping all those who may be disadvantaged in the labour market. Specifically, we have a public service agreement target to

'Increase the employment rate of ethnic minorities and significantly reduce the difference between the overall employment rate and that of ethnic minorities'.

Support for people from ethnic minorities is provided locally through Jobcentre Plus, which offers employment services to all people of working age. For those furthest from the labour market and who are not using Jobcentre Plus services, our Ethnic Minority Outreach programme also offers the opportunity for people to find and keep work. Since its introduction Ethnic Minority Outreach has achieved over 10,000 successful job outcomes.

On 11 July we announced the launch of a new independent body to help ethnic minorities find work. The Ethnic Minority Advisory Group, which is made up of 22 representatives from across the ethnic

community, has been set up as part of the Government's welfare reform agenda to boost employment opportunities for ethnic minorities.

The new advisory group will be a way of getting to the heart of the community and finding out the best ways to close the employment gap. To do this, we will work in partnership, focussing on what will work for local communities.

Housing Act

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she next plans to discuss the operation of section 21 (4a) of the Housing Act 1988 with local authority representatives. [82709]

Angela E. Smith: My Department has never received any requests from local authorities or their representative bodies to discuss with them section 21 (4a) of the Housing Act 1988. This is the section that allows private landlords, by giving two months notice, to regain possession of their property following the end of a contracted fixed term or during a periodic tenancy provided it is six months after the start of the original tenancy.

Swindon Council

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the meetings held by officials from her Department with Swindon borough council in 2004 and 2005 to improve the performance of the councillors running Swindon borough council. [86001]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* Meetings between officials from the then ODPM and Swindon borough council during 2004 and 2005 were intended to encourage a sustained focus by the Council on overall improvement of its performance. By December 2005, Swindon had improved from a Comprehensive Performance Assessment rating of "poor" to achieve a rating of two stars and "improving well". In the light of this improved performance, ODPM's close engagement with Swindon borough council ceased in early 2006 as it was considered to have achieved its objectives. Swindon continues to receive support, where necessary, from the Government Office for the South West.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Autism

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance is given to local authorities to assist them in developing best practice on the disabled children's module of the National Service Framework 2004 when identifying autistic spectrum disorder; and if he will make a statement. [85008]

Mr. Dhanda: Standard 8 of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, targeted at local authorities and others, is for disabled children and young people and those with complex health needs. Children and young people receive co-ordinated, high-quality child and family-centred services that are based on assessed needs, promote social inclusion and, where possible, enable them and their families to live ordinary lives.

The NSF has been supported by a number of exemplars, including one on autism. This sets out an optimal pathway for a boy with autism, beginning at the age of three, from initial concern and contact with primary care, through a developmental and a multi-agency assessment, the drawing up of a family support plan and early educational intervention and on to the transitions between primary and secondary school and secondary school and adult life.

Local authorities have a duty under the Education Act 1996, where necessary, to identify, assess and make suitable provision for children with special educational needs (SEN), including those with autistic spectrum disorders. When doing so, local authorities have to have regard to the SEN Code of Practice. "Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Good Practice Guidance" (2002, Department for Education and Skills and Department of Health) is also available for local authorities. It includes pointers to good practice on identification.

Buddhism

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his Department's list of organisations consulted on religious issues affecting matters concerning his Department, what assessment he has made of the extent to which the Network of Buddhist Organisations is representative of that faith's adherents; and if he will make a statement. [86280]

Jim Knight: The DfES has made no such assessment. The Network of Buddhist Organisations is one of the organisations that the Department consults on relevant issues.

Bullying

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the incidence of bullying in schools was in each of the last three years. [86419]

Jim Knight: We are unable to provide this information as we do not collect these data centrally. However, in our anti-bullying guidance, we encourage all schools to record incidents of bullying and there is a requirement to record all racist incidents.

CAFCASS

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many private law cases were completed by CAFCASS in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; [83252]

(2) what the average yearly work load was for a guardian ad litem in each of the last five years. [83256]

Mr. Dhanda: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, CAFCASS. Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, has

written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 14 July 2006:

Parliamentary Questions Concerning CAFCASS

I am writing to you in response to the two parliamentary questions that you tabled recently.

PQ83252—how many private law cases were completed by CAFCASS in (a) 2004-05 and (b) 2005-06.

Private law reports completed by CAFCASS were as follows:

	Number
2004-05	29,761
2005-06	25,290

PQ83256— what was the average yearly workload for a Guardian ad Litem in each of the last five years.

CAFCASS practitioners cover public and private law cases. Some other work, such as adoption cases, can be the subject of either a public or a private law case.

Based on previous years calculations, the average workload for each individual practitioner at any one time is as follows:

	Number
Care (public)	
	10
	8
	6
	4
	0
Other non-care (private)	
	0
	6
	13
	20
	26

The duration for each care case (from application to final order) will affect the number at any one time. For the purpose of this comparison, a care case is assumed to take 52 weeks. The Public Law Judicial Protocol aims to see all cases completed within 40 weeks, and this target will be supported by the recommendations of the recent review of Care Proceedings, once implemented.

Average workloads in CAFCASS are changing considerably due to changes in working practices underway, such as the rapid rise in the amount of practitioner time going into dispute resolution work in private law cases. Other reforms, such as writing shorter more analytical reports, also aim to increase productivity and the number of cases a practitioner can deal with at any one time within a reasonable caseload.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what staff redundancies in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service are projected during 2006-07; [83057]

(2) what savings the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service will be making during 2006-07; and what assessment has been made of the impact of these savings. [83058]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, CAFCASS. Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 14 July 2006:

I am writing to you in response to the two parliamentary questions that you tabled recently.

PQ83057—what staff redundancies in CAFCASS are projected during the current financial year.

CAFCASS has no plans for redundancies in the current financial year. I anticipate that savings targets can be achieved through increased productivity and efficiency savings.

PQ83058—what savings CAFCASS will be making during the current financial year; and whether there has been an assessment of the impact of these savings.

CAFCASS's budget in the current financial year has the same baseline as last year. Savings of £4.5 million will need to be made to balance the budget. We have received an extra £4.7 million funding from DfES for this financial year only, to help with our change programmes. This will help us to develop our IT systems, to roll out our new case management information system across all our offices, and to reform our working practices where this is needed. The bulk of savings will be made through efficiency measures, such as procurement savings and more efficient working of cases.

The impact of savings targets and measures is being kept under constant review, both at Board and Executive level.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans he has to upgrade IT systems within the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in 2006-07; [83403]

(2) what plans he has for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service training budget for 2006-07; [83404]

(3) what the average time taken to complete a Section 7 report in private law was in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in the latest period for which figures are available; [83405]

(4) how many cases are on the waiting list in public law in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, broken down by region; [83521]

(5) what average length of time was taken to complete a Section 7 case with private law in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last 12 months. [83522]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, CAFCASS. Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 14 July 2006:

Parliamentary Questions Concerning CAFCASS

I am writing to you in response to the five parliamentary questions that you tabled recently.

PQ83403—what plans he has to upgrade IT systems within the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in 2006-07.

During 2006/07 CAFCASS will be upgrading its IT network and moving to a more up to date Internet Protocol Over Virtual Private Network system which will improve functionality and allow for further development across a range of IT-enabled initiatives. This will support the roll out of our new Case Recording System, document management systems and will support mobile/flexible working. This is a major development

programme with a detailed implementation plan. Completion of all programmes is expected by April 2007.

PQ83404—what plans he has to freeze the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service training budget for 2006-07.

An additional £500,000 has been put into the CAFCASS training budget in 2006-07, thereby increasing spend on training to £1.22 million. This does not include staff time, which is an additional support at both the national and regional levels.

PQ83405—what the average time taken to complete a Section 7 report in private law was in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in the latest period for which figures are available.

This figure is not kept as a statistic or performance indicator. The notional average for purposes of workload calculation is 25 hours, though with the complexity of cases increasing, this is likely to be an underestimate. A great number of cases that were once the subject of s7 reports are now dealt with earlier and quicker in our dispute resolution programmes. This in turn means the fewer cases subject to s7 reports are those much harder to resolve, and consequently, they take longer. In practice, the variation in cases is large, between 20 hours at the lower end and over 100 hours for the hardest cases.

PQ83521—how many cases are on the waiting list in public law in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, broken down by region.

Our latest figure for this, at the end of May 2006, was as follows:

CAFCASS Public Law Unallocated Cases Snapshot, End May 2006

Region	*Public Law Unallocated Cases*	*Total Workload*	*Percentage of Total Workload*
East Midlands	0	621	0.0
Eastern	30	962	3.1
Greater London	89	2,358	3.6
North East	32	663	4.8
North West	21	1,444	1.5
South East	42	838	5.0
South West	6	989	0.6
Southern	6	868	0.7
West Midlands	37	1,289	2.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	11	1,301	0.8
National Total	274	11,333	2.4

Our Key Performance Indicator for this is that no more than 3% of public law cases should be unallocated at month end.

PQ83522—what average length of time was taken to complete a Section 7 case with private law in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each of the last 12 months.

In respect of cases received and completed during the period 1 January 2006 to 31 May 2006, the average duration of a s7 Report (working days) by regions was as follows:

Region	*Number of Days*
East Midlands	75
Eastern	65
North East	63
North West	45
South East	68
South West	58
Southern	90
West Midlands	71
Yorkshire	64

Giving a National Average of 63 days.

We do not keep statistics of how many weeks or months these days represent. Cases vary in the length they take for a range of reasons, such as their complexity, and the requirements of all the other cases an individual practitioner holds on their caseload at any given time.

Child Care

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total cost of the Child Care Affordability Programme (CCAP) has been in each year of its existence; and what estimate he has made of the cost of the introduction of the CCAP to all other local authorities. [85795]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The Childcare Affordability Programme launched in November 2005 is jointly funded by the London Development Agency (£22 million over 2005-08) and the DfES (£11 million over 2006-08). The DfES contribution is £5 million for 2006-07 and £6 million for 2007-08. DfES is also funding the evaluation of the Programme at a cost of £300,000.

It is too early in the Programme to consider its extension to other local authorities.

Disability Awareness

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what provision is made within the school curriculum for awareness of physical, medical and mental disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [86346]

Jim Knight: There are many opportunities in the school curriculum for raising awareness of physical, medical and mental disabilities. Through the non-statutory Personal, Social and Health Education framework and statutory National Curriculum Citizenship Education, pupils are taught that differences and similarities between people arise from a number of factors, including disability, and about the need for mutual respect and understanding. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on spiritual, moral, social, and cultural issues, using imagination to understand other people's experiences. They are taught about the causes, symptoms and treatments for stress and depression, and to identify strategies for prevention and management and how to seek professional advice confidently and find information about health. National Curriculum Science also examines how human health is affected by a range of environmental and inherited factors.

Examiners

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people are employed as *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examiners in England. [86432]

Jim Knight: No central database is kept of examiner numbers. However, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) estimates that the three English-based unitary awarding bodies (AQA, OCR and Edexcel) contracted approximately 56,000 people as examiners and moderators for GCSEs, A-levels and related qualifications in 2005/06.

GCSEs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of students achieved five or more GCSEs grade A*-C in rural comprehensive secondary schools of *(a)* fewer than 100 students, *(b)* 100-199 students, *(c)* 200-299 students, *(d)* 300-399 students, *(e)* 400-499 students, *(f)* 500-599 students, *(g)* 600-700 students and *(h)* over 700 students in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [85972]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be found in the following table:

GCSE and equivalent achievement of pupils[1] at the end of Key Stage 4 by the end of 2004/05[2] in comprehensive schools[3], by size of school

Total number of pupils in school	*Number of pupils at end of Key Stage 4*	*Number of pupils at end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent*	*Percentage of pupils at end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent*
(a) <100	9	2	22.2
(b) 100-199	319	155	48.6
(c) 200-299	474	233	49.2
(d) 300-399	1,493	539	36.1
(e) 400-499	5,599	2,398	42.8
(f) 500-599	14,043	6,621	47.1
(g) 600-699	20,568	10,323	50.2
(h) >=700	480,379	265,650	55.3

[1] Number of pupils on roll at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2004/05 academic year.
[2] Includes achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
[3] Including City Technology Colleges and Academies.

Pupils' Travel

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what average distance a pupil travels to school in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas; what steps the Government have taken to lower the cost of travel to school for students in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [85943]

Jim Knight: The Department does not routinely collect information on the average distance pupils travel to school, and an answer to this question could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, data derived from pupil level annual school census returns in 2005 showed the following pattern in secondary schools by region[1].

[1] Source PLASC 2005. Includes pupils aged five to 15 attending maintained secondary schools (excluding middle deemed), CTCs and academies. Distances are measured on a straight line basis.

Region	*Distance (Miles)*
North East	1.53
North West	1.60
Yorkshire and Humberside	1.69
East Midlands	1.99
West Midlands	1.64
East of England	2.14
London	1.55
South East	2.13
South West	2.17
England	1.83

The Education and Inspections Bill includes provisions that extend entitlement to free home to school transport for low-income families, and will enable a small number of local authorities to propose pathfinder schemes to test innovative arrangements supporting choice, and increasing the proportion of pupils travelling by sustainable means.

SATS

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance his Department offers schools on *(a)* the allocation of extra time for certain pupils in the SATS testing regime and *(b)* the criteria which should be applied in such cases; how the allocation of extra time across the country is monitored and assessed; and if he will make a statement. [86273]

Jim Knight: Additional time is among the access arrangements available in the National Curriculum tests to enable children to take those tests on an equal footing. The circumstances in which pupils may be allowed additional time are set out in the "Assessment and reporting arrangements" booklets published by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. These are sent to schools in October each year and are available from the website www.naa.org.uk/tests. The arrangements are monitored through the requests for permission for allowing additional time made by schools to local authorities and the National Assessment Agency, and in the routine monitoring of test administration undertaken by local authorities and the National Assessment Agency.

School Premises

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total area of land was taken up by school premises in England in each year since 1996. [86434]

Jim Knight: Data on areas of school sites were supplied to my Department by local education authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, the completeness and quality of the data is not good enough to accurately assess the total area of land taken up by school premises.

Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many international students participated in the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme in 2005; and what estimate he has made of the number of international students who will participate in the scheme in 2006. [83158]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

2,889 international students participated in the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme in 2005.

Between 1 January 2006 and 30 June 2006 a total of 2,000 international students participated in the Science

and Engineering Graduate Scheme. On that basis it is estimated that this figure will rise to over 4,000 before the end of 2006.

This information has not been quality assured, and is not a National Statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information and may be subject to change.

Student Funding

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average amount of funding per student is in comprehensive secondary schools of *(a)* fewer than 100, *(b)* 100-199, *(c)* 200-299, *(d)* 300-399, *(e)* 400-499, *(f)* 500-599, *(g)* 600-700 and *(h)* over 700 students in *(i)* rural areas and (ii) non-rural areas in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [85948]

Jim Knight: The available information is contained within the following table:

Comprehensive secondary budgeted expenditure[1] per pupil[2] in urban and rural schools[3] by school size in England during the 2006-07 financial year.

Size of school	*[3]Urban schools*	*[3]Rural schools*
(a) less than 100 pupils	4,790	
(b) 100 up to, but not including, 200	4,700	6,340
(c) 200 up to, but not including, 300	5,580	5,830
(d) 300 up to, but not including, 400	5,150	4,320
(e) 400 up to, but not including, 500	4,990	4,220
(f) 500 up to, but not including, 600	4,790	3,990
(g) 600 up to, but not including, 700	4,590	3,810
(h) 700 and above	4,120	3,830
All school sizes	4,170	3,850

[1] Budgeted expenditure includes total budget share plus Schools Standards Grant, School Development Grant, Other Standards Fund Allocation, Devolved School Means grant, Threshold and performance pay and Support for schools in financial difficulty. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. This is drawn from the 2006-07 Section 52 Budget Statement (Table 2). Schools that are proposed to close according to Edubase (the DfES database of educational establishments) in the 2006-07 financial year have been excluded.
[2] Pupil numbers are taken from Table 2 of Section 52 Budget, FTE Pupils (including LSC pupils).
[3] The urban/rural classification is drawn from the Edubase.
[4] No schools.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 13 July 2006.
2. Data remain provisional and are subject to change by local authorities.

Teachers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the availability of trained specialist school teachers in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* science, *(d)* modern languages and *(e)* information and communication technology in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [84746]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following tables provide the information available on the recruitment, training and teachers in service by subject specialism. This information is not available for rural areas only.

Table 1 provides the number of students recruited to initial teacher training courses by phase and subject for academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06.

Table 1: Recruitment to initial teacher training courses[1]—Academic years 2000/01 to 2005/06 by phase and subject specialism, England

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*			*Percentage increase 2004/05 to 2005/06*
						Actual	*Places*	*% difference +/-*	
Primary and secondary									
Undergraduate	8,100	7,830	7,790	7,850	8,250	8,170	—	—	-1
Postgraduate	19,620	21,260	23,370	25,780	25,860	25,250	—	—	-2
Of which:									
School centred/ other non-HEI	1,060	1,190	1,420	1,540	1,720	1,740	—	—	1
Total	27,720	29,090	31,160	33,630	34,110	33,410	34,300	-3	-2
Fast Track[3]	n/a	110	120	300	400	420	—	—	—
Grand total	27,720	29,190	31,280	33,930	34,520	33,830	—	—	—
Primary									
Undergraduate	6,580	6,390	6,490	6,600	7,030	6,960	—	—	-1
Postgraduate	6,590	6,720	8,000	8,980	9,420	9,060	—	—	-4

Table 1: Recruitment to initial teacher training courses[1, 2]—Academic years 2000/01 to 2005/06 by phase and subject specialism, England

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06			Percentage increase 2004/05 to 2005/06
						Actual	Places	% difference +/-	
Of which:									
School centred/ other non-HEI	510	590	740	810	890	910	—	—	2
Total	13,170	13,110	14,490	15,580	16,450	16,020	15,800	1	-3
Fast Track[3]	n/a	30	30	60	90	90	—	—	—
Grand total	13,170	13,140	14,520	15,640	16,540	16,110	—	—	—
Secondary									
Undergraduate	1,520	1,440	1,300	1,260	1,220	1,210	—	—	-1
Postgraduate	13,020	14,530	15,370	16,790	16,440	16,190	—	—	-2
Of which:									
School centred/ other non-HEI	550	600	680	730	830	840	—	—	0
Total	14,540	15,980	16,670	18,050	17,670	17,390	18,500	-6	-2
Fast Track[3]	n/a	80	90	240	310	320	—	—	—
Grand total	14,540	16,060	16,760	18,290	17,980	17,720	—	—	—
Secondary by subject									
Mathematics	1,290	1,550	1,670	1,940	2,030	2,010	2,350	-14	-1
English (inc. drama)	2,030	2,220	2,480	2,420	2,380	2,110	2,200	-4	-11
Science	2,410	2,590	2,700	2,870	2,830	2,930	3,225	-9	4
Modern foreign languages	1,640	1,710	1,730	1,820	1,620	1,560	1,900	-18	-4
Technology[4]	1,860	2,160	2,400	2,670	2,610	2,570	2,890	-11	-2
History	910	920	990	1,000	910	850	810	5	-7
Geography	900	1,030	950	990	900	820	925	-12	-10
Physical education	1,210	1,330	1,330	1,590	1,530	1,530	1,450	6	0
Art	850	840	890	930	860	780	800	-3	-10
Music	560	650	600	620	600	650	690	-5	8
Religious education	570	590	580	590	630	670	730	-8	7
Citizenship[5]	0	150	190	220	240	230	240	-5	-3
Other[6]	320	230	170	230	250	360	290	26	46
Vocational subjects[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	160	280	330	—	—	18
Total	14,540	15,980	16,670	18,050	17,670	17,390	18,500	-6	-2
Fast Track[3]	n/a	80	90	240	310	320	—	—	—
Grand total	14,540	16,060	16,760	18,290	17,980	17,720	—	—	—

n/a = not available.

[1] Recruitment figures for 2005/06 are provisional and are subject to change.

[2] Includes Universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes. Recruitment numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages have been calculated on the actual figure, rather than the rounded.

[3] 2001/02 was the first year of Fast Track recruitment.

[4] Technology includes design and technology, information and communications technology, business studies and home economics.

[5] 2001 /02 was the first year of recruitment for citizenship.

[6] Other includes classics, dance, economics, media, performing arts and social studies.

[7] Vocational subjects includes applied ICT, applied science, applied business, engineering, manufacturing, and health and social care. 2003/04 was the first year of recruitment for these subjects.

Source:

TDA's ITT Trainee Numbers Census 2000/01 - 2005/06 Available places—DfES.

Table 2 provides the number of teachers gaining qualified teachers status by qualification and phase of training in academic years 2001/02 to 2003/04.

Table 2: Teachers gaining qualified teacher status[1] in academic years 2001/02 to 2003/04—Qualification by phase of training, England

	2001/02			2002/03			2003/04		
	UG	PG	Total	UG	PG	Total	UG	PG	Total
Primary and secondary	6,340	16,940	23,280	6,250	19,180	25,430	5,880	21,460	27,340
Primary	5,110	5,610	10,720	5,140	6,800	11,930	4,890	7,580	12,470
Secondary	1,220	11,330	12,550	1,110	12,380	13,490	990	13,880	14,870
Of which:									
Mathematics	120	970	1,090	120	1,140	1,270	100	1,420	1,520
English (inc. drama)	70	1,730	1,800	70	2,000	2,070	60	2,110	2,170
Science	120	1,910	2,030	120	2,030	2,140	90	2,230	2,310
Modern foreign languages	20	1,330	1,340	10	1,340	1,350	10	1,440	1,450
Technology[2]	270	1,270	1,540	260	1,600	1,850	240	1,810	2,060
History	—	790	790	—	840	840	—	850	850
Geography	20	780	810	20	770	800	10	840	850
Art and design	10	630	630	10	720	720	—	810	810
Music	20	450	470	20	440	460	10	500	510
Religious education	—	440	440	10	430	440	—	450	460
Physical education	580	690	1,270	480	700	1,180	470	930	1,390
Other[3]	—	360	360	—	390	390	—	480	480

[1] Includes those trained through SCITTs, but excludes completers through employment based routes.
[2] Technology includes Business Studies, Information and Communications Technology and Design and Technology.
[3] Other includes Citizenship, Citizenship and Business Studies, Citizenship and History, Social Studies, Classics and Ecc.
Note:
"UG" equals Undergraduate, "PG" equals Postgraduate.
Source:
TDA Performance Profiles.

Table 3 provides the number of teachers teaching by subject in maintained secondary schools and the highest post A-level qualification held in the subject taught.

Table 3: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A-level qualification[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

	Percentage						
	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9

Table 3: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A-level qualification[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other Qual.*	*No Qual.*	*Total teachers (Thousand)*
Other/Combined technology[5]	30 ± 10	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal, Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:
Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* vacancies and *(b)* temporary replacements there are for head teachers in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [84747]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the number of full-time head teacher vacancies and temporarily filled vacancies in January 2006 (provisional), the latest information available.

Full-time head teacher vacancies and full-time temporarily filled head teacher posts in local authority maintained schools in England, January 2006[1]

	All maintained schools	*Maintained secondary schools*
Full-time head teacher vacancies	180	30
Full-time temporarily filled head teacher posts[2]	660	80

[1] Provisional.

[2] Temporarily-filled full-time permanent appointments. The definition used is wider than the vacancy definition (bullet points b and c below are in addition to the normal vacancy definition). A post is included in this row of the table: a. where there is no incumbent who is expected to return to the post; b. whether or not filled on a temporary basis, i.e. either without a contract or on a contract of less than one year; c. whether or not advertised; d. where an appointment has been made but not yet taken up.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, (618g).

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many vacancies there were for *(a)* infant, *(b)* primary and *(c)* secondary school (i) teachers and (ii) head teachers in (A) Greater London and (B) the London borough of Bexley in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [85987]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of full-time primary and secondary school vacancies for head and other teachers in the London Government Office Region and Bexley local authority in January 2005. Vacancies are those that existed at the

survey date and not for the full 12 month period. Infant school vacancies are included with primary schools and are not available separately.

Vacancy information for 2006 at local authority and regional level by phase of education will be published in September.

Full-time vacancy[1] numbers in London government office regions and Bexley local authority by grade and phase of education, January 2005

	Nursery and primary	Secondary
London		
Head teachers	14	11
Other teachers[2]	233	357
Total	247	368
Bexley		
Head teachers	0	2
Other teachers[2]	17	21
Total	17	23

[1] A vacancy refers to full-time appointment of at least one term's duration that, on the survey date in January, had been advertised but not filled. Vacancies include those filled on a temporary basis unless filled by someone with a fixed term contract of one term or more.
[2] Includes vacancies for deputy and assistant head teachers, ASTs and post threshold and other qualified classroom grade teachers.
Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, (618 g)

Venture Capital Funds

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many locally based venture capital funds have been set up since 1999. [84790]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

DTI does not operate locally based venture capital funds. To discover the number of funds run by others, including local authorities, would incur disproportionate cost.

The Small Business Service has invested in nine Regional Venture Capital Funds and three Early Growth Funds with a regional focus.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force

Ms Butler: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress has been made with the work of the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force. [82484]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

The Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force (EMETF) has met regularly since its inception in 2003. Details of its work to fulfil the recommendations of the Strategy Unit's report, "Ethnic Minorities and the Labour Market" (March 2003), have been presented annually to the Economic Affairs, Productivity and Competitiveness (EAPC) by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and are available at www.emetaskforce.gov.uk and copies have been placed in the Library.

In 2005, the Task Force was also given responsibility for taking forward the main conclusions of the National Employment Panel's report: "Enterprising People: Enterprising Places" (May 2005). Current priorities include work on the City Strategy; developing an outreach service to focus on non-working ethnic minority partners in low income households; expanding the data and research evidence base; and developing the opportunities presented by the Olympics to raise ethnic minority employment.

The third EMETF annual report will be published later this year and will include the findings of the independent review to be undertaken in the Autumn. The EMETF is supported and advised by the Ethnic Minority Advisory Group (EMAG) which has a membership comprising members of the ethnic minority voluntary, business and training sectors, faith groups, academics and its chair sits on the EMETF.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Biometrics

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance the Information Commissioner has given to *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* local authorities on the collection and the use of biometric identification, including fingerprint recognition, for the provision of local authority services. [85547]

Vera Baird: I understand that the Information Commissioner has received inquiries from a range of public authorities about the use of biometrics for the delivery of services, and that he has provided guidance in response to the specific inquiries. He has not issued generic guidance on the use of biometric identification.

Care Cases

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department is taking to increase the proportion of care cases being completed in the courts within 40 weeks by 10 per cent. by 2009-10. [85456]

Ms Harman: DCA is working with DfES, the Welsh Assembly, the judiciary, local authorities and other delivery agencies to increase the proportion of cases completed in 40 weeks by implementing the

recommendations of the "Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England and Wales" (published May 2006). This work seeks to reduce delay by focusing on seven key areas:

Ensuring families and children understand proceedings

Exploration of safe and appropriate alternatives to court proceedings

Improved consistency and quality of s 31 (care proceedings) applications to court

Improved case management

Inter-agency working/communications

Judicial allocation/use of court facilities

Experts

Revised statutory guidance for local authorities and new practice directions/protocols for courts will underpin case management processes.

Actions in the past year which are expected to affect the proportion of cases completed in 40 weeks include;

installation of video conferencing equipment in care centres enabling experts to give evidence remotely,

establishment of local family justice councils who have held conferences to identify how local agencies can best work together to reduce delay

piloting of family courts centres (co-located county court and family proceedings courts) allowing for the more efficient management and allocation of court business at local level

piloting the use of case progression officers in family courts

allowing nominated recorders and district judges (county courts) to hear care cases.

Chelmsford Court (PFI)

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the status is of the Chelmsford magistrates/coroner's court private finance initiative scheme; when she expects work *(a)* to commence and *(b)* to be completed on the building project; and if she will make a statement. [84847]

Ms Harman: The Essex magistrates court scheme, of which Chelmsford is part, continues to be within the programme of new court projects. My Department is still finalising investment plans, as part of the development of a Business and Estates Strategy for Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS). A further announcement will be made once spending plans have been agreed with Treasury. In March 2006 HMCS purchased a site for the new courthouse in Chelmsford and outline planning approval has been obtained.

Disputes Resolution

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department is taking to increase the advice and assistance available to help people resolve their disputes earlier and more effectively. [85455]

Vera Baird: In line with the strategy set out in the recent "Getting Earlier, Better Advice to Vulnerable People" document my Department is encouraging closer working among advice leads across Whitehall. This will ensure more effective referral networks are in place so that people get the service they need regardless of their point of access to the system.

My Department is supporting the Legal Services Commission as it implements its new community legal service strategy. In 2005-06 over 708,000 new civil legal aid cases were started by the Legal Services Commission, the highest at any point since 2000.

The DCA also provides funding to the LawWorks project, which aims to increase the delivery of free legal advice to individuals and communities in need.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 970W, what assumption for planning purposes she has made of the number of incapacity benefit appeal cases *(a)* by the end of 2006-07 and *(b)* in each of the subsequent two years. [83882]

Vera Baird: The latest work load forecasts for incapacity benefit appeals are as follows. The Government have recently announced plans to replace incapacity benefit through measures in the Welfare Reform Bill currently before Parliament which could have an impact on those figures.

	Intake
2006-07	63,698
2007-08	62,149
2008-09	61,714

Special Advocates

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many statements have been made on behalf of *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter victims by special advocates. [84527]

Ms Harman: The scheme applies to such cases where a charge is brought on or after 24 April 2006 in one of the five pilot areas. None has yet come to trial or resulted in a guilty plea.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Slave Trade

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to commemorate in Liverpool the bicentenary of the Act to abolish the British slave trade. [86289]

Mr. Lammy: My Department is committing £250,000 per year towards the running costs of National Museums Liverpool's new International Slavery Museum, which will open on 23 August 2007. National Museums Liverpool is a partner in the understanding slavery initiative museums education project, which supports the teaching of slavery in the classroom. National Museums Liverpool are part of the cross government advisory group on the bicentenary, which is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Gambling

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she plans to take steps to *(a)* regulate and *(b)* place advertising restrictions on betting operators not licensed in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [86105]

Mr. Caborn: The Advertising Standards Authority is working with the Gambling Commission to draw up new codes for gambling advertising, on which it will begin consulting shortly. The Secretary of State also has reserve powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to make regulations with regard to the form, content, timing and location of gambling advertising. She will not hesitate to use these powers if it becomes clear that self-regulation is not sufficient to protect children and vulnerable people from exploitation. Both the ASA codes and any Secretary of State regulations will apply to all non-broadcast advertising by gambling operators, wherever they are licensed.

Ofcom will continue to set, review and revise standards for broadcast advertising by gambling operators. In doing so Ofcom must consult with the Gambling Commission, and reflect any relevant regulations made by the Secretary of State.

Under the Gambling Act 2005 the Gambling Commission has the power to attach a condition to the licences it issues making provision for how gambling facilities may be advertised or described.

In addition, Section 331 of the Gambling Act prohibits any gambling operator based outside the European Economic Area or Gibraltar from advertising in the UK unless a specific exemption has been made for that jurisdiction under sub-section 331(4).

Historic Environment Sites

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards increasing the numbers visiting designated historic environment sites by 3 per cent. by 2008. [85457]

Mr. Lammy: We are working closely with English Heritage, the National Trust and others on a broad range of policies and programmes to increase participation in the historic environment by the priority groups.

Performance is measured by the "Taking Part" survey and interim results indicate that currently 47 per cent. black and minority ethnic people, 58 per cent. of people with limiting disabilities and 57 per cent. of people from lower socio-economic groups have visited at least one type of historic environment site during the past year. Final baselines will be available at the end of the year, but performance against the target will not be assessed until the end of the target period in 2008.

Libraries

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made since the wider efficiency review into libraries carried out by the accountants and consultants PKF in June 2005. [86216]

Mr. Lammy: The PKF report recommended that there were particular efficiencies to be found within the stock procurement systems. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) therefore commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake a detailed study of the potential for efficiencies in this area and to develop a model to realise them. PwC will report on its proposals shortly. Work will then follow to implement its proposed model.

We envisage that the work on stock procurement will provide lessons that could be transferred to other areas of public library management and service delivery—for example, in increased joint working and procurement of services such as marketing materials and reading promotions.

PKF also recommended that library authorities should review staff management and staff structures towards optimum efficiency. Although this recommendation was directed at individual authorities, MLA is seeking to encourage the adoption of efficient working practices through current programmes such as peer reviews and through a number of proposed activities in the new 2006-08 "Framework for the Future" action plan.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the funding of public libraries was spent on books in the last period for which figures are available; and what the planned figure is for 2006-07. [86217]

Mr. Lammy: According to the Public Library Statistics for 2004-05, published by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), the 149 library authorities in England spent £69,010,676 on books and pamphlets and a further £6,201,131 on newspapers, periodicals and magazines out of total revenue expenditure of £912,620,958. These are the latest "actuals" figures available.

Planned expenditure figures for 2006-07 are not held centrally.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the role of the Advisory Council for Libraries will differ from that of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. [86219]

Mr. Lammy: The Advisory Council on Libraries (ACL) is currently being re-constituted. When this process is complete there will be an equal number of serving public librarians and non-librarians with knowledge or expertise relevant to the work of public libraries. The ACL will advise DCMS Ministers and officials, and also Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) officials, on a range of public libraries issues. The ACL will meet two or three times a year.

The MLA also advises DCMS and its Ministers as the full-time lead strategic agency for museums, libraries and archives. Working in partnership with its nine regional agencies, the MLA works to improve people's lives by building knowledge, supporting learning, inspiring creativity and celebrating identity. The MLA Partnership acts collectively for the benefit of the sector and the public, leading the transformation of museums, libraries and archives for the future.

Current improvement programmes for public libraries include the various work strands of the Framework for the Future Action Plan, such as the leadership programme, peer reviews and the stock procurement project. It is also leading on work to review the Public Library Service Standards and Impact Measures.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what is the planned annual budget of the Advisory Council for Libraries. [86220]

Mr. Lammy: The Advisory Council on Libraries (ACL) is currently being re-constituted. When this process is complete there will be 12 members with an equal number of serving public librarians and non-librarians with knowledge or expertise relevant to the work of public libraries.

The ACL will not have an annual budget as its members will be unremunerated, receiving only reasonable travelling and subsistence expenses. These will be paid from DCMS running costs.

London Olympics

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in what ways she expects Northern Ireland to benefit from the 2012 Olympic Games. [85441]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are determined that the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland, can contribute to and benefit from the games in 2012.

Anticipated benefits include: increased interest and participation in sport, employment and business opportunities generated by hosting pre-event training camps, volunteering opportunities, an increase in tourism throughout the whole of the UK and the cultural festivities relating to the Cultural Olympiad.

A Nations and Regions Group (NRG), has been established to provide leadership and strategic direction in ensuring that the whole of the UK is engaged with these benefits. Each nation and region, including Northern Ireland, is represented on the NRG and has been tasked with developing a delivery plan to ensure that the many opportunities are realised for their nation or region.

Northern Ireland has established its own task force to drive forward this agenda. The group chaired by the permanent secretary of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), includes representation from sport, culture, tourism, Invest NI, local government and other interested bodies who will be responsible for delivering the benefits for Northern Ireland.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of tourists visiting the South West region during the 2012 Olympics. [86098]

Mr. Woodward: My Department has made no estimate of the number of tourists who will visit the South West region during the 2012 Olympics.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public appointments are within her patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83190]

Tessa Jowell: Details of public appointments to public bodies sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) can be found in Public Bodies, copies of which are in the Library. Public Bodies has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Public Bodies includes remuneration levels for all public appointments between 1980 and 2001, and remuneration levels for chairs for 2002-05.

Information for 1976 in respect of bodies now sponsored by DCMS, and additional information on remuneration and emoluments which is not contained in the most recently published version of Public Bodies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Small Businesses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 719-20W, on advertising expenditure, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the information campaign targeted at small independent businesses. [84670]

Mr. Lammy: In early June 2005, my Department launched a licensing communications campaign including PR, advertising and direct mail which targeted small independent businesses. The awareness-raising campaign proved highly effective and, together with the efforts of local authorities, trade associations and other stakeholders, helped increase the overall rate of applications from less than 5 per cent. in May 2005 to an estimated 98 per cent. of expected applications having been made by the time the new regime came into effect on 24 November.

Swimming Pools

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many 50 metre swimming pools there are in England; and where each is located. [85991]

Mr. Caborn: There are currently 37 50 metre swimming pools in England. The table details where they are located:

	Location
North West	
Indoor	Manchester (two)
	Stockport
	Wigan
East	
Indoor	Norwich

	Location
Outdoor	Cambridge
South East	
Indoor	St. Michael School, Sevenoaks
	Crawley
	High Wycombe
	Aldershot
Outdoor	Guildford
	Chalfont, Buckinghamshire
	Portsmouth
	Oxford
	Hitchin, Hertfordshire
	Letchworth, Hertfordshire
	Newbury
East Midlands	
Indoor	Loughborough
Outdoor	Peterborough
South West	
Indoor	Bath
	Millfield
Outdoor	Penzance
	Plymouth
	Torbay
	Cheltenham
	Lymington Spa
London	
Indoor	Crystal Palace
	Ealing
Outdoor	Brockwell
	Charlton
	Haringey
	Parliament Hill
	Tooting Bec
	Royal Parks (Serpentine)
West Midlands	
Indoor	Coventry
Yorkshire	
Indoor	Leeds
	Sheffield

A further three 50 metre indoor pools are under construction and another is at the planning stage.

Theatre Funding

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the grant-in-aid to Arts Council England was allocated to theatre in each year from 1997 to 2005. [85331]

Mr. Lammy: The following figures supplied by Arts Council England provide a breakdown of the information requested.

Arts Council England grant in -aid funding—theatre

	£000
1996-97	47,899
2001-02	58,612
2002-03	71,669
2003-04	85,501
2004-05	90,692
2005-06	94,937

Prior to the merger of the Arts Council of England and the regional Arts Boards, funding for theatre was distributed nationally by the Arts Council and regionally by the Arts Boards. For this reason it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for overall national funding for theatre before 2002-03. Figures for 1996-97 and 2001-02 are therefore indicative.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the Arts Council England allocation to subsidised theatre in each year from 1997 to 2005 was paid to *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* writers. [85332]

Mr. Lammy: Arts Council England does not analyse expenditure by subsidised theatre organisations in the detail requested.

However, Arts Council England's 2004-05 annual survey of regularly funded organisations provides information about income and expenditure on artistic programme costs and staff.[1]

In 2004-05, £152.7 million was spent on artistic programme costs, including £67.5 million (44 per cent.) on artistic staff including actors, musicians and writers.

During this period, theatre organisations employed 805 permanent artistic staff and 7,825 freelance/ contractual staff.

[1] In 2004-05, valid survey returns were received from 216 theatre organisations, representing approximately 80 per cent. of Arts Council England's full theatre portfolio. Data from the 2004-05 survey are currently unpublished.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received from *(a)* theatre managers, *(b)* orchestras and *(c)* entertainment trade unions on the impact on theatre of the comprehensive spending review for 2008 and 2011. [85333]

Mr. Lammy: Arts Council England (ACE), in its role as lead body for the arts in England, has consulted the wider arts sector in formulating its contribution to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) process to date. I have also met with representatives from the theatre and orchestral unions to discuss potential impacts of the CSR.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1150W,

on Afghanistan, what the *(a)* name and *(b)* job description is of each of the UK-funded advisers who are members of the Provisional Reconstruction Team. [85425]

Dr. Howells: The UK is funding the provision of advisers working in the fields of governance, police reform and justice/rule of law to the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province. All will work to promote the development of effective and transparent provincial governance in line with the Afghan Government's administrative reform processes. This will include helping to build capacity to plan, co-ordinate and implement the provision of basic public services and to exercise the rule of law. It will focus on helping local governance institutions, including the governor's office, provincial departments of line Ministries, the Provincial Council and Provincial Development Committee, to design and deliver the activities required to fulfil their mandates. The advisers will seek to facilitate the roll-out of current programmes from the national level to Helmand.

The governance adviser will aim to strengthen provincial public administration and representative and planning institutions. The police adviser will co-ordinate UK activities in southern Afghanistan in support of the Afghan police, building contacts with and the capacity of provincial and district police chiefs. The justice/rule of law adviser will aim to strengthen the criminal justice system, identifying ways to address linkages between informal and formal justice sector institutions, and to strengthen dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* UN and *(b)* EU officials are based in the Provisional Reconstruction Team in Helmand Province; and what the purpose is of each. [85473]

Dr. Howells: There are no UN or EU officials currently based in the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Helmand Province.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1150W.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking to promote the equal application of law to women and men in Afghanistan; and what assessment she has made of women's access to legal representation in Afghanistan. [86483]

Dr. Howells: The Afghan constitution states that "the citizens of Afghanistan have equal rights and duties before the law". The "Justice for All" Action Plan provides the basis for the reform of the Afghan justice sector over the next 12 years. The Plan is divided into five areas of activity: law reform, institution building, and access to justice programs, traditional justice and co-ordination. The Global Conflict Prevention Pool (the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development funded) has provided US $500,000 in support of this Action Plan. In addition, the FCO, through the Global Opportunities Fund is sponsoring a number of projects specifically designed to increase women's access to justice, improve their living standards, promote women's equal participation in governance, create a professional network of women's rights organisations and promote access to information through the radio.

The UK fully supports the equal application of law in Afghanistan to women and men.

BBC World Service

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the UK Government have made to the Chinese Government regarding transmission in China of the BBC World Service websites and broadcasts. [85036]

Dr. Howells: The Government are concerned about restrictions on media freedom in China. We regularly raise our concerns with the Chinese Government about China's jamming of BBC World Service broadcasts in Chinese and blocking of the BBC World Service website; most recently our Ambassador in Beijing raised this with the State Council Information Office on 11 July. The then Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson), raised this issue with the Chinese Government on 7 April. The Government are in regular contact with the BBC over this issue and have expressed their wish to see this issue resolved prior to the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

British Prisoners

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens imprisoned abroad are *(a)* awaiting trial and *(b)* serving a custodial sentence. [85953]

Dr. Howells: On 31 March 2006, British Consular officials were aware of 2,255 British Nationals detained in overseas prisons. This includes those awaiting trial as well as those serving custodial sentences. We do not maintain separate records of the numbers of British nationals awaiting trial or serving custodial sentences. As information on British nationals in prison overseas is held on case files, it would incur disproportionate cost to provide this information.

Burma

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* Tanzania, *(b)* Ghana and *(c)* Republic of Congo in their capacity as members of the Security Council regarding United Nations resolutions on Burma. [85891]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 172W.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what

representations she has made to the government of *(a)* France, *(b)* Austria, *(c)* Germany, *(d)* Italy and *(e)* Spain regarding investments in Burma. [85892]

Mr. McCartney: We have made no such representations to the governments of these countries. The EU Common Position on Burma prohibits investment by EU member states in listed state-owned companies with links to the Burmese military. All EU member states are bound by the Common Position.

The latest EU Common Position, agreed on 27 April 2006, can be found on the EU website at:

http://europa.eu.int/eurlex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_116/l_11620060429en00770097.pdf

I shall arrange for a copy of the EU Common Position to be placed in the Library of the House and for a copy to be sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the government of Burma on *(a)* the Karen people in Eastern Burma and *(b)* other issues relating to Burma; and if she will make a statement. [86015]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the Government of Burma.

On 15 June, I summoned the Burmese Ambassador to raise our concerns about the human rights abuses suffered by ethnic groups, including the Karen; forced labour; restrictions on religious freedom; the use of sexual violence and the exploitation of children. I also repeated our call for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and that of all other political prisoners held in Burma.

On 5 July, I wrote to the Burmese Foreign Minister, reiterating the points I made to the Burmese Ambassador. I shall arrange for a copy of my letter to be placed in the Library of the House and for a copy of the letter to be sent to the hon. Member.

We shall continue to take every opportunity to express the Government's concern to the regime and its representatives.

Darfur

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on progress with the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. [80225]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* The Darfur Peace Agreement was signed on 5 May. Implementation has been slow. There has been less fighting between the two parties to the agreement: the Sudanese government and the main rebel faction. But overall levels of violence in Darfur remain high. We are providing practical support to the African Union and the parties to help them with implementation. And we are encouraging those who have not yet signed the agreement to support it.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the allegation that Chinese-supplied weapons have been discovered in Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [80521]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* We are aware of reports that Chinese weapons have been found in Darfur. The UN has an arms embargo on the Darfur region, which prohibits the movement of arms into Darfur unless specifically authorised by the UN beforehand. We are also actively encouraging China to support work towards an arms trade treaty which would end the irresponsible trade in conventional arms.

I have raised with the Chinese ambassador the huge challenges that Africa must meet in terms of peace and stability, sustainable development and good governance and encouraged China to play a positive role as a responsible and leading member of the international community.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has held with the governments of *(a)* Rwanda, *(b)* Uganda, *(c)* Congo Brazzaville and *(d)* Angola on (i) the security situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo and (ii) the presence of non-Congolese irregular forces; and if she will make a statement. [84947]

Dr. Howells: The security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains fragile, especially in the east and north-east. Officials from our missions in the Great Lakes region regularly discuss the security situation in the DRC and its border areas with the governments to which they are accredited.

We continue to remind regional governments of the need to respect Congolese territorial sovereignty and to work together to resolve the issue of the foreign armed groups in the region. We underline that there must be no external support for Congolese armed groups that try to disrupt the peace process and that the DRC must take action to deal with the armed groups on its soil. UN Security Council Resolution 1653 reinforced this message. We support the US-facilitated Tripartite Plus Commission which brings Ugandan, Rwandan, Burundian and Congolese Foreign Ministers together to find solutions to issues affecting the region.

Energy Charter Treaty

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what plans she has to make representations to her Russian counterpart on the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty; [85079]

(2) what plans she has to make representations to her Russian counterpart on the Transit Protocol of the Energy Charter Treaty; [85080]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the impact on the likelihood of the Russian Federation signing the Transit Protocol of the Energy Charter Treaty of the law passed by the Russian State Duma on Gazprom's control of gas exports from Russia; [85081]

(4) what assessment her Department has made of the Russia Federation's progress towards compliance with the Energy Charter Treaty; [85116]

(5) what recent representations the British Government have made to the Russian Federation on its compliance with the Energy Charter Treaty; [85117]

(6) what recent representations the British Government have made to the Russian Federation on the Transit Protocol of the Energy Charter Treaty. [85118]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The UK, with other G7 members, has encouraged Russia to move forward during its G8 presidency and ratify the Energy Charter Treaty, of which it is already a signatory and applies on a provisional basis.

We would envisage that these Global Energy Security discussions will continue during the Russian presidency.

The UK is concerned that the proposed Russian Gas Export law would appear to contradict several of the major provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty, including the provisions on Transit. Through the EU, we continue to work with Russia towards an agreed text for the Transit Protocol while at the same time emphasising to Russia the importance of open, transparent, efficient and competitive markets at all stages of the energy supply chain as the key to global energy security.

Engaging with the Islamic World Group

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who is reponsible for the policy of the unit Engaging with the Islamic World in relation to radical Islam. [86291]

Dr. Howells: The Engaging with the Islamic World Group in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office reports to me, as the Minister responsible for our relations with the Muslim world.

Eritrea

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the human rights situation in Eritrea. [85329]

Dr. Howells: The UK remains deeply concerned about Eritrea's human rights record. The detention without charge by the Eritrean government of members of minority religious groups, journalists, leading political figures and members of civil society is unacceptable and contravenes international human rights agreements to which Eritrea is a party. We raise our concerns with the Eritrean government at every suitable opportunity. Our new Ambassador in Asmara has done so during his introductory meetings with the Eritrean authorities since his arrival in April 2006. We also work with our EU partners in reminding Eritrea of its human rights obligations including through the ongoing EU/Eritrea Political Dialogue.

Extradition Treaty

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her answer to the hon. Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey), of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 435W, on the Extradition Treaty, if she will place a copy of the reply in the Library. [85646]

Dr. Howells: The US Secretary of State has not replied formally to my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary's letter of 20 April.

Gaza

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action she has taken in response to the humanitarian situation in Gaza following the recent Israeli military action. [84958]

Dr. Howells: We have serious concerns about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Restoring electricity and water supplies and access for humanitarian organisations are a vital priority. On 25 June and 6 July, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised our concerns about the current situation with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni and Palestinian President Abbas. On 10 July, our Ambassador in Tel Aviv raised our concerns about the destruction of infrastructure with Israeli Prime Minister Olmert's Foreign Policy Advisor. We have also raised this with the Israel Defence Force.

The Israeli Cabinet agreed on 2 July to take steps to ease the humanitarian situation, including by opening the Karni commercial crossing point between Gaza and Israel for 150 trucks a day carrying food, fuel and medical supplies, and providing power through Israeli grids. We urge Israel to take further such action and allow the full provision of basic services to the Palestinian people.

Haiti

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the human rights situation in Haiti. [85328]

Mr. Hoon: We have a number of concerns about the human rights situation in Haiti, many of which are linked to the political instability and violence that the country has experienced in recent years. Several of the allegations of abuse relate to actions by the police and the judicial system. These include excessive use of force, involvement in kidnappings, detainment without trial, existence of political prisoners and violence against women. Supporting the reform of the police, prisons and judicial system is therefore a major priority for the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti. The determination expressed by the recently elected President Préval to tackle human rights problems in Haiti has been encouraging.

Mexico

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what observation of the recent elections in Mexico was undertaken by her Department *(a)* directly and *(b)* through the EU;

what the cost was of (i) the observation and (ii) the UK contribution to it; where the observers were deployed; and what conclusions were reached. [84945]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not been involved in formal election observation of the recent elections in Mexico, although 10 officials from our embassy in Mexico City and one from our consulate in Monterrey registered as Foreign Visitors with the Mexican Federal Electoral Institute. They did not observe any significant irregularities.

The EU undertook a formal Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) to Mexico for the recent elections. They had around 80 observers from 21 members states (including one from the UK). The EU observers were deployed to 31 states and the federal district in Mexico. The EOM issued a preliminary declaration on 3 July and a press statement on 7 July which, among other things, makes clear the electoral institutions in Mexico have behaved with professionalism, transparency and independence. The EOM will remain in Mexico until 20 July and will then produce a final report. The budget allocated to this EOM to Mexico under the European Initiative for Democratisation and Human Rights (EIDHR) budget is €2,474,034. The UK contribution to the EIDHR budget is approximately 17 per cent.

Middle East

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK plans to participate in the United Nations fact-finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories which was agreed at the UN Human Rights Council on 6th July. [85874]

Dr. Howells: The UN Secretariat will assist the fact-finding mission being carried forward by John Dugard, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories. As the mission will not be an intergovernmental process, the UK will not be participating.

North Korea

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the recent missile testing by North Korea. [84969]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2138-39W.

Sierra Leone

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the human rights situation in Sierra Leone. [85327]

Dr. Howells: In the fragile peace following its brutal civil war, the human rights situation in Sierra Leone is slowly improving. However, many of the root causes of conflict, including abject poverty, corruption and a lack of access to justice remain. These continue to have an impact on the spectrum of human rights.

The government continue to rebuild its institutions and UK programmes to retrain and restructure the armed forces and police have made a big impact on security, to the extent that UN peacekeepers left at the end of 2005. But Sierra Leoneans are still denied many basic rights, notably in the justice sector, which is inefficient and corruptible. We support a Justice Sector Development Programme aiming to tackle this and an Anti-Corruption Commission to tackle wider malfeasance. There is a free press, but the government can still react harshly to criticism.

We worked hard, with other partners, to achieve the transfer of Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is a major success for defending human rights and ending impunity in the region. We want to ensure that the trial continues to have wide coverage in Sierra Leone so that the people feel that they retain ownership of the process.

The democratic principles of the government will be put to the test by the run-up to 2007 elections, which the UK will both help prepare for, through a UN basket fund, and assist in monitoring.

Somalia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of Somali people living in exile in *(a)* Ethiopia and *(b)* Kenya. [84950]

Dr. Howells: Estimates are difficult because both Kenya and Ethiopia have large indigenous Somali speaking populations and many unregistered Somali exiles in addition to registered refugees. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimates for Somali refugees in Kenya in 2005 were around 160,000, plus 30,000 to 50,000 unregistered, and in Ethiopia around 12,000, plus 15,000 to 40,000 unregistered.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have been held with the Somali Transitional Government on recognition and diplomatic support; and if she will make a statement. [85005]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, met President Yusuf at the African Union Summit in Banjul on 1-2 July. With the rest of the international community we are engaging with the Transitional Federal institutions as the best process for restoring stability and good governance in Somalia.

The latest fighting in Mogadishu and more widely undermines efforts to restore peace and stability. We call on all parties immediately to end fighting and observe fully the ceasefire agreed between representatives of the Transitional Federal Government and the Islamic Courts in Khartoum on 22 June. We urge the Transitional

Federal Government and the Islamic Courts' Union to engage constructively in the next round of talks in Khartoum on 15 July.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by her Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85187]

Mr. Hoon: There have been none.

Uganda

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the need for *(a)* a special envoy and *(b)* a panel of experts on Northern Uganda. [85342]

Dr. Howells: On 26 April the UN Secretariat briefed the UN Security Council on the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Along with Security Council and EU partners we welcomed the initial recommendations made. These included encouraging the Government of Uganda to accept the appointment of a Special Envoy with a regional focus and establishing a panel of experts to look at the sources of LRA funding. The UN Secretariat is now preparing a written report.

We think these proposals could support wider efforts to end the long-running conflict in northern Uganda and we look forward to receiving the written report shortly.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she plans to issue a response to the publication of the UN Secretary General's report to the UN Security Council on the conflict in Northern Uganda. [85343]

Dr. Howells: The UN Secretary General's report pursuant to resolutions 1653 (2006) and 1663 (2006) on how the UN agencies and missions could more effectively address the problem of the Lord's Resistance Army is expected to be issued shortly.

We will then consider the recommendations and discuss with other members of the UN how best to take them forward.

Xu Shuang fu/Li Maoxing/Wang Jun

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Chinese government on the cases of *(a)* Xu Shuang fu, *(b)* Li Maoxing and *(c)* Wang Jun. [85140]

Dr. Howells: Xu Shuangfu, Li Maoxing and Wang Jun are members of an unconventional underground Christian group, the Three Grades of Servants, who have been accused of murdering 20 leaders from a rival religious group. The information we have from non-governmental organisations gives a cautious assessment of the group's activities and status. We continue to monitor developments closely, but are unable to make representations to the Chinese Government on these cases until we receive evidence that their convictions are based on false grounds.

The Government have lobbied the Chinese Government in general terms to limit, and ultimately abolish, their use of the death penalty, and improve its provision of proper legal defence in criminal trials.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the United Nations Secretary General's withdrawal as a peace-broker within Zimbabwe. [85037]

Dr. Howells: We welcomed the UN secretary-general's willingness to visit Zimbabwe to address the gathering crisis there. We regret Mugabe's apparent rejection of this offer. Zimbabweans are suffering, and urgently need their government to undertake significant economic and political reform. We will continue work with our international partners, including at the UN, to ensure effective international pressure on the Mugabe regime.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the frequency, scale and sophistication of Taliban attacks on British forces in Helmand Province. [84562]

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the *(a)* strength and *(b)* fighting capability of (i) the Taliban and (ii) other illegal armed groups in Afghanistan. [84896]

Des Browne: We continuously monitor and assess all known threats to our forces. The frequency and scale of attacks against our forces has increased as we have deployed the Helmand Taskforces to the south of Afghanistan. These attacks vary in sophistication. However, disclosure of details would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security of the armed forces. Neither the Taliban, nor the range of illegally armed groups, currently pose a threat to the long-term stability of Afghanistan.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the average extra flying hours for *(a)* attack and *(b)* support helicopters in Afghanistan since flying hours were extended; and by what methods these increased flying hours were achieved. [85110]

Des Browne: Flying hours are allocated on a monthly basis and were first extended in June. The increased hours are achieved by servicing the aircraft more frequently.

Hours have been increased by up to 39 per cent. depending on aircraft type. It would not be appropriate

to go into the detail of how many hours this constitutes as to do so would give unnecessary advantage to enemy forces and put the lives of our personnel at risk.

As I announced on 10 July, a further uplift in both fixed wing and helicopter support is planned. There are a number of other helicopter assets operating in Southern Afghanistan, including Helmand province that the UK can draw on for support.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* ISAF and *(b)* British forces have (i) provided intelligence for specific anti-narcotics operations in Afghanistan, (ii) air-lifted and provided secure transport for Afghan forces taking part in anti-narcotics operations and (iii) provided protective cordons for Afghan forces taking part in anti-narcotics operations. [85754]

Des Browne: A key element of both the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) mission is to support the Government of Afghanistan and its security forces. British forces, along with ISAF forces operating in other parts of Afghanistan, have and will continue to support the Afghan forces in a number of ways. As well as the ongoing mentoring process, this includes the sharing of intelligence, provision of transport and protective cordons where appropriate.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place for evaluation of the armed forces compensation scheme; and what evaluation is made of this scheme in relation to patients suffering from mental health issues. [85113]

Mr. Watson: The armed forces compensation scheme was introduced on 6 April 2005 to provide compensation for personnel injured, made sick or killed through service on or after that date. An evaluation of the first year of operation is currently being carried out involving interested parties, including ex-service organisations and the three services. The evaluation will be in the light of experience and evidence of cases arising so far, including those who have suffered from mental health issues and will include discussions with charities which operate in this arena.

Armed Forces Doctors and Dentists

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to implement the pay award for armed forces doctors and dentists recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body. [86031]

Des Browne: The Government are currently considering the recommendations of the independent Armed Forces Pay Review Body's 2006 supplementary report on the pay of service medical and dental officers. We hope to make an announcement soon.

Armoured Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many tanks were in service in each year since 1997. [84543]

Mr. Ingram: The following table provides details of the numbers of Main Battle Tanks in-service with the armed forces during the period 1997-2006:

	Equipment	
	Challenger 1 (CR1 MBT)	*Challenger 2 (CR2 MBT)*
1997	426	47
1998	426	131
1999	412	237
2000	338	309
2001	248	386
2002	160	386
2003	64	385
2004	11	385
2005	3	385
2006	3	385

BL755 Cluster Munition

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department has received which indicate that the BL755 failure rate may be higher than 6 per cent. in actual combat use. [83985]

Mr. Ingram: No reports have been received which suggest that the BL755 cluster bomb failure rate increases when deployed on operations.

Broadcasting

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of *(a)* Services Sound and Vision Corporation and *(b)* its subsidiary British Forces Broadcasting Service in each of the last six years. [85019]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has a number of contracts with the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC), which provide services to the armed forces ranging from the broadcasting of British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) Television overseas to operating the British Defence Film Library (BDFL). BFBS is the designation of some of the services operated on behalf of the MOD by SSVC.

	Costs (£ million)
2000-01	17.86
2001-02	21.10
2002-03	25.16
2003-04	27.17
2004-05	28.48
2005-06	31.04

Challenger Tank

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the 14 allocated days have been used in training for the firing of the 120 mm Challenger tanks at the Warcop range in each year since 2001. [85383]

Mr. Watson: None of the allocated days have been used for firing of the Challenger tank 120 mm guns

since 2001. However, as there are only two other ranges suitable for main battle tank (MBT) use—Lulworth and Castlemartin—and given the critical requirement for MBT crews to fire during pre-deployment training, the Warcop facility remains a strategic reserve asset for use in the event of one of the other ranges being unusable.

Combat Stress/Mental Illness

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel who served in the 1991 Gulf War have been diagnosed with mental illnesses in each year since that conflict; and how many were referred to *(a)* Combat Stress and *(b)* NHS mental health services. [84855]

Mr. Watson: Information on mental illnesses reported by veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict while still serving is not held centrally. The Ministry of Defence does not hold records of mental illnesses reported after an individual has left the services. The NHS is responsible for the health care of ex-service personnel but information on referrals of Gulf veterans is not available. For those Gulf veterans still serving, Defence Medical Services are responsible for providing treatment for all medical conditions, including mental health problems but again we do not hold referral information according to the operations on which personnel were deployed.

Combat Stress have received 853 patient referrals who served in the 1990-91 Gulf conflict, but the same patients may have served in other deployments, so the origin of the mental health problem may not be clear.

Defensive Aids Suites

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 704W, on defensive aids suites, when the infra red counter measure was discontinued as a defensive aid suite; on what basis the decision was made; and if he will make a statement. [84420]

Mr. Ingram: Infra red counter measures have not been discontinued.

Forces (Discharges)

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people discharged before January 2000 from *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the RAF because of their sexual orientation are awaiting compensation payments; how many people have received compensation payments in each of the last six years; what the (i) average, (ii) minimum and (iii) highest payments made in these cases has been; how many former servicemen and women have rejected payments offered; and if he will make a statement. [85917]

Mr. Watson: There are 62 claims against the Ministry of Defence from ex-service personnel who allege that they were dismissed from the armed forces as a result of their sexual orientation that remain to be settled. Of these 27 are ex-Army, 19 ex-RAF and 16 ex-Royal Navy personnel. Initial offers of compensation have been made in 29 of these cases, but rejected; negotiations are ongoing.

The following table shows that 24 claims were settled over the last six years. The highest settlement figure was £115,405 and the lowest settlement figure was £10,000. The average settlement award of £35,435.

Financial year	*Claims settled*	*Compensation/legal costs paid (£)*
2006-07 (to date)	4	119,000
2005-06	3	52,000
2004-05	0	0
2003-04	9	192,350
2002-03	5	370,860
2001-02	3	116,250

Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* required figures are for helicopter crew personnel for each relevant squadron of the (i) Fleet Air Arm and (ii) Royal Air Force. [84544]

Mr. Ingram: The actual and required figures for helicopter crew personnel (excluding ground crew) for each relevant squadron of the Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force are shown in the following tables:

Fleet Air Arm

	Squadron (Sqn)	*Actual (held)*	*Required (establishment)*
Sea King Mk 4	845 Naval Air Squadron (NAS)	49	45
Sea King Mk 4	846 NAS	48	45
Sea King Mk 4	848 NAS	29	33
Lynx AH7	847 NAS	15	18
Lynx Mk 3/8	702 NAS	22	24
Lynx Mk 3/8	815 NAS	60	70
Merlin Mk 1	700 NAS	9	11
Merlin Mk 1	814 NAS	32	33
Merlin Mk 1	820 NAS	29	33
Merlin Mk 1	824 NAS	48	72
Merlin Mk 1	829 NAS	19	21
SKASaC Mk 7	849 NAS	15	15
SKASaC Mk 7	849 A Flt	14	15

Fleet Air Arm

	Squadron (Sqn)	Actual (held)	Required (establishment)
SKASaC Mk 7	849 B Flt	13	15
Sea King Mk 5 Search & Rescue	771 Sqn	42	42
Sea King Mk 5 Search & Rescue	GANNET	20	20

Royal Air Force

	Squadron	Actual (held)	Required (establishment)
Chinook HC2	7 Sqn	43	46
Chinook HC2	18 Sqn	96	95
Chinook HC2	27 Sqn	60	59
Puma HC1	230 Sqn	56	54
Puma HC1	33 Sqn	84	77
Merlin HC3	28 Sqn	88	102
Sea King HAR 3/3A Search & Rescue	22 Sqn	54	58
Sea King HAR 3/3A Search & Rescue	202 Sqn	57	59
Sea King HAR 3A Search & Rescue	203(R) Sqn	20	20
Twin Squirrel	32 Sqn	3	3
Griffin HAR2	84 Sqn	11	11
Squirrel HT1, Griffin HT1	60(R) Sqn—Defence Helicopter Flying School	47	46

Interpreters

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many interpreters are employed by the UK military in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [85018]

Des Browne: As at 1 July 2006, the UK military employed 476 interpreters in Iraq (of which 116 are administered on behalf of Australian forces) and 156 interpreters in Afghanistan.

Iraq

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the level of violence being carried out by militia groups in Multi-National Division South East; and if he will make a statement. [84561]

Des Browne: I receive regular assessments of the level of violence in Multi-National Division South including that carried out by militia groups.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on Iraq, whether progress has been made on resuming full co-operation between Maysan Provincial Council and multi-national forces. [85621]

Des Browne: We continue to make progress towards resumption of formal co-operation with the Maysan Provincial Council with a number of positive developments in recent weeks. Co-operation with the provincial authorities has continued at working level and the Maysan Battlegroup has trained and mentored the Iraqi Security Forces throughout this period.

Merlin Helicopters

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what future roles are planned for the 12 Royal Navy Merlin helicopters not included in the scheduled Lockheed Martin upgrade programme; and what the scheduled out-of-service dates are for these helicopters. [85381]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* There are 12 Royal Navy Merlin Mk1 helicopters not currently included in the Lockheed Martin upgrade programme (known as the Merlin Capability Sustainment Programme). A decision is currently expected to be made in late 2008 as to whether to add 8 of these 12 to the programme. Should a decision be taken not to add these aircraft to the programme they would remain in the RN Merlin fleet and a decision would be taken on their out-of-service date around 2015. Inclusion in the programme would extend their out-of-service date to 2029.

There are no plans to add the other four RN Merlin Mk1 helicopters to the Merlin Capability Sustainment Programme. These are currently used as trials aircraft either based at Agusta Westland Ltd. at Yeovil, Somerset or at RNAS Culdrose. A decision on the out-of-service date of these four aircraft is also expected to be taken around 2015.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* RG-31 vehicles, *(b)* mine-protected vehicles and *(c)* Cougar vehicles, and variants thereof, are in service; and where they are based. [81599]

Mr. Ingram: There are no RG-31 vehicles currently in service with UK forces. There are eight of the current Mine Protected Vehicle in service, which is based on an early version of the Force Protection Inc. Cougar, including a number in Afghanistan.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether the improvised explosive device attack at Haditha, Iraq in

2006, on the amphibious assault vehicle operated by the US Marine Corps has implications for *(a)* the design of British armoured personnel carriers and *(b)* other British Army force protection measures. [82513]

Mr. Ingram: We have established links with coalition partners in Iraq to exchange details of terrorist incidents, successful or otherwise, in order to identify lessons for tactics, platform design and capability development. We do not comment publicly on specific incidents or conclusions for reasons of operational security.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken since September 2004 to enhance the provision of electronic counter measures for military vehicles operating out-of-base in Iraq or Afghanistan. [84534]

Des Browne: The threat from Improvised Explosives Devices is constantly evolving and responding to it is one of our highest priorities. Over the past two years we have spent £120 million on protection for ground forces in Iraq, including on electronic counter measures. In addition, the British Army constantly reviews its training, tactics and procedures to minimise the risks to which our troops are exposed. It would not be appropriate to comment on the details as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken since September 2004 to enhance ballistic protection to side doors, footwells and forward bulkheads of Snatch vehicles deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. [84542]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Non-Combat Deaths

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-combat army deaths there have been in the British armed forces in each year since 1997; how many were firearms-related in each year; and if he will make a statement. [82250]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* Details on annual non-combat army deaths in each year since 1997, including firearms-related deaths, are shown in the following table.

Deaths in the regular armed forces (Army only): showing non-combat and firearms-related deaths, 1997-2005

	Non-combat injury related deaths	*of which: Non-combat firearms related deaths*
All	590	40
1997	68	3
1998	70	1
1999	62	3
2000	68	7
2001	61	7
2002	73	7
2003	55	5
2004	74	5
2005	59	2

Nuclear Deterrent

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has *(a)* incurred and *(b)* approved in respect of the upgrading or replacement of the UK's nuclear deterrent; and if he will make a statement. [83969]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* It is not practicable, except at disproportionate cost, to assess historic expenditure on upgrading or replacing the UK's nuclear deterrent since its inception in the 1950s.

We routinely undertake work to maintain the capability of our existing nuclear deterrent system over its current planned design life. The cost of this work is included within the overall running costs of the Trident system, which have varied between three and 4.5 per cent. of the defence budget since it came into service, up to and including 2005-06.

In terms of expenditure in support of the possible retention by the UK of a nuclear deterrent capability beyond the planned life of the current system, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1322W. In addition to the expenditure referred to in that answer, we have previously spent a total of around £9 million.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure has been incurred on research into a new generation of nuclear warheads in each of the last five years. [85534]

Des Browne: There is no programme to develop a new United Kingdom nuclear warhead. As was stated in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, we retain a minimum capability to design and manufacture a new warhead, should one be required. It is not possible precisely to distinguish between expenditure to support retention of that capability and that required to support the current warhead.

Overseas Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the British armed forces are serving on operations overseas. [83116]

Mr. Ingram: Location statistics may be compiled based on posted location or deployed location. Posted location is where an individual is permanently based. Deployed location is where an individual is physically located at a particular point in time and is typically used for short tours of duty.

The numbers of personnel posted to each location abroad are shown in Tri Service Publication 6, Global Location of UK Regular Forces (TSP 6). Copies of

TSP 6 are held in the House of Commons Library and are also available at www.dasa.mod.uk.

Figures for the number of Regular and Reserve Service personnel deployed on operations are shown in the following tables, as is the percentage of deployed personnel against the total UK Regular and Reserve Force.

Number and percentage of UK Regular Forces[1] deployed at 1 May 2006

	All Services	Naval Service	Army	RAF
Total trained strength	[2]176,490	[2]34,760	[2]96,660	[2]45,080
Total deployed[3]	16,330	2,570	11,740	2,030
Percentage deployed	[2]9.3	[2]7.4	[2]12.1	[2]4.5

[1] Figures are for trained UK Regular Forces, and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full-Time Reserve Service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reservists and Naval Activated Reservists.
[2] Denotes provisional. Naval Service trained and untrained split, and Army Officer figures are provisional pending investigation. Due to the introduction of a new Personnel Administration System for RAF, all RAF data from 1 April 2006 are provisional and subject to review.
[3] Figures for deployment are shown at the 2 May 2006.
Note:
Data are rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent disclosure of sensitive information. Percentages are calculated from unrounded figures.
Source:
DASA (Tri-Service).

Number and percentage of trained UK Reserve Forces mobilised at 1 May 2006

	All Services	Naval Service	Army	RAF
Total Reserve strength[1,2,3,4,5,6]	86,540	12,770	64,220	9,550
Regular Reserve[1,2,3,4,5]	50,570	10,400	32,060	8,100
Volunteer Reserve[1,3,4,6]	35,970	2,360	32,150	1,450
Total mobilised Reserves[7]				
Number[7]	1,480	30	1,340	110
Percentage[7,9]	1.7%	0.2%	2.1%	1.1%
Mobilised Regular Reserve[7]				
Number[7]	260	[9]—	260	[9]—
Percentage[7]	0.5%	[9]—	0.8%	[9]—
Mobilised Volunteer Reserve[7]				
Number[7]	1,220	30	1,090	110
Percentage[7]	3.4%	1.2%	3.4%	7.4%

[1] Reserve strength figures are at 1 April 2006.
[2] Figures exclude full-time Reserve Service personnel.
[3] Naval Service excludes University RN units. Army excludes non-regular permanent staff, Officer Training Corps and full-time Reserve Service. RAF excludes University Air Squadrons.
[4] It is not possible to identify whether Volunteer Reserves are trained, hence figures show total Volunteer Reserve.
[5] It is not possible to identify from central sources which reserves are mobilised overseas. Consequently figures show all mobilised reservists, irrespective of location, including those on pre-deployment training and post-operational leave.
[6] Percentage of total Reserve strength.
[7] Percentage of Regular Reserve strength.
[8] Percentage of Volunteer Reserve strength.
[9] Denotes zero or a percentage rounded to zero.
Note:
Data are rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent disclosure of sensitive information. Percentages are calculated from unrounded figures.
Source:
DASA (Tri-Service).

Premature Voluntary Releases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many premature voluntary release exits there were from the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy, *(c)* Royal Marines and *(d)* Royal Air Force in each year since 1997. [85759]

Mr. Watson: Voluntary Outflow figures are published in Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 5—UK Regular Forces Outflow from Trained Strength to Civil Life.

TSP 5 is published monthly; the most recent publication shows the numbers of service personnel at 1 May 2006.

Copies of TSP 5 are held in the House of Commons Library and are also available at www.dasa.mod.uk.

TSP 5 includes data for the naval service as a whole. The breakdown between Royal Navy and the Royal Marines is shown in the following table:

Naval service voluntary outflow from trained strength to civil life

		Number
Financial year	*Royal Navy*	*Royal Marines*
1996-97	1,690	320
1997-98	1,650	280
1998-99	1,450	420
1999-2000	1,610	300
2000-01	1,240	250
2001-02[1]	1,780	420
2002-03	1,400	350
2003-04	1,510	340
2004-05	1,640	380
2005-06	1,460	430

[1] For all naval service VO applications received on or after 1 June 2000, the maximum time period between date of application and exit was reduced from 18 months to 12. This effectively compressed 18 months of exits into the financial year 2001-02.
Notes:
1. The term premature voluntary release (PVR) has been changed to voluntary outflow (VO) although the methodology remains the same.
2. VO is defined as all applications and exits from trained personnel which are generated by the individual before their time expiry.
3. Figures show all trained voluntary outflow from the naval service including recalled reservists.
4. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
Source:
DASA (Tri-Service)

Royal Air Force

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving *(a)* engineers and *(b)* medical personnel there are in the Royal Air Force; and what the requirement is for each category. [85752]

Mr. Watson: The most recent available figures are:

	Requirement	*Trained strength*
Engineer	20,630	21,360
Medical	1,765	1,520

Notes:
1. As at 6 March 2006.
2. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
3. Figures include officers and non-commissioned personnel.
4. Medical figures exclude dentists and dental trades.

Strathmore Estates

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payments have been made to the Strathmore Estates for training use of their land within the Warcop byelawed area in each year since 2001. [85384]

Mr. Watson: Payments are made by this Department to the Strathmore Estate according to the licence agreement, and reviewed every three years. I am unable to provide the amounts as this would prejudice our position commercially with other landowners in the area with whom we have similar agreements.

UK Bases

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rules govern the use of UK bases at *(a)* Diego Garcia and *(b)* RAF Fairford by the United States to launch military action against a sovereign state. [85506]

Des Browne: The presence of the United States Air Force at RAF Fairford is, as with all bases made available to United States visiting forces in the United Kingdom, governed by the NATO Status of Forces Agreement 1951 and additional confidential arrangements.

Her Majesty's Government have to be fully consulted and agree before any UK-based US forces are deployed operationally. The Joint Churchill-Truman Communiqué of January 1952 stated:

"Under arrangements made for the common defence, the United States has the use of certain bases in the United Kingdom. We reaffirm the understanding that the use of these bases in an emergency would be a matter for joint decision by H. M. Government and the U.S. Government in the light of the circumstances prevailing at the time."

The use of the US military facility at Diego Garcia is governed by an Exchange of Notes between the US and UK which requires the US to seek prior approval for any operations that they wish to undertake from Diego Garcia.

Veterans

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding housing for veterans; and what plans he has to improve access to housing for *(a)* single veterans and *(b)* veterans with families. [84830]

Mr. Watson: There have been no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government about housing for veterans. However, frequent contact is maintained between officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding veterans housing matters. Our main focus is on improving access to housing for Service personnel while they are still serving or are at the point of leaving the Service. This applies to both single Service personnel and those with families, and is intended to facilitate a smooth transition to civilian life. Measures already in place to assist all personnel leaving the Services include the provision of comprehensive information and advice on housing options and the MOD Nominations Scheme, which facilitates access for Service leavers to housing with 43 registered social landlords and councils across the UK. In recognition of their specific needs, the Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services provides an advice and placement service for single Service leavers.

Through the Veterans Agency helpline and website, liaison with the ex-Service charities and other agencies, and various communications initiatives, we aim to increase awareness among veterans of the support available and improve access to help on housing and other matters. We also support a number of initiatives to prevent and tackle homelessness among existing veterans.

TREASURY

Bank Accounts

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of adults in *(a)* Beverley and Holderness and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire who do not have access to a bank account are over the age of 65; and if he will make a statement. [86333]

Ed Balls: The most recent data available that allow assessment to be made of the number of households with no access to a bank account are to be found in the Family Resources Survey from 2002-03. This indicates that 8 per cent. of households in the United Kingdom had no bank account of any kind. This equated to 1.9 million households containing around 2.8 million adults. The data are broken down to Government office regional level. This shows 9 per cent. of households in Yorkshire and the Humber were unbanked. The data can also be broken down by the age of the household reference person (the owner of the household or the one with the highest income). This shows that 27 per cent. of unbanked households had a household reference person over the age of 65.

In December 2004, the Government and the banks agreed to work together towards the goal of halving the number of adults in households with no access to a bank account of any kind and of making significant progress within two years. The Financial Inclusion Taskforce has been asked to monitor progress. The taskforce recently made its first annual report, which concluded that steady progress has been made towards the goal but also encouraged banks to continue to address the difficulties faced in opening a bank account.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of people living in Scotland had a bank account in each of the last five years; what steps he is taking to increase the number of people with bank accounts; and if he will make a statement. [86408]

Ed Balls: The most recent data available that allows assessment to be made of the number of households with no access to a bank account are to be found in the Family Resources Survey from 2002-03. This indicates that 8 per cent. of households in the United Kingdom had no bank account of any kind. This equated to 1.9 million households containing around 2.8 million adults. The data are broken down to Government office regional level. This shows 8 per cent. of households in Scotland were unbanked. The figures for previous years are: 2001-02—9 per cent.; 2000-01—14 per cent.; 1999-2000—13 per cent.; 1998-99—14 per cent.

In December 2004, the Government and the banks agreed to work together towards the goal of halving the number of adults in households with no access to a bank account of any kind and of making significant progress within two years. The Financial Inclusion Taskforce has been asked to monitor progress. The taskforce recently made its first annual report, which concluded that steady progress has been made towards the goal but also encouraged banks to continue to address the difficulties faced in opening a bank account.

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the conclusions were of the Taskforce on Benefit Fraud announced in the 1999 Pre-Budget Report; what the recommended plan of action consisted of; and what progress has been made with its implementation. [84819]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply

In 1999, Lord Grabiner QC, was asked to chair a task force bringing together the Treasury, the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, the Department of Social Security and the Employment Service to conduct an investigation into the informal or hidden economy. His report, "The Informal Economy—A Report by Lord Grabiner QC", was published in March 2000 and is available in the Library. DWP has successfully acted on all the key recommendations applicable to this Department.

Business Secondment (Schools)

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of businesses have been seconded to schools in each year since 1997; and how much tax relief employers claimed in respect of such secondments in each year. [85554]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

No information is available on employees of businesses who have been seconded to schools and on the tax relief claimed by employers in respect of employees seconded to schools.

We welcome links between schools and businesses and the Government make available £25 million a year through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to promote closer links between schools and business.

Child Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether copies of birth certificates are valid for parents registering for child tax credit and child benefit. [85721]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* Child benefit office and tax credit office will accept copies of birth certificates only if the original has been seen and the copy certified as a true copy by two officers of HM Revenue and Customs, or the Department of Work and Pension or the Department for Social Development.

Disabled People

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the overall approach to reinvestment of future savings in the benefits budgets and growth in revenue resulting from increased participation of disabled people in the workforce; what agreements have been reached in principle; and if he will make a statement. [84349]

Mr. Timms: We expect the Pathways to Work programme to generate significant long-term benefit savings.

As the savings and effectiveness of the Pathways to Work programme are demonstrated, we will consider additional funding for the Department for Work and Pensions for further welfare reform measures. Any such funding will be allocated in the light of potential value for money, including future Exchequer benefits.

ECOFIN

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1283W, on the ECOFIN meeting, on what date his diary secretary was informed that he would be attending the ECOFIN meeting on 7 June. [85906]

John Healey: Dates for ECOFIN meetings are confirmed seven months in advance of each presidency.

Education and Training Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what cash figures were used to calculate spending on education and training as a percentage of GDP in Table 3.4 of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2005 for *(a)* schools, *(b)* tertiary education and *(c)* other training programmes for England. [86433]

Mr. Timms: Table 3.6 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2005 presents UK Total Expenditure on Services (TES) by sub-function for 1999-2000 to 2004-05, consistent with Table 3.4. The sub-functions presented include schools, tertiary

education and training spending. For earlier years we do not hold a consistent series with Table 3.4 at the detailed sub-function level and so the information is not available. The methodology used to produce the high-level functional series back years in Table 3.4 is available on the HMT website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/777/D4/historical_funtion_series_method_note.pdf

Total Expenditure on Services by country and region is available in chapter 8 of PESA 2005 (chapter 7 of PESA 2006). These regional spending statistics use the concept of 'identifiable' spending where Government spending is allocated to the region or country that benefits from the spending. Some spending cannot be allocated to a region or country as it is for the benefit of the UK as a whole (e.g. defence spending). Tables 8.5 to 8.10 present England spending on Education and Training for 1999-2000 to 2004-05 on this identifiable, who benefits, basis. We do not currently produce these regional analyses at a sub-function level, although it is something we are considering for the future. Paragraph 3.59 of the response to the PESA reader consultation published this year sets this out:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pes_publications/pespub_consult.cfm

The GDP figures used to produce Table 3.4 are as stated in footnote 1 to the table.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the effect on income from inheritance tax would be if the threshold for payment was raised to *(a)* £500,000, *(b)* £1 million and *(c)* £2.5 million. [85375]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* Raising the inheritance tax threshold with effect from 2007-08 would have the following effect on forecast revenue:

£ billion

	Reduction in receipts from raising threshold to		
	(a) £500,000	*(b) £1 million*	*(c) £2.5 million*
2007-08	0.7	1.2	1.6
2008-09	1.6	2.7	3.4
2009-10	1.7	3.1	3.8
2010-11	1.8	3.3	4.1

Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions are planned between officials of the Office for National Statistics and those of the Department for Communities and Local Government on the local government financial settlement for 2007-08, in relation to population changes caused by immigration from EU accession countries; and if he will make a statement. [85007]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what discussions are planned between officials of the Office for National Statistics and those of the Department for Communities and Local Government on the local government financial settlement for 2007-08, in relation to population changes caused by immigration from EU accession countries. (85007)

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and ONS are in regular contact at a working level to discuss a range of statistical issues around population. None of these discussions will be about the local government financial settlement which is the responsibility of DCLG and not a matter for ONS. In addition the ONS' National Statistics Centre for Demography hosts the Central and Local Government Information Partnership (CLiP) Population Subgroup. This is the forum ONS uses to discuss statistical issues pertaining to the estimation of population with central and local government. DCLG are represented on this group.

ONS produces the mid year population estimates on a consistent basis, for all local authorities in England and Wales. These are the best available estimates at the time of their publication. They are based on the UN definition of a long term migrant i.e someone who changes their country of usual residence for a period of at least a year. The 2005 Mid Year Estimates, due to be published on 24 August 2006, will include an estimate of the number of long term immigrants from the EU accession countries.

Network Banking Scheme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which banks have signed up to be part of the network banking scheme with the Post Office. [85137]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Network banking constitutes commercial arrangements between Post Office Ltd and high street banks allowing their current account customers to access their accounts at post office branches. Currently customers of Alliance and Leicester, Bank of Ireland, Barclays (England and Wales only), Clydesdale Bank, The Co-operative Bank, Lloyds TSB (England, Scotland and Wales only) and Nationwide Building Society can access their current accounts at post offices. Current accounts of the Internet banks Cahoot, First Direct (Scotland only) and Smile are also accessible at post offices.

In addition to the commercial network banking arrangements, universal banking services at post offices were introduced on 1 April 2003 to enable those who wish to do so to continue to access cash and benefits at post office counters following the migration from order books to direct payment. Under these arrangements, The Abbey, Alliance and Leicester, Bank of Ireland, Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Clydesdale Bank, The Co-operative Bank, First Trust Bank, Halifax, HSBC, Lloyds-TSB, Nationwide Building Society, Natwest, Northern Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland, Ulster Bank and Yorkshire Bank each have a basic bank account product accessible at post offices.

Registration On-line Computer System

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to date has been of the purchase and installation of the Registration on-line computer system at registry offices. [86034]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 July 2006:

As Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the cost to date of the purchase and installation of the Registration ON-line computer system at registration offices. (86034)

Central government expenditure on the purchase and installation of the Registration ON-line computer system for the period to the end of June 2006 is £5,108,000.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Government have to extend the implementation of the Registration on-line computer system at registry offices across England and Wales. [86035]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 July 2006:

As Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary question asking what plans the Government have to extend the implementation of the Registration ON-line computer system at registry offices across England and Wales. (86035)

The Registration ON line (RON) system currently used by registrars in England and Wales to record civil partnership registrations will be extended later this year to include birth and death registrations. RON will first be piloted in four registration districts in November, and then extended to a further nine areas in December. Subject to both pilot phases proceeding successfully, RON for births and deaths will be rolled out across England and Wales in February 2007. The roll-out of the marriages module will follow as soon as possible thereafter.

Sunglasses

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the Treasury would be of reducing the rate of VAT to *(a)* 5 per cent. and *(b)* 0 per cent. on (i) children's sunglasses and (ii) all sunglasses. [85969]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not have sufficient data to estimate the cost of a reduced or zero rate of VAT for these products.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many disputed tax credit overpayment requests have been received in each quarter since April 2004; how many requests have been upheld; and if he will make a statement; [75746]

(2) how many overpayments of tax credits have been written off due to acceptance by his Department of official error since April 2003; and if he will make a statement; [75747]

(3) how many tax credit claimants have *(a)* returned form TC 846 and *(b)* otherwise been recorded as requesting the write-off of their overpayments on grounds of official error for each month since April 2003; and if he will make a statement; [75754]

(4) what his latest estimate is of the proportion of tax credit overpayments due to official error in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement; [75755]

(5) how many people have appealed against tax credits overpayments recovery in each month since April 2003; how many appeals have been successful; and if he will make a statement; [75775]

(6) what proportion of tax credits overpayments have been written off for *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06. [75776]

Dawn Primarolo: For the number of disputed tax credit overpayments the Tax Credit Office (TCO) received, and the number written off between May 2004 (when the Department began recording disputes received) and January 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 1 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 727W and the answers I gave him on 19 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1496-97W and 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 437W.

The TCO received around 39,000 disputed overpayments in February 2006, around 33,000 in March 2006 and around 26,500 in April 2006.

The number of overpayments where the overpayment was successfully disputed, that is, where the overpayment was written off in full or in part by the TCO because of official error, was around 2,000 in February 2006, around 1,500 in March 2006 and around 100 in April 2006.

The figures for overpayments written off do not directly relate to those disputes that were received in the same month.

The figures for May 2006 are not yet available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many compensation payments have been made by the tax credits section of his Department in each reporting period since April 2003; what the value of each payment was; and if he will make a statement; [75769]

(2) how many compensation payments for maladministration and poor service have been made by the tax credits section of his Department for each month from April 2003 to May 2006; and if he will make a statement. [75789]

Dawn Primarolo: The circumstances in which the former Inland Revenue and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's code of practice 1, "Putting Things Right', which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop1.pdf

The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of their mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused by those mistakes and delays. A breakdown of the reasons why payments are made is not available.

For 2003-04, 2004-05 and the period April to September 2005 inclusive, I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 7 February 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1244-45W and 15 November 2005,

Official Report, column 1212W. A monthly breakdown for the period April to December 2003 is not available.

The number of payments made in each month from October 2005 and May 2006 (inclusive) were:

	Number
2005	
October	1,099
November	1,087
December	1,218
2006	
January	1,240
February	1,012
March	884
April	366
May	661

Information about the value of each payment is available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cost of the £2,500 tax credits income disregard in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [75780]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimating the cost of the disregard would require estimates of behavioural effects associated with the disregard and estimates of the cost of the recovery of the additional overpayments that would have been incurred in the absence of the disregard. Neither of these are available.

However, as stated in the NAO Standard Report of the HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts Trust Statement we estimate that the final aggregate entitlement to child and working tax credits for 2004-05 would have been about £700 million lower without the £2,500 income increase disregard.

No reliable equivalent estimate for 2005-06 is yet available, as most 2005-06 tax credit awards have not yet been finalised.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff there were in the Tax Credits Directors Complaints Team in each quarter since April 2003. [76470]

Dawn Primarolo: Separate information on the number of staff that worked on the Tax Credits Director's Complaint's Team is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit awards were terminated as a consequence of couples separating in each quarter since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [76870]

Dawn Primarolo: By 3 April 2006, 435,000 tax credit awards had ceased as a result of couples reporting a separation. The analysis by each quarter is as follows:

Quarter in which separation occurred	*Number of awards ceased as at 3 April 2006 (Thousand)*
6 April 2003 to 5 July 2003	28
6 July 2003 to 5 October 2003	36
6 October 2003 to 5 January 2004	32
6 January 2004 to 5 April 2004	30
6 April 2004 to 5 July 2004	30
6 July 2004 to 5 October 2004	40
6 October 2004 to 5 January 2005	42
6 January 2005 to 5 April 2005	47
6 April 2005 to 5 July 2005	36
6 July 2005 to 5 October 2005	42
6 October 2005 to 5 January 2006	38
6 January 2006 to 3 April 2006	34
Total	435

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions HM Revenue and Customs have intervened where they suspect a claim by an individual from another EU country claiming tax credits in the UK may be *(a)* wrong and *(b)* fraudulent. [77591]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* tax credit overpayments to migrant workers who have returned to their home country and *(b)* the proportion of these monies which will be recovered; and if he will make a statement. [78153]

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of tax credit fraud on the basis of non residency have been uncovered in each of the last five years; what the cost has been in each year of this fraud; what estimate his Department has made of the extent of undiscovered fraud of this kind; and if he will make a statement. [80559]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether child tax credit call centres are obliged to inform claimants that they need to complete an application form in order to have their change of circumstances logged; whether staff at child tax credit call centres automatically send the relevant application form to claimants who call in order to have their circumstances changed; if he will take steps to enable child tax credit claimants who did not receive the tax credit due to not being informed by the call centres that they needed to complete an application form to claim their full tax credit; and if he will make a statement; [77661]

(2) if he will take steps to enable child tax credit claimants who did not receive the benefit due to not being informed by the call centres that they needed to complete an application form to claim their full benefit; and if he will make a statement. [85504]

Dawn Primarolo: Tax credits claimants are encouraged to notify changes in their circumstances by providing details over the phone to the tax credits Helpline although changes may also be notified in writing to the Tax Credit Office. No prescribed form is required.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit awards were made to *(a)* people subject to immigration control, *(b)* asylum seekers, *(c)* foreign students, *(d)* illegal immigrants and *(e)* foreigners on expired visas in each quarter from April 2003 to June 2006; what the cost of these awards was in each case; and if he will make a statement; [77895]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of the easement of tax credit verification rule 12 Residency Criteria not met between March 2003 and December 2004; and if he will make a statement; [77897]

(3) how many tax credit applications failed verification rule 12 Residency Criteria not met but were allowed to proceed to being processed in each month from April 2003 to January 2005; and if he will make a statement; [77898]

(4) in how many tax credit cases failures of verification rule 12 Residency Criteria not met were *(a)* investigated and *(b)* not investigated in each month since December 2004; [77899]

(5) which categories of tax credit claimant fail verification rule 12 Residency Criteria not met; and if he will make a statement; [77900]

(6) how many applications for tax credits failed verification rule 12 Residency Criteria not met between April 2002 and April 2003; and if he will make a statement; [77901]

(7) how many tax credit claims failed verification rules in each *(a)* month and *(b)* quarter since April 2002; and if he will make a statement; [78159]

(8) which *(a)* Minister and *(b)* official (i) recommended and (ii) approved the easement of tax credit verification rule 12 Residency Criteria not met in 2003; for what reasons it was introduced; and if he will make a statement; [78033]

(9) if he will place in the Library copies of each HM Customs and Revenue newsboard item relating to tax credits; and on what date each was posted; [79502]

(10) how many tax credit verification rules have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* eased since August 2002; and for what (i) reasons and (ii) period in each case; [79503]

(11) whether the easement of tax credit verification rule 12 (residency criteria not met) meant that the provisions in the Tax Credit (Immigration) Regulations 2003 were not implemented; and if he will make a statement; [79504]

(12) what factors were taken into account when deciding not to investigate cases where tax credit verification rule 12 Residency Criteria not met was failed; [79505]

(13) whether an assessment of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* staffing levels required to meet the volumes of claims failing verification rule 12 Residency Criteria not met was made prior to the decision to ease the rule from April 2003 to December 2004; and if he will make a statement; [79506]

(14) how many awards of tax credits to people failing residency rules between April 2003 and December 2004 have been *(a)* recovered and *(b)* written off; [80154]

(15) what advice he received on the easement of tax credit residency rules; and on what dates the advice was given. [81746]

Dawn Primarolo: Tax credits follows the policy set by the Home Office, that those who have not established their right to remain permanently in the UK should not have welfare provision on the same basis as those whose citizenship or status here gives them an entitlement to benefits and assistance when in need.

For this reason, apart from specified circumstances set out in the Tax Credits (Immigration) Regulations 2003, persons subject to immigration control are not eligible for tax credits.

The cost of the easement is included within tax credit remissions disclosed in HMRC's published accounts. Where the department has identified payments made in error, it has terminated the award so there will be no future payments.

Code of practice 26 sets out HMRC's established practice not to recover amounts paid out due to official error where the claimant could reasonably have assumed the payment was correct.

The remaining information requested could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what difference the latest changes in the disregard for increases in income will make in tax credit entitlement of a family whose income has risen by *(a)* £2,500 and *(b)* £25,000; and what the criteria are for allowing the respective disregards. [80067]

Dawn Primarolo: From 2006-07, a family's annual income can rise up to £25,000 between one year and the next without affecting their tax credit entitlement in the first year of increase.

The previous income disregard amount was £2,500.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's targets for tax credit administration were *(a)* met and *(b)* not met in each reporting period from 2003-04 to 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [82831]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs reports its performance against targets annually. Details can be found in the Board's Annual Reports for the relevant year. These are available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Indicative results for 2006-07 will be available in the spring Report which will be published in 2007.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many recipients of tax credits in West Lancashire constituency are involved in disputes relating to overpayment; [83459]

(2) whether the tax credits MPs' hotline is able to make outgoing calls on request to contact constituents who are suffering problems with their tax credits; and how many cases of disputed tax credit payments there have been in West Lancashire since tax credits were introduced. [83644]

Dawn Primarolo: For information about the hon. Members' hotline I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 16 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1237W.

Information about disputed tax credit payments and overpayments are not held at constituency level.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the level of fraud in the tax credit system in the last 12 months. [84929]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1281-2. Also to the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits: Error and fraud statistics 2003-04" and "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm

Unemployment Statistics

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of *(a)* male and *(b)* female unemployment is in new towns in the United Kingdom. [85392]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about unemployment in all the new towns in the United Kingdom. (85392)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation definitions. However, data are not available for towns. Table 1, attached, shows the unemployment rates, for males and females aged 16 and over, resident in the local authorities in Great Britain which contain recognised New Towns for the 12 months ending December 2005.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached, shows the proportions of males (aged 16 to 64) and females (aged 16 to 59) of working age, resident in local authorities in the United Kingdom which contain recognised New Towns, claiming JSA in June 2006.

Table 1: Male and female unemployment rates; 12 months ending December 2005

Percentage

New town	Local authority	Unemployment rate Male	Female
England			
Aycliffe	Sedgefield	5.7	5.2
Basildon	Basildon	4.9	4.0
Bracknell	Bracknell Forest	5.6	3.5
Central Lancashire	Preston	9.3	6.0
	Chorley	4.2	3.7
	South Ribble	2.0	2.3
Corby	Corby	5.8	3.2
Crawley	Crawley	6.6	5.9
Harlow	Harlow	9.5	3.7
Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	1.9	3.8
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	3.2	7.0
Northampton	Northampton	5.1	4.2
Peterborough	Peterborough	5.2	4.1
Peterlee	Easington	5.8	4.5
Redditch	Redditch	4.7	2.8
Runcorn	Halton	4.9	5.5
Skelmersdale	West Lancashire	5.1	3.0
Stevenage	Stevenage	5.9	[1]
Telford	Telford and Wrekin	5.6	2.4
Warrington	Warrington	3.7	2.7
Washington	Sunderland	7.3	5.4
Welwyn and Hatfield	Welwyn and Hatfield	6.0	2.6
Wales			
Cwmbran	Torfaen	7.1	5.1
Newtown	Powys	2.8	2.8
Scotland			
Cumbernauld	North Lanarkshire	8.3	5.3
East Kilbride	South Lanarkshire	5.5	4.5
Glenrothes	Fife	5.7	4.1
Irvine	North Ayrshire	8.3	4.8
Livingston	West Lothian	6.0	3.0

[1] Sample size disclosive.

Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.

Source:
Annual Population Survey

Table 2: JSA claimants as a proportion of resident working age population; Males and females; June 2006

Percentage

New town	Local authority	Proportion of resident working age[1] population Male	Female
England			
Aycliffe	Sedgefield	3.6	1.4
Basildon	Basildon	3.1	1.4
Bracknell	Bracknell Forest	1.9	0.7
Central Lancashire	Preston	4.2	1.3
	Chorley	2.1	0.9
	South Ribble	2.0	0.8
Corby	Corby	4.5	1.7
Crawley	Crawley	2.4	1.0
Harlow	Harlow	4.0	1.8
Hemel Hempstead	Dacorum	2.7	1.2
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes	3.2	1.2
Northampton	Northampton	3.7	1.5
Peterborough	Peterborough	4.6	1.8
Peterlee	Easington	3.7	1.3
Redditch	Redditch	3.5	1.5
Runcorn	Halton	5.2	1.7
Skelmersdale	West Lancashire	4.1	1.4
Stevenage	Stevenage	3.3	1.2

Table 2: JSA claimants as a proportion of resident working age population; Males and females; June 2006

New town	Local authority	Percentage Proportion of resident working age[1] population Male	Female
Telford	Telford and Wrekin	3.6	1.3
Warrington	Warrington	2.9	1.0
Washington	Sunderland	5.2	1.6
Welwyn and Hatfield	Welwyn and Hatfield	2.6	1.1
Wales			
Cwmbran	Torfaen	3.8	1.3
Newtown	Powys	2.3	1.1
Scotland			
Cumbernauld	North Lanarkshire	4.7	1.7
East Kilbride	South Lanarkshire	3.6	1.3
Glenrothes	Fife	5.2	1.9
Irvine	North Ayrshire	6.7	2.5
Livingston	West Lothian	3.5	1.3
Northern Ireland			
Antrim and Ballymena	Antrim	2.4	1.0
	Ballymena	2.8	1.2
Craigavon	Craigavon	2.8	1.1
Derry	Derry	7.7	2.3

[1] Males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative systems.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which companies and organisations have supplied the Valuation Office Agency with geographic data in the last three years. [83009]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) receives geographic data from Ordnance Survey through its membership of the Pan Government Agreement on Mapping Products. In addition it takes 'X-Y Co-ordinates' from the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG).

Information received but neither incorporated into the VOA database nor used in VOAs Automated Valuation model are flood plain "polygons" from the Environment Agency and ACORN™ data from CACI™ Information Solutions.

Venture Capital Funds

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been allocated to regional venture capital funds in each year since 1999; and on what basis such allocations were made. [84791]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

Allocations to the Regional Venture Capital Funds were £37.375 million in the financial year 2001-02, £31 million in 2002-03 and £6 million in 2003-04. The allocations were made as a result of a competitive bidding exercise in each English region.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the £20 million fund allocated to aid the start-up of high tech venture capital funds has been spent in each year since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [84794]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's total investment commitment to the UK High Technology Fund was drawn down in the financial year 2000-01 (£12 million in 2000 and a further £8 million in early 2001).

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much high tech venture capital funds have been set up in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 1999 as a result of the start-up funding announced in the 1999 Budget. [84795]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The UK High Technology Fund was established in 1999 and has invested in nine existing high technology-based venture capital firms based in the UK. All of these funds can invest across the UK.

HEALTH

Health Inequalities

15. **Meg Hillier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in tackling health inequalities and variations in life expectancy. [85853]

Caroline Flint: Life expectancy is improving across England for all but is currently improving more slowly in the spearhead areas with the worst deprivation. Some spearhead areas are on track to meet the 2010 health inequalities target and we are working to ensure this best practice is spread not only to enable more people to live longer but to narrow the health inequalities gap.

Waiting Times

16. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients normally resident *(a)* in England, *(b)* in Wales and *(c)* elsewhere have been waiting more than six months for an NHS in-patient operation at English hospitals. [85854]

Andy Burnham: The following table details the number of patients who had been waiting more than six months for in-patient admission within English national health service provider trusts at the end of May 2006. The data are split to show the country in which the patient's general practitioner practice is located.

	Number
Total	862
Of which:	
England	34
Wales	825
Guernsey	3

Colchester General Hospital

17. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will visit Colchester to discuss the provision of health facilities at Colchester General Hospital. [85855]

Andy Burnham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no immediate plans to visit Colchester general hospital. However, should the chair of the hospital board wish to invite a Minister to visit it would be given due consideration.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 221-2W, on Colchester general hospital, whether discussions have taken place with *(a)* the Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust and *(b)* the private sector partner since that date; and if she will make a statement. [86161]

Andy Burnham: To date no discussions have taken place between the Department, the Essex Rivers healthcare national health service trust and the former preferred private finance initiative bidder.

Mental Health Institutions

18. **Dr. Gibson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place to ensure the safety of female patients in NHS mental health institutions. [85857]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been increasing steps to improve the safety and privacy of women when they are admitted to in-patient units, and there are now more acute in-patients services that provide either self-contained women-only wards, or solely single-sex wards, reflecting the clear preference of the majority of women service users.

Mental Health Services

19. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on mental health services in the West Midlands. [85858]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Total investment in mental health services within the new West Midlands strategic health authority has increased to over £499 million in 2005-06. This represents an increase of 5.1 per cent. from the £475 million investment in the three former strategic health authorities in 2004-05.

Eastbourne District General Hospital

20. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the delivery of services by the Eastbourne district general hospital. [85859]

Caroline Flint: The Eastbourne district general hospital, part of the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust, provides a full range of acute services for the residents of Eastbourne and the surrounding areas.

Mesothelioma

21. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recent decision regarding the provision of Alimta for people with mesothelioma. [85860]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its final appraisal determination on pemetrexed disodium (Alimta) for mesothelioma on 26 June. Consultees were given until 10 July to lodge an appeal against NICE's determination. NICE will not issue final guidance to the NHS until any appeals have been heard.

Alzheimer's Disease

23. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she next expects to meet representatives of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to discuss drugs for people with Alzheimer's disease. [85862]

Andy Burnham: I have no meetings planned with representatives of NICE on this issue. I am due to meet with the chair and chief executive of NICE on 20 July for a general discussion about the Institute's work.

Community Hospitals

24. **Mr. Blizzard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution she expects community hospitals to make to the provision of patient care closer to where they live. [85863]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I expect community hospitals to make a significant contribution to the provision of convenient, high quality and local care for patients. As such we are evaluating the contribution community hospitals can make to shifting care as part of the Care Closer to Home Demonstration Project. Furthermore "Our Health Our care Our Community: Investing in Community Hospitals and Services" set out our programme for the future of community hospitals and their role in the provision of local and convenient patient care.

Assisted Reproductive Technology

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies have been born in each region in England through assisted reproductive technology in each year since 1997. [85321]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The information requested is not collected centrally. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) does collect data on live births reported to it by HFEA licensed clinics resulting from treatment cycles involving in vitro fertilisation and donor insemination. Data, by region, are shown in the table.

Live births resulting from in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and donor insemination (DI) treatment cycles from 1997 to 2004[1]

District[2]	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
East Midlands	892	717	840	763	789	782	738	786
East of England	563	510	539	577	628	621	777	727
London	2,631	2,751	2,801	3,115	3,197	2,838	3,359	3,205
North East	300	323	352	412	360	450	334	409
North West	758	789	767	892	893	867	1,013	1,151
South East	758	651	772	702	639	764	805	768
South West	429	445	403	458	443	489	516	582
West Midlands	849	905	843	770	777	900	851	937
Yorkshire and Humber	809	908	1,065	898	879	945	910	1,045

[1] 2004 is the most recent year for which information is available.
[2] The table identifies the total number of babies born according to their date of birth. HFEA has used the "Patients Guide To Infertility" of regions, which relates to the location in which the IVF or DI treatment took place. This is not necessarily the location of the birth or the place of residence of the patient.
Source:
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

Canary Wharf Walk-in Centre

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total value is of the contract awarded to Atos Origin to run the NHS walk-in centre at Canary Wharf; and what the cost is in each of the five years of the contract; [82638]

(2) whether the value of the contract for the walk-in centre at Canary Wharf changes according to throughput; whether it is *(a)* a fixed price block contract, *(b)* a cost and volume contract and *(c)* a payment by results contract with a fixed sum per case seen; [82640]

Caroline Flint: The value of the contract depends on use of the service as the contract price is a combination of fixed cost elements and a price per patient. The total value of the contract is commercial in confidence.

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Tower Hamlets primary care trust will have to fund the contract for the walk-in centre at Canary Wharf. [82639]

Caroline Flint: This national health service walk-in centre is intended to provide services for commuters and local people. It is now funded centrally by the Department and our intention is that, in time, it should be funded locally, with costs shared between the primary care trusts whose patients use it. That is not possible yet and we have guaranteed central funding for at least three years.

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been seen in each week since the walk-in centre at Canary Wharf was opened; and how many of those seen were *(a)* Tower Hamlets residents and *(b)* those who commute into the area to work. [82641]

Caroline Flint: Information on the weekly number of episodes of care provided at the Canary Wharf national health service walk-in centre is shown in the following table.

Week commencing	*Episodes of care*
2006	
17 April	6
24 April	69
1 May	97
8 May	171
15 May	173
22 May	184
29 May	177
5 June	250
12 June	272
19 June	316
26 June	272

Notes:
1. The Canary Wharf walk-in centre commenced services on 21 April 2006.
2. Data for April and May, the latest available, indicates that 58 per cent. of the people using the service are local to the area of Tower Hamlets primary care trust.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the carbon emissions of her Department; what commitment she has made to reducing such emissions; and if she will make a statement. [81058]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2004-05, the Department's estimated carbon emissions from the buildings on its London administrative estate were 1,916,133 kilogrammes of carbon (kgC) (weather corrected). Our estimated emissions from cars used for official business was 31,397 kgC.

The Department is committed to reducing its carbon emissions. We have a policy to renew plant and equipment with more energy efficient models. We also purchase energy from renewable sources wherever possible. The Carbon Trust has recently undertaken an energy survey of our three main London buildings, and we will seek to implement its recommendations where practicable.

We have also taken steps to reduce the requirement for staff to travel to meetings, by providing video conferencing facilities in all our buildings. We have also recently terminated the contract for a shuttle bus that provided staff transport between buildings, saving London mileage of 90 miles per day. Staff are now being encouraged to use public transport, or to walk.

Chlamydia Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of primary care trusts offer chlamydia screening as part of the national chlamydia screening programme; [84012]

(2) what percentage of primary care trusts is participating in the chlamydia screening programme; and when she expects 100 per cent. geographical coverage to be achieved. [84467]

Caroline Flint: By the end of June, 36 per cent of primary care trusts were offering chlamydia screening as part of the national chlamydia screening programme (NCSP).

The White Paper, "Choosing Health: Making healthier choices easier", a copy of which is available in the Library, announced an accelerated timetable to achieve national roll out of the NCSP by March 2007.

The Health Protection Agency is now leading the roll out of the programme and is supporting local areas to drive up the number of people screened.

Correspondence

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letters of 30 *(a)* March , *(b)* May and *(c)* June 2006, from the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent, about a constituent, Mrs. Maton. [85374]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* We have no record of receiving the letters of March and May. The letter of June 2006 was replied to on 14 July 2006.

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her Department will provide information and membership forms for credit unions to its employees. [79939]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government welcome the contribution made by the various savings institutions in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

The Government's guiding principles are to ensure impartiality and to help create a level playing field for all providers of financial services in order that their specific attributes can be properly harnessed.

It would therefore be inconsistent for a Government Department to favour credit unions above other financial institutions.

Employees are of course free to join in credit unions if they meet their relevant membership criteria and Departments may provide appropriate levels of support if employees wish to set up a credit union.

Dentistry

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to facilitate the transition of denturists from a system of self-regulation to one of licensed regulation with the General Dental Council, following the Dentists Act 1984 (Amendment) Order 2005. [86160]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Individuals who have been practising denturism in the United Kingdom (UK) have been doing so illegally and therefore there cannot be transitional provisions which allow them to enter the register on the basis of their UK experience. The legislation just approved allows them to practice legally in future if they now qualify.

Individuals who wish to register as clinical dental technicians (CDTs) will need to undertake a General Dental Council (GDC)-approved CDT qualification unless they already hold a qualification comparable to the ones the GDC will now recognise.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in her Department are carbon neutral; and if she will make a statement. [81407]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

Carbon emissions from all of the Department's official air travel are included in the Government's carbon offsetting commitment. Carbon emissions from flights taken after 1 April 2006 will be recorded and offset.

Diamorphine

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure adequate supplies of diamorphine to hospitals. [86154]

Andy Burnham: The Department is working closely with the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) and the manufacturers to manage the shortage of diamorphine injection. We continue to monitor the supply situation closely.

NHS PASA provides updates on the supply situation to hospital procurement pharmacists. The Department issued guidance in December 2004 to prescribers and other healthcare professionals to ensure supplies are used effectively.

Food Standards Agency

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what programme of consumer education the Food Standards Agency is planning to implement to support the multiple traffic light food signposting scheme. [83885]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has published information aimed at raising consumer awareness and understanding of traffic light colour coded signposting on its website at www.eatwell.gov.uk and will be developing this advice further over coming months.

The FSA is also working closely with businesses who are using traffic light coloured signposting schemes and consumers and public health groups to ensure that clear and consistent advice is available to consumers to help them use signpost information to make healthier choices about the food that they buy.

Foundation Trusts

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how *(a)* employees and *(b)* elected representatives of NHS foundation trusts can obtain information concerning staff discipline. [83222]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service foundation trusts have independent status within the NHS. They are free from Secretary of State's powers of direction and can determine their own human resources (HR) policy and procedures to facilitate the innovative development of the work force. Specific aspects concerning HR policy will be available from the respective organisations.

General Food Regulations

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prosecutions there have been under the General Food Regulations 2004 for not informing the competent authorities of non-compliance with food safety requirements set out in article 14 of the EC regulations 180/2002; how many of these have resulted in convictions; what penalties have been imposed; which competent authority brought each case; and if she will make a statement. [84991]

Caroline Flint: I am advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the information requested is not available centrally.

The latest available information on food law enforcement by local authorities is for the financial year 2004-05. For that year, local authorities have reported to the FSA that, across all of the United Kingdom, they took 902 prosecutions against 570 food establishments. 458 of those 570 food establishments were convicted.

Health Trusts

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1548W, on health trusts (Hampshire), what the 2005-06 provisional out-turn was for *(a)* Salisbury Health Care Trust, *(b)* Frimley Park Hospital and *(c)* Royal Surrey County Hospital. [79876]

Caroline Flint: The table shows provisional out-turn for the financial year 2005-06 of Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust and Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust.

Organisation name	*2005-06 provisional out-turn under/(over) spend (£000)*
Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	0
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	276

I am informed by the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that Frimley Park Foundation Trust achieved an unaudited £3.5 million surplus in 2005-06 and that audited accounts for each NHS foundation trust for 2005-06 are due to be laid before Parliament this summer.

Healthcare Commission

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases submitted to the Healthcare Commission have waited longer than 12 months before the investigation started; and in how many cases submitted the investigation has not yet started; [84679]

(2) how long on average has elapsed between a case being submitted to the Healthcare Commission and the investigation starting. [84681]

Andy Burnham: I understand from the chairman of the Healthcare Commission that the Commission does not collect information in the format requested.

The Healthcare Commission assumed responsibility for the independent review of national health service complaints at the end of July 2004. Between then and 14 July 2006, the Commission received 15,765 requests for review. Of these, 5,615 were closed within six months and 3,670 within 12 months, with a further 1,310 taking over 12 months. Of the remainder, 2,141 have yet to be allocated to a case manager. Of these, 1,041 are over six months old; none are over 12 months old. Of cases currently under review, 882 are over six months old and 805 over 12 months old.

Independent Providers (Elective Procedures)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has made an assessment of the extent to which primary care trusts have paid independent providers of elective procedures for services which *(a)* were not provided in 2005-06 and *(b)* have not yet been provided in the first quarter of 2006-07. [81953]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Individual contracts' performances are monitored to ensure facilities are utilised. Providers are not paid for activity that they do not deliver, but under the terms of the contract may receive payments when referrals are lower than expected to ensure a continuity of service.

The Department expects that over the life of the contract we will achieve the full value; it is therefore too early to suggest any money has been lost. A final

reconciliation of payments and activity will take place at the end of the contract to ensure that providers have delivered the full value of activity specified in their contracts.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of whether the independent healthcare provider Capio has been paid by the NHS for operations and procedures which have not taken place. [81954]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Capio and national health service sponsors are working to ensure that the full value of activity is delivered over the contract period. The Department expects that over the life of the contract we will achieve the full value; it is therefore too early to suggest any money has been lost. Contract utilisation is monitored on a monthly basis; a final reconciliation of payments and activity will take place at the end of the contract.

Neonatal Care

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to increase the level of recruitment of neonatal nursing staff; and if she will make a statement. [85731]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service ensures the maintenance of adequate staffing levels through local delivery plans. "Delivering the NHS Improvement Plan: the Workforce Contribution" highlights strategic work force issues, which primary care trusts and strategic health authorities are asked to ensure are considered in their local delivery plans. This includes maintaining adequate staffing levels as well as achieving greater productivity. It is for local hospital trusts to ensure that there are appropriate nursing levels within neonatal units.

New Hospitals

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the proportion of *(a)* multi-bed and *(b)* single-bed wards is in new build hospitals (i) constructed since 2000 and (ii) proposed in the next five years. [85141]

Andy Burnham: The data for multi-bed and single-bed wards are not collected in the format requested.

The Department collects bed data retrospectively across the existing estate by national health service trust, not by individual hospital. Based on 2005-06 data 74.2 per cent. of beds are in multi bedrooms and 25.8 per cent. in single bedrooms.

Newham PCT

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by how much Newham Primary Care Trust was under its weighted capitation target in each financial year between 1997-98 and 2005-06; and by how much she expects it to be under its weighted capitation target in financial year 2006-07; [82067]

(2) when she expects Newham Primary Care Trust to reach its weighted capitation target; and if she will make a statement. [82071]

Andy Burnham: Revenue allocations were first made to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2003-04, prior to this funding was allocated to health authorities. The distances from target for Newham PCT for the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 are provided in the table.

Newham PCT—distances from target (DFT) 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Distances from target
2003-04	-8.7
2004-05	-8.0
2005-06	-6.0
2006-07	-3.2
2007-08	-3.2

Revenue allocations to PCTs are made on the basis of a weighted capitation formula, which directs funding to those areas of greatest need.

The weighted capitation formula calculates a PCTs' target share of available resources. Once the target is set by the formula, the speed at which PCTs reach their target is determined by the pace of change policy.

For the 2006 to 2008 revenue allocations, the policy is to move PCTs more quickly towards their target share of funds. In 2003-04, the most under target PCT was 22 per cent. target and by the end of 2007-08, no PCT will be more than 3.5 per cent. below its fair share.

NHS Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* bed occupancy rates and *(b)* bed availability numbers for England for (i) all bed types (ii) general and acute beds, (iii) acute beds, (iv) geriatric beds, (v) mental illness beds, (vi) learning disabilities beds and (vii) maternity beds were in each year since 1988. [84027]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the tables.

Average daily number of available beds and bed occupancy rates, by sector, England, 1987-88 to 2004-05

	All specialties (excluding day only)—available	*All specialties (excluding day only)—occupied*	*All specialties (excluding day only) —occupancy rate (percentage)*	*General and acute —available*	*General and acute —occupied*	*General and acute —occupancy rate (percentage)*
1987-88	297,364	—	—	180,889	—	—
1988-89	282,918	—	—	174,491	—	—
1989-90	270,301	—	—	169,901	—	—
1990-91	255,479	—	—	162,691	—	—
1991-92	242,677	—	—	157,247	—	—
1992-93	232,201	—	—	153,208	—	—

Average daily number of available beds and bed occupancy rates, by sector, England, 1987-88 to 2004-05

	All specialties (excluding day only)—available	All specialties (excluding day only)—occupied	All specialties (excluding day only) —occupancy rate (percentage)	General and acute —available	General and acute —occupied	General and acute —occupancy rate (percentage)
1993-94	219,476	—	—	147,153	—	—
1994-95	211,812	—	—	144,803	—	—
1995-96	206,136	—	—	142,624	—	—
1996-97	198,848	161,744	81.3	140,515	113,591	80.8
1997-98	193,625	156,549	80.9	138,047	111,112	80.5
1998-99	190,006	156,669	82.5	136,426	112,486	82.5
1999-2000	186,290	154,137	82.7	135,080	112,279	83.1
2000-01	186,091	156,290	84.0	135,794	114,982	84.7
2001-02	184,871	157,330	85.1	136,583	117,437	86.0
2002-03	183,826	156,933	85.4	136,679	118,278	86.5
2003-04	184,019	157,984	85.9	137,247	119,312	86.9
2004-05	181,784	154,868	85.2	136,123	117,164	86.1

	Acute available	Acute occupancy rate (percentage)	Geriatric —available
1987-88	127,616	—	53,273
1988-89	123,450	—	51,041
1989-90	121,170	—	48,731
1990-91	116,788	—	45,902
1991-92	115,140	—	42,107
1992-93	112,862	—	40,346
1993-94	109,713	—	37,440
1994-95	108,008	—	36,795
1995-96	108,296	—	34,328
1996-97	108,869	78.9	31,646
1997-98	107,807	78.9	30,240
1998-99	107,729	80.8	28,697
1999-2000	107,218	81.5	27,862
2000-01	107,956	83.1	27,838
2001-02	108,535	84.5	28,047
2002-03	108,706	85.3	27,973
2003-04	109,793	85.6	27,454
2004-05	109,505	84.8	26,619

Source:
Department of Health form KH03
Published data

	Geriatric —occupancy rate (percentage)	Mental illness —available	Mental illness —occupancy rate (percentage)	Learning disability —available	Learning disability occupancy rate (percentage)	Maternity —available	Maternity —occupancy rate (percentage)
1987-88	—	67,122	—	33,421	—	15,932	—
1988-89	—	63,012	—	30,048	—	15,367	—
1989-90	—	59,288	—	26,406	—	14,706	—
1990-91	—	55,239	—	23,379	—	14,170	—
1991-92	—	50,278	—	21,383	—	13,770	—
1992-93	—	47,308	—	18,519	—	13,167	—
1993-94	—	43,532	—	16,269	—	12,521	—
1994-95	—	41,827	—	13,211	—	11,971	—
1995-96	—	39,477	—	12,676	—	11,358	—
1996-97	87.4	37,640	86.9	9,693	88.3	11,000	625
1997-98	86.2	36,601	86.5	8,197	88.1	10,781	609
1998-99	88.8	35,692	87.5	7,491	86.1	10,398	62.7
1999-2000	89.3	34,173	87.1	6,834	85.4	10,203	612
2000-01	90.7	34,214	87.4	6,316	87.1	9,767	60.3
2001-02	91.8	32,783	88.6	5,694	86.8	9,812	60.2
2002-03	91.4	32,753	87.5	5,038	85.6	9,356	60.8
2003-04	92.2	32,252	88.0	5,212	84.1	9,309	633
2004-05	91.3	31,667	87.9	4,899	84.4	9,095	631

NHS Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on how the market forces factor formula is used in determining payments to hospital trusts; what assessment she has made of its appropriateness; and whether she plans to review its operation. [82346]

Andy Burnham: For activity within the scope of payment by results, national health service trusts are

paid by their commissioners according to the national tariff. These payments are adjusted by the relevant market forces factors (MFF). The MFF is intended to reflect unavoidable variations in costs directly related to location.

The MFF is kept under constant review, and its development has been overseen by the advisory committee on resource allocation (ACRA). As part of its work for the Department, ACRA will review the MFF and make recommendations to Ministers in 2007-08.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which variables are included in the weighted capitation formula for primary care trust allocations; and from what data sources figures for each variable are determined. [84026]

Andy Burnham: "Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula (Fifth Edition)" lists the variables included in the weighted-capitation formula and their data sources. A copy of this document is available in the Library.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the latest forecast year-end gross NHS deficit is for 2006-07. [85856]

Ms Hewitt: The 2005-06 provisional outturn is the most recently published data on the national health service financial position. This data shows that provisionally the NHS reported a gross deficit of just under £1.3 billion, and a net deficit of £512 million. I intend to publish the first quarterly finance report for the NHS for 2006-07, on 11 August 2006.

NHS Performance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department plans to take in respect of those primary care trusts which *(a)* failed to achieve in 2005-06 and *(b)* fail to achieve in 2006-07 the proposed target of the purchase of 15 per cent. of the budget for all planned elective procedures from the private and independent sector. [81980]

Andy Burnham: The figure of 15 per cent. is not a target but a level of service that the independent sector might be providing by 2008. The number of procedures in any one year will vary depending on the actual case mix that is required by the local national health service. Contracts are designed to allow for this flexibility and therefore no action is required by the Department.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 264, on NHS performance, what assessment she has made of the impact on primary care trusts (PCTs) of *(a)* social and economic deprivation, *(b)* the proportion of elderly people living in the community, *(c)* the demands of a rural economy and *(d)* the market forces factor where each factor has the greatest (i) positive and (ii) negative impact; and what assessment she has made of the average impact of each element on PCTs. [82500]

Andy Burnham: Our initial analysis on a range of factors relating to the 2005-06 financial positions of national health service organisations has shown that there is no strong relationship between NHS financial performance and any single factor.

Oakhill Secure Training Centre

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what access young offenders at Oakhill Secure Training Centre in Milton Keynes have to a clinical psychologist; and whether she expects this level of access to change when the full-time posts have been disestablished. [85597]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Health care services at Oakhill are provided by Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust under contract to the centre's operator, Group 4 Securicor. The primary care trust currently employs a clinical psychologist and an assistant at the centre. Psychology provision at the centre is currently being reviewed by the primary care trust and a 30-day consultation period with holders of the psychology posts at Oakhill is in progress. The consultation period ends on 27 July. The Youth Justice Board is monitoring developments closely. The level of service that the board requires at Oakhill has not changed and the board will monitor performance to ensure that that level of service continues to be delivered.

Obstetrics (Insurance Costs)

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information her Department collects on the cost of insurance as a proportion of the tariff for *(a)* a normal birth, *(b)* a delivery with complications and *(c)* a caesarean section; what allowance is made for the cost of the insurance premium in allocating tariffs for obstetrics; and if she will make a statement. [81531]

Andy Burnham: The national tariffs for a normal birth, a delivery with complications and a caesarean section are calculated from data on the average costs of these services as reported by NHS trusts, foundation trusts and primary care trusts, which are used to inform the reference cost index. The reference costs collection is based on a full absorption costing methodology and therefore includes the cost of insurance. However, the cost of insurance is not separately identifiable within the tariff.

We do, however, recognise that insurance premiums are proportionately high for maternity services, which is why we have made it clear in our reference costs guidance 'Reference costs 2006 collection: Costing and activity guidance and requirements' that trusts should reflect this in the relevant cost pool(s) when determining the unit costs of all types of maternity activity. This guidance is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/PbR

Osteoporosis

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what submissions her Department received on the inclusion of osteoporosis indicators in the

quality and outcomes framework of the GP contract which came into effect in April 2006. [81596]

(2) why indicators for osteoporosis were not included in the quality and outcomes framework of the GP contract which came into effect in April 2006; and if she will make a statement. [81745]

Caroline Flint: As part of the negotiations for the new general medical services contract for April 2006 an expert panel was engaged by NHS Employers to receive and review submissions on clinical areas for possible inclusion in the quality and outcomes framework (QOF). The number of submissions to the panel for the inclusion of osteoporosis totalled seven out of 514. All submissions were considered and the expert panel produced reports which have been published on the University of Birmingham website.

During the negotiations many clinical conditions were considered. The key criteria for inclusion in QOF were:

an evidence base for the effectiveness of intervention in primary care;

the health benefits likely to result from improved primary care; and

Government health priorities for investment through the contractual arrangements with general practitioners.

Due to technical problems with the proposed indicators and the degree of priority attached to other changes to the QOF, the proposals for osteoporosis were not taken forward for the 2006 contract changes. As part of the continuing development of the framework, indicators will be reviewed in the light of emerging evidence and in terms of value for money.

Premature Babies

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has to review the policy of not centrally collating information on the movement between neonatal networks of premature babies; and if she will make a statement; [85686]

(2) what action she is taking to reduce the incidence of closure to admissions of level three intensive care units for neonatal care of premature babies; and if she will make a statement. [85730]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has supported the development of 24 neonatal managed clinical networks to provide the safest and most effective service for mothers and babies. Since April 2003 over £70 million additional funding has been made available to support the development of networks. The closure to admissions of level three neonatal intensive care units is a matter for local networks. It is for networks to ensure there are appropriate levels of care available to meet prevalent local demand.

The Department has no plans to review the policy of not centrally collating information on the movement of babies between neonatal networks for the reasons outlined in my reply to the hon. Member on 2 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 22W.

Primary Care Trusts

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* overall cost and *(b)* cost per head of population in each area is of the reorganisation of the primary care trusts in (i) Hampshire and (ii) England; whether this cost is to be met from (A) existing budgets and (B) new allocations; and if she will make a statement. [84881]

Andy Burnham: The costs of the changes that were announced on the 16 May will depend on a number of factors, including the location of new organisations being created, the number of people in the new organisations, and new pay ranges for very senior managers as well as changes in estate costs following reconfiguration.

These arrangements are currently being worked up and discussed with trade unions and staff. Until those discussions have been concluded and the detail of new arrangements agreed it is not possible to confirm or accurately forecast costs.

"Commissioning a patient-led NHS" is designed to deliver at least £250 million savings from administration costs through streamlining for reinvestment in frontline services. The savings are expected to be realised by the end of 2007 and then every year for reinvestment beginning in 2008-09.

Private Finance Initiative Projects

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of private finance initiative projects for which her Department is responsible has been completed *(a)* over budget and *(b)* late in each of the last five years. [79612]

Andy Burnham: Information on completed private finance initiative (PFI) projects which have gone over budget or opened late is not routinely collected centrally. To provide such information for each of the past five years would incur disproportionate costs.

A key aspect of PFI is the transfer of risk of projects going over budget. Therefore, any cost overruns will be borne by the private sector provider, not the public sector. The private sector is only paid once the facility is built and operational to the agreed standard and is subject to penalties and deductions if services falls below agreed standard.

Smoking

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to make regulations concerning the prohibition of smoking in enclosed public places; and if she will make a statement. [86006]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The Department published a consultation on proposed regulations to be made under part one, chapter one of the Health Bill titled "Smoke-free premises and vehicles: Consultation on proposed regulations to be made under powers in the Health Bill" on 17 July 2006. Copies of the consultation document are available in the Library, or on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/consultations/liveconsultations.

The "Smoke-free premises and vehicles" consultation will run between 17 July and 9 October 2006. Regulations will be laid after the consultation has ended and responses considered.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will undertake an assessment of the safety implications for health service staff arising from the recently introduced ban on smoking on health service property. [85330]

Caroline Flint: In the "Choosing Health" White Paper published in 2004, we set out our decision that national health service buildings would be smoke-free by the end of 2006, ahead of the requirements set out in the Health Bill, which will see virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces become smoke-free from summer 2007.

The removal of smoking from NHS buildings will not only result in protection from the harms associated with secondhand smoke for staff, patients and visitors to NHS buildings, but will result in greater safety, for example, by the reduction in the danger of fire. Consideration of the detailed safety implications at individual NHS properties will be for local managers.

The safety benefits of the smoke-free provisions of the Health Bill are referred to in the regulatory impact assessment published alongside the Bill, on its website at: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Legislation/RegulatoryImpactAssessment/RegulatoryimpactAssessmentArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4121917&chk=sUauD/

Telephones (Hospitals)

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines her Department provides to hospital trusts on charges for *(a)* outgoing and *(b)* incoming telephone calls from hospital bedside units; [82271]

(2) what the average cost per minute for *(a)* outgoing and *(b)* incoming telephone calls from hospital bedside units in each hospital trust was in each year since 1997; [82272]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the financial impact of telephone charges from bedside units on patients. [82273]

Andy Burnham: Three private companies are licensed to provide bedside entertainment systems in England. These are hospital telephone services (HTS), Patientline and Premier Managed Payphones. Patientline was the only supplier of the service prior to the NHS Plan announcement in 2000 and subsequent licensing of the suppliers.

The cost of outgoing calls has remained constant at 10 pence per minute (minimum 20 pence), for local and national calls.

The incoming call charges have remained constant for Patientline and Premier at 39 pence per minute off peak and 49 pence per minute peak.

HTS charges per minute were; 14 pence in 2002, 17 pence in 2003, 20 pence in 2004 and they currently charge 35 pence.

International calls and calls to mobile phones vary.

The licence documentation contains guidance on acceptance charging strategies within the national health service.

No assessment has been made of the financial impact of telephone charges from the bedside units on patients.

Bedside telephones represent an enhanced service, providing additional choice for patients. Patients not wishing to use these services remain free to use hospital payphones as they have always been able to in the past.

Veterans (Health Care)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that NHS employees are informed of the health needs of *(a)* war pensioners and *(b)* veterans. [84825]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: When a member of the armed forces with a current and ongoing health problem prepares to re-enter civilian life, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to engage with the primary care trust of future residence as early as possible to ensure the seamless transfer of care from the Defence Medical Services to the national health service. Thereafter, it is the duty of the attending NHS clinician to asses the changing health needs of the individual taking account of all relevant factors, including occupation and associated exposures and experiences.

Standing guidance on arrangements between the MOD and the NHS, as well as guidance on the right of war pensioners to generally receive priority treatment in NHS hospitals in respect of the condition or conditions for which they receive a pension or received a gratuity, is published on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk.

WORK AND PENSIONS

50-plus Workers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of people in work aged 50 years and over in Yeovil constituency. [82190]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Like all other customers, people aged 50 and over can benefit from the range of services provided by Jobcentre Plus, including access to jobs and help and support to find work.

Additional help is provided to older people who do not find work quickly. New deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme that provides people with advice and guidance from personal advisers, and access to in-work financial help through the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. Since April 2000, the programme has been successful in helping more than 150,000 older workers into employment, including 200 people in Yeovil. Once in work, new deal 50 plus customers can claim a training grant of up to £1,500 for training of which up to £300 can be used for life-long learning.

People aged 50 and over, including those in Yeovil, are also eligible for help from new deal 25 plus. People who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for 18 months and who have not previously participated on new deal 25 plus, are already required to attend the gateway stage of the new deal 25 plus programme. This

is a period of up to four months of intensive job search and specialist help and support to improve job prospects. This is followed by the intensive activity period (IAP) which is currently voluntary for people aged 50 and over. The IAP provides further support and pre-work training to help people return to work.

Since April 2004, we have been piloting mandatory participation in the New deal 25 plus IAP for people aged 50-59 who have been claiming JSA for 18 months. Yeovil was included in the pilot which offered people in this age group more extensive help back to work. Interim results are positive and, as announced in our Welfare Reform Green Paper, we intend to commence a phased national rollout.

Between 1979 and the mid 1990s, the number of people on incapacity benefits trebled. Since then, growth in the caseload has since slowed significantly and, in November 2005, there were 2.71 million people claiming incapacity benefits, a fall of 61,000 over the year. 46 per cent. of those claiming incapacity benefits are aged between 50 and state pension age although, between 2000 and 2005, the number of people in this age group fell by 52,000. This has contributed to the overall reduction in the incapacity benefits case load.

We still clearly have more work to do and, like other age groups, people aged 50 and over will be able to benefit from the rollout of the successful Pathways to Work service across the whole country which will be completed by 2008. Pathways offers new incapacity benefit (IB) customers early support from skilled personal advisers and direct access to a 'Choices Package' of employment programmes and clear financial incentives to make work pay. Any IB customer will be able to access the support and help available on a voluntary basis. Pathways has already begun helping people in the Yeovil area, having rolled out there in April 2004.

Through our Age Positive Campaign we are working with employers and others to promote the business benefits of an age diverse workforce and best practice on age in recruitment, training and promotion. In May 2005 we launched the 'Be Ready' national information campaign to raise employer awareness of, and ability to adopt, flexible employment and retirement opportunities to support the recruitment and retention of older workers in advance of age legislation due in October 2006.

Access to Work

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid from the Access to Work scheme to other Central Government Departments for adjustments for disabled workers in each of the last five years, broken down by Department. [85802]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available broken down by employer and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Action for Employment Ltd.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1565-66W, on Action for Employment Ltd., whether the fee paid to Action for Employment Ltd. per customer was the same in the case of a customer choosing a post office card account and bank account. [85890]

Mr. Plaskitt: Action for Employment Ltd. received a single fee for the completion of outreach work, regardless of whether the customer chose a post office card account or a bank account.

Average Income

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average household income for *(a)* retired and *(b)* unemployed households was in (i) the UK as a whole and (ii) each parliamentary constituency in each of the last eight years. [85471]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding median incomes for Great Britain is available in "Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 1994/95-2004/05", available in the Library. The main source for HBAI is the Family Resources Survey (FRS). The information shown is for Great Britain only.

Average household income is defined as median household income which is the main measure used in HBAI.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust estimates at a parliamentary constituency level. Information for the UK is not available for the last eight years.

The following tables show the median income in Great Britain in each of the last eight years for *(A)* retired households and *(B)* unemployed (workless) households.

Table A: Median household income for the retired[1] in each year's prices, Great Britain, 1997-98 to 2004-05

		£ per week equivalised
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
1997-98	215	193
1998-99	221	201
1999-2000	235	213
2000-01	244	224
2001-02	257	238
2002-03	267	247
2003-04	279	258
2004-05	300	276

[1] Retired is defined as individuals who are state pension age or above (females aged over 60 and males aged over 65). This category also includes individuals in a couple where one is below and one above state pension age.

Source:
FRS

Table B: Median household income for workless households[1] in each year's prices, Great Britain, 1997-98 to 2004-05

	Working-age adults: £ per week equivalised	
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
1997-98	157	111
1998-99	164	116
1999-2000	174	123
2000-01	179	130
2001-02	190	138
2002-03	194	144

Table B: Median household income for workless households[1] in each year's prices, Great Britain, 1997-98 to 2004-05

	Working-age adults: £ per week equivalised	
	Before housing costs	After housing costs
2003-04	202	147
2004-05	212	158

[1] Workless households are defined as households where all individuals, of working age, that are eligible for employment are not in employment.

Source:
FRS

Child Support Agency

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what arrangements the Child Support Agency has for ensuring the prompt payment of child support recovered by bailiffs to its outsourced finance handling company Liberata; [83837]

(2) what Liberata's target is for the time taken to make payments collected from bailiffs to parents with care; and in what percentage of cases Liberata has met this target. [83842]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 18 July 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You also asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what Liberata's target is for the time taken to make payments collected from bailiffs to parents with care; and in what percentage of cases Liberata has met this target.

The Department of Work and Pensions contract with Liberata requires the Agency to utilise their services for the payment of invoices, court charges and some manual payments to clients.

Liberata do not deal with the payment of child support monies collected by a bailiff company. This is solely an Agency function.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what bonuses relating to performance were paid to staff managing the EDS contract at the Child Support Agency in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [77970]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds, dated 18 July 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what bonuses relating to performance were paid to staff managing the EDS contract at the Child Support Agency in each of the last four years for which figures are available.

All people employed by the Department for Work and Pensions may qualify for performance related pay. The performance related pay arrangements operate on a sliding scale with over 90% of employees receiving a payment at the end of the performance year.

In addition, the Department operates a "Special Bonus" scheme, which rewards employees for exceptional achievements outside the requirements of their key work objectives.

The table below shows special bonus payments paid to people involved in managing the EDS contract. However, managing the EDS contract forms only part of their roles and responsibilities.

These payments arose from when the new child support computer system went live in March 2003.

Financial year	Amount of payment (£)
2003-04	1,600.00
2004-05	0
2005-06	500.00

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases have been dealt with as clerical cases due to administrative errors on the part of his Department since January 2005. [81998]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 18 July 2006:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases have been dealt with as clerical cases due to administrative errors on the part of his Department since January 2005.

Cases are taken off the new computer system (CS2) and progressed clerically if a technical fault occurs and the case cannot be progressed on the system.

If an administrative error is found to have occurred, then Agency staff will look to resolve that error while the case is still being operated on CS2. The case would only be progressed clerically if a technical fault subsequently occurred.

The total volume of cases being clerically progressed in each month from March 2005 to March 2006 is available in table 19 of the latest edition of the Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), a copy of which is available in the House library, as well as on the internet at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

For convenience, these figures are attached.

I recognise that the figures given here differ from those given in response to PQ 21451. This is due to improvements in management information which now allows us to provide a more accurate picture of the Agency's clerical caseload.

I hope you find this helpful.

Volume of cases being progressed clerically in each month from the CS2 system

	Number of new system clerical cases
2005	
March	10,000
April	11,000
May	12,000
June	13,000
July	13,000
August	14,000
September	14,000
October	15,000

Volume of cases being progressed clerically in each month from the CS2 system

	Number of new system clerical cases
November	16,000
December	16,000
2006	
January	17,000
February	17,000
March	19,000

Notes:
1. The above figures show the number of new and old scheme cases from CS2 that were being processed clerically, in the main due to technical IT problems that prevented them from being progressed on the CS2 system itself.
2. Note that the figures for later months are provisional, and may be subject to minor retrospective revisions.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
4. Due to limitations in management information, we are unable to include the number of cases that are being progressed clerically off the old system (CSCS).

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on the assessment of student grants; [81931]

(2) when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on non-biological parents being assessed for the student grant loan of a biological child of their partner. [81956]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department wrote to the hon. Member on 28 June advising him that the matters raised in his letter are the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills, that his letter had been passed to that Department and that they would reply to the hon. Member directly.

Environmental Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81179]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 and has in place an environmental management system, based on this standard, which covers the Department and its agencies, business impacts, staff and buildings. An Environmental Management System certified to ISO 14001-2004 run by the Department's facilities management provider, Land Securities Trillium, covers the estates impacts of the Department.

In addition, Jobcentre Plus South East operates an Environmental Management System externally certified to ISO 14001 since 13 January 2004, covering 85 sites and 5,262 staff. The Health and Safety Executive, an executive agency for which the Department has responsibility, has an Environmental Management System certified to ISO 14001 that covers 38 sites.

The Department will continue to operate its Environmental Management Systems in line with the new sustainable operations targets that were launched on 12 June 2006.

Ethnic Minority Outreach

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* provider and *(b)* Job Centre Plus-led ethnic minority outreach activities in Liverpool; and if he will make a statement. [73206]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* The Ethnic Minority Outreach (EMO) programme is delivered by private or voluntary and community sector providers on behalf of Jobcentre Plus. It is not, therefore, possible to assess the merits of Jobcentre Plus-led ethnic minority outreach activities in Liverpool, or elsewhere. We have, however, evaluated the programme nationally to assess the merits of voluntary/community sector-led EMO. These included:

success in engaging with ethnic minorities who otherwise may make little use of mainstream Jobcentre Plus services and in helping them into employment;

close links with the ethnic minority communities they are attempting to help;

specialist knowledge of the employment issues faced by people from ethnic minorities.

a highly personalised service and intense level of support;

working in ways which respected cultural sensitivities; and

provision available in the places where ethnic minority communities lived and socialised and in non-threatening and user-friendly venues.

Fuel Direct

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful applications there were to each energy supplier for Fuel Direct for *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity in (i) each region of England, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales in the last full year for which figures are available. [84380]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. A breakdown by supplier is not available. Information for the number of instances where Fuel Direct deductions were being made from income support, jobseeker's allowance or pension credit claimants in each quarter during 2005 have been placed in the Library.

Household Incomes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean household income was in each London borough in each of the last five years. [83677]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The data source does not allow us to provide robust income estimates below a regional level. Therefore we do not produce information for individual London boroughs.

Information is presented in the table for London as a whole. This is consistent with the latest publication of the 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2004-05'.

The data are from Households Below Average Income (HBAI). The main source for HBAI is the Family Resources Survey (FRS).

Money values for the median and mean of household income distribution in average 2004-05 prices: London

£ per week equivalised	1998-99 to 2000-01	1999-2000 to 2001-02	2000-01 to 2002-03	2001-02 to 2003-04	2002-03 to 2004-05
Before housing costs					
Median	352	368	383	389	387
Mean	475	507	528	532	527
After housing costs					
Median	278	294	307	315	314
Mean	385	416	439	443	443

Note:
Figures are provided using three-year moving averages, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year on year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time.
Source:
Family Resources Survey

Housing Benefits

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of housing benefit claimants with non-dependant deductions who are (i) elderly and (ii) disabled. [85607]

Mr. Plaskitt: The most recent available information is in the following table:

Housing benefit households with non-dependant deductions by client type: Great Britain: May 2004

	Number	Proportion of client type (Percentage)
Aged 60+ and disabled	[1]—	[1]—
Aged 60+ and not disabled	59,000	3.8
Aged under 60 and disabled	27,000	3.1

[1] Denotes nil or negligible.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. HB figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
5 "disabled" means one of the disability premiums has been awarded.
Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2004.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research he has commissioned to establish whether changes have occurred in the level of the shared room rate available to under 25 year olds in the local housing allowance Pathfinder areas. [85608]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department has commissioned a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Pathfinders that will include consideration of any changes in the LHA rates in the Pathfinder areas over the two year Pathfinder period. This includes an assessment of the LHA shared room rate.

Four interim evaluation reports have already been published and copies are available in the Library. The final evaluation reports are expected to be published between the autumn of this year and spring of next year.

Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 235W, on pensions, if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice he has received attributing £60 million of this increase in the Pension Protection Fund levy to changes in the level of schemes' assets, together with the effect of changes to the relevant market interest rates on the liabilities and £220 million to changes in the mortality assumptions which reflected similar changes to the assumptions used by insurance companies when setting buy-out terms, together with the detail of the assumptions, including mortality tables and interest rates, used in making that attribution. [73779]

James Purnell: There has been no increase in the PPF levy estimate. We cannot provide all the details requested on the increase in the estimate produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1528-529W, which set out the difficulties of doing so. However, a summary of the GAD update will be placed in the Library shortly.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to fully compensate, with index-linking, all former Allied Steel and Wire workers who lost occupational pension savings; and if he will make a statement. [78293]

James Purnell: The estimated cost of compensating all ASW scheme members in full is £250—£450 million in cash terms and £120—£210 million in net present value, based on limited information on the ASW scheme

Personal Capability Assessment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Department proposes to pilot the proposed new Personal Capability Assessment referred to in the Green Paper "A new deal for welfare"; and if he will make a statement. [75385]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We will not use formal 'piloting' powers for the revised PCA. However, we are committed to testing the new regime by running it in parallel with the current assessment to compare outcomes—we are calling this 'dummy runs' of the revised PCA using live assessments. This will play no part in deciding entitlement to incapacity benefit, but will allow us to test the new assessment and make any subsequently required adjustments.

Retirement

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions were made about the employment rate for *(a)* men and women between the ages of 20 and 64, *(b)* men and women between the ages of 20 and 68 and *(c)* the state pension

age in (i) 2010, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2030, (iv) 2040 and (v) 2050 in calculating the old-age dependency ratio for the chart on page nine of the pension White Paper, Security in Retirement. [85838]

James Purnell: The chart on page nine of the pensions White Paper: "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system" does not make assumptions about the employment rate or changes in state pension age.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were found guilty of *(a)* drunken and disorderly behaviour and *(b)* drunken and aggravated disorderly behaviour in (i) England, (ii) Peterborough constituency and (iii) the Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997. [76623]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of offenders found guilty for drunkenness with aggravation (which includes drunk and disorderly) in England, and Peterborough Local Justice Area, 1997—2004 are given in the following table. It is not possible to identify those convicted in Peterborough constituency, or Peterborough city council, as the data are not collected at this level of detail. Court statistics for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006.

In addition to this, the penalty notice for disorder scheme was brought into effect in all police forces in England and Wales during 2004. Under the scheme the police are able to issue persons committing specified minor offences with a fixed penalty notice. No admission of guilt is required and payment of the penalty discharges all liability for the offence. In 2004 25,591 penalty notices were issued in England for the offence of being drunk and disorderly. Provisional data for 2005 show that 34,238 penalty notices were issued in England for this offence. It is not possible to identify the number of penalty notices issued in Peterborough as centrally held data are not collected at that level of detail.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts for offences relating to drunkenness in England 1997 to 2004[1,2]

	Drunkenness with aggravation[4]
1997	22,474
1998	23,864
1999	22,764
2000[3]	22,078
2001	21,468
2002	22,741
2003	23,893
2004	17,550

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.

[4] Includes the offence of "drunk and disorderly" [Criminal Justice Act 1967 s4c.91] and other miscellaneous offences of drunkenness with aggravations.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Fiello: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent and *(b)* England. [85267]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The number of ASBOs, as reported to the Home Office by the court service, where restrictions are imposed in the local authority area of Stoke-on-Trent city council, from 1 June 2000 to 30 September 2005 (latest available) is 54. The number issued in England during the same period is 6,922.

Appointments Booking System

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what extent the Appointments Booking System software has been modified to prevent counter officers by-passing the normal process; whether override audit trails are maintained and checked; and if he will make a statement. [73712]

John Reid: I am advised that the Appointments Booking System software was upgraded on 6 April. The software has been specifically designed to prevent staff from overriding the system without management approval. An audit trail is maintained and is checked on a daily basis.

Asylum/Immigration

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the *(a)* opposition to and *(b)* potential impact of the extension of the voucher system for asylum seekers. [71888]

Mr. Byrne: Vouchers are used to support failed asylum seekers under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 who would otherwise be destitute and for whom there is a temporary barrier to leaving the UK.

Officials, through the NASS Forum, National Consulting Group and Voluntary Sector Chief Executives' group have discussed impacts. These have been considered carefully and taken into account. The Commons Clearance of Lords' Amendments stage of the Bill also provided an opportunity to debate their use.

This is a rightly limited form of support, which should not act as an incentive for asylum seekers to remain in the UK once they have exhausted their appeal rights.

Section 43(7) of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 does not extend the voucher system, but ensures flexibility to meet additional needs of those supported under section 4. This is a new provision which should be welcomed.

My hon. Friend the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety (Mr. McNulty) asked officials to review longer term impacts, which they are currently in the process of doing with interested parties.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the use of luncheon vouchers for the purposes of support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; how many such vouchers were issued to residents of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in each of the last four quarters of 2005-06; and what the total value was of the vouchers so issued. [75212]

Mr. Byrne: Where support under section 4 is provided in self-catering accommodation, vouchers to the value of £35 per week are issued to purchase food and essential toiletries. The type of voucher issued is not a matter of policy. The vouchers issued by accommodation providers are primarily luncheon vouchers, supermarket payment cards and supermarket vouchers.

Information on the number and types of voucher issued is not recorded centrally.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who have been given indefinite leave to remain in *(a)* the past 12 months and *(b)* the past five years have served a prison sentence in the UK while waiting for a decision on their application to stay in the UK. [75365]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collected centrally and would require an examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who have spent time in detention have been granted temporary release in each of the last five calendar years. [75787]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 71W, on asylum/immigration, how many of the applicants had their last known address in Northamptonshire. [73415]

Mr. Byrne: 16 had their last recorded address in Northamptonshire.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 282W, on asylum/immigration, what definition his Department uses of a particularly serious crime. [75349]

Mr. Byrne: Article 33(2) of the Refugee Convention allows an asylum seeker or recognised refugee to be removed even if they have a well-founded fear of persecution, where they represent a threat to national security, or where, having been convicted of a particularly serious crime, they constitute a danger to the community.

Section 72 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provides an interpretation of Article 33(2) of the 1951 Convention and defines the term 'particularly serious crime' for the purposes of Article 33(2) as one for which the person concerned has received a sentence of imprisonment of at least two years, or has been convicted of an offence specified by order of the Secretary of State, whatever the length of sentence imposed. An automatic presumption is made, which is rebuttable, that such a person poses a danger to the community.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1666-68W, on asylum/immigration, how many individuals were held in each immigration holding, reception and removal centre in each year since 2004-05. [82699]

Mr. Byrne: Quarterly snapshots are published by the Immigration Nationality Directorate's (IND's) Research, Development and Statistics (RDS) Directorate in the quarterly asylum statistics bulletin showing the number of people detained on the last Saturday of each quarter under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres.

Citizenship

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a mother can require a DNA test to be undertaken to prove the paternity of her child in relation to citizenship. [84295]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 July 2006]:* There are no powers in the nationality legislation to this effect.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a British father is required to supply his details to enable his child to be registered as a British citizen where the mother wishes this to happen. [84296]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 July 2006]:* Where an application for citizenship is based on a parent's nationality or immigration status, the Home Secretary has to be satisfied on a balance of probabilities about the child's parentage and that the relevant parent has the appropriate status. In some cases there is also a statutory requirement, or an expectation, that both parents will indicate their consent to the child being registered as a British citizen. There is no power under nationality legislation, however, for the Home Secretary or one parent to compel the provision of certain information or consent by the other.

Correspondence

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sherwood dated 28 April about the immigration status of Josephine Mundirwa. [81048]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* I replied to my hon. Friend on 11 July 2006.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Immigration will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Woking of 28 June 2006 concerning a constituent, Mr. C. Imran Ali (Home Office Ref: H/65545/98/PR). [83443]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 13 July 2006.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Immigration and Nationality Directorate will reply to the letter of 6 June 2006 from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on behalf of Mohammed Kashif Zahoor (Home Office reference Z1040405, acknowledgement reference B14821/6). [83891]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on 3 July 2006.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 31 May from the hon. Member for Walsall, North regarding a constituent, reference M13279/6. [84302]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 July 2006]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend on 11 July 2006.

Custodial Education

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of education was for children and young adults in custody in each of the last 30 years; what proportion of the total cost of their detention was represented by spending on their education in each such year; and what was the per capita spending on education in each such year. [86204]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Custody

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will consider the merits of establishing a public inquiry into *(a)* the deaths of children in custody and *(b)* the role of sentencing policy in such cases; and if he will make a statement. [86229]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Any death of a child or young person in custody is thoroughly investigated. (Fortunately such deaths are comparatively rare.) The main form of public inquiry into any death is the inquest. Developments in case law in recent years have greatly extended the scope of inquests into deaths in custody, so that they can now inquire into a wide range of possible contributory factors (although sentencing policy will rarely, if ever, be a directly contributory factor to a death in an individual case). In addition, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman conducts his own independent inquiry into any death of a young person in a young offender institution or a secure training centre; and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board is likely to commission a serious case review under Part 8 of the joint Department for Education and Skills/ Home Office/Department of Health guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (1999). Many of the young people who become involved in serious or persistent offending are at risk of self-harm, whether or not they are in custody. It is not possible to quantify how many young people's health, including mental health, has been positively assisted by care received while in custody. There is no reason to believe that sentencing policy is increasing the rate of mortality of young people under 18.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals work for his Department in the UK. [73625]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office, which includes the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and the Prison Service but not its other Agencies, is currently employing one foreign national under the terms of the 1955 Aliens' Employment Act.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff changes there have been in the private offices of Departmental Ministers of State in each year since 1999. [73672]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 732-34W, on departmental staff, how many staff in his Department have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the years for which he has provided figures. [84036]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the number of staff in his Department that have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more years are show in the following table.

Staff who have taken two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last three years

	Number of staff
Home Office (including Immigration and Nationality Directorate)[1]	
2002-03	5,515
2003-04	7,180
2005-06	6,113
Identity and Passport Service[2]	
2003-04	1,438
2004-05	1,389

Staff who have taken two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last three years

	Number of staff
2005-06	1,463
HM Prison Service[3]	
2003-04	10,756
2004-05	9,950
2005-06	9,438

[1] Data are provided on the basis of staff having on average* two or more days per spell of sickness. The figures for 2002-03 and 2003-04 are based on calendar days, those for 2005-06 on working days.
[2] IPS figures show periods of less than five working days.
[3] HMPS figures show periods of less than five calendar days.
* 'On average' indicates a spell which includes staff who had a mean average of two days sick and not just two or more days in (each and every) spell of sickness in the period provided.
Note:
Because the material needed to be provided from archived reports run across the periods concerned on a particular basis (that of average values across the period) it was not possible to answer the question in the more precise form without disproportionate cost, in the time scale available.

Deportations

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he issues to staff escorting deported foreign nationals back to their country of origin on the way in which these deportees are *(a)* handled and *(b)* treated; and if he will make a statement. [68798]

Mr. Byrne: Staff escorting deported foreign nationals back to their country of origin are certificated Detainee Custody Officers, who are fully trained in the appropriate handling and treatment of those detainees in their care.

The conduct of the escorts is governed by the contractor's own operating procedures. These are approved by the Contract Monitor, a Crown Servant, who closely reviews the contractor's performance.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign criminals undergoing consideration for deportation require a translator; and at what cost. [69563]

Mr. Byrne: The information as requested in each answer is not currently available in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Legislation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what EU legislation the UK has opted *(a)* out of and *(b)* into in the areas of (i) asylum, (ii) legal migration, (iii) visa and border controls and (iv) civil law under the rules governing Title IV of the Treaty establishing the European Community. [73168]

Mr. Byrne: For legislation opted into in the areas of asylum and immigration, I refer the hon. Member to the answer that my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) gave to the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory), on 7 March, 2005, *Official Report*, column 1596W, and to the answer that my right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander) gave to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 1 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 737W.

Since 1 December 2005 the UK has opted into the following two measures in asylum: a recommendation for a council decision authorising the Commission to negotiate a readmission agreement between the European Community and Russia; and a proposal by the Council establishing a Mutual Information Procedure. The UK has not opted into the following proposals in the area of Civil Law: proposal for a Council Regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to maintenance obligations; and a proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation on the law applicable to contractual obligations.

There has been no legislation to decide to opt into since 1 December 2005 in legal immigration or visa and border controls.

Failed Asylum Seekers

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list those local authorities who have withdrawn support and accommodation from failed asylum seeker families in addition to those councils piloting implementation of section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration Act (Treatment of Claimants etc.) 2004. [79292]

Mr. Byrne: Support may have been withdrawn by local authorities supporting families under the Interim Provisions where the authority identified that a family had been granted indefinite leave to remain (ILR) under the Family ILR concession or had otherwise been granted leave to remain; mainstream support is available in such cases. There have been no withdrawals of asylum support under section 9 since December 2005 when the pilot commenced its evaluation phase.

Foreign Criminals

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national offenders there were in UK prisons in each year since 1997; and what percentage this represents of the total prison population; [68720]

(2) how many offenders whose nationality is unknown are in UK prisons; and how many offenders whose nationality was unknown there were in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004 and *(e)* 2005; [68728]

(3) how many foreign national offenders there are in UK prisons; what their country of origin is; and for what offences they are imprisoned. [68733]

John Reid: Information on the population in prison establishments by nationality is published in annual and quarterly Home Office statistical publications. The figures have been drawn from the prisons administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when

processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Information on the number of foreign nationals and those with nationality not recorded, for the years 2001 to 2005, held in prison establishments in England and Wales is given in table 8.4 and 8.4a of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004.

Information on the nationality of foreign nationals held in prison establishments in England and Wales is given in table 2.14 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics Quarterly Brief October to December 2005.

The number of sentenced foreign nationals in prison establishments in England and Wales for each offence group is given in table 8.29 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004.

Information from these tables is given as follows.

Information on Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for my colleagues in the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office.

Population in prison establishments[1] by nationality, England and Wales as at 30 June each year

Number of persons

	2001	*2002*	*2003[2]*	*2004*	*2005[3]*	*2006[4]*
Males and females						
All nationalities	66,403	71,218	72,286	74,488	76,190	77,677
British nationals	58,732	62,553	62,417	64,379	65,670	65,907
Foreign nationals	6,926	7,719	8,728	8,941	9,651	10,834
Percentage of total population	10	11	12	12	13	14
Unrecorded nationality[5]	745	946	1,142	1,168	869	936

[1] Excludes police cells. Includes Immigration Removal Centres at Dover, Haslar and Lindholme managed by the Prison Service on behalf of IND. Includes remand, sentenced and non criminals.
[2] As at 28 February 2003.
[3] Further quality assurance of the population data was undertaken in 2005 resulting in revised figures from June 2005 onwards. This has affected the statistics on nationality. The number with unrecorded nationality has decreased by 400, the number of British nationals has increased by 300 and the number of foreign nationals has increased by 100 from previously published figures.
[4] As at 31 May 2006.
[5] 0.3 per cent. of the immediate custodial sentenced population has an unrecorded nationality.

Sources:

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number as shown here.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners who have served custodial sentences and who have been recommended for deportation were held in immigration detention centres on 20 June 2006. [83082]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate does not collate information in the format requested and it could only be produced in the format requested at disproportionate cost. However, I am able to advise the hon. Member that 469 former prisoners who had completed their sentence were detained in immigration detentions centres, pending deportation, on 17 June 2006. This figure rose to 497 on 24 June 2006.

Foreign Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set up a sponsors register for academic institutions to allow foreign students to come to the UK to study. [83087]

Mr. Byrne: We intend to introduce a register of sponsors for academic institutions as part of Tier 4 of the Points-Based System for Managed Migration.

HM Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of senior operational managers in HM Prison Service in each area achieved an exceed rating on their staff performance and development record in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [85479]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows information from the Corporate Database on the proportion of performance levels recorded as "exceeded" for senior operational managers in each year from 2001-02 to 2004-05. Comprehensive information on performance levels for 2005-06 is not yet available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Performance levels recorded for senior operational managers

Percentage

Area	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
High Security Prisons	61	71	79	78
East Midlands	75	61	65	56
Eastern	47	14	33	58
Kent	36	45	56	47
London	86	58	50	67
North East	91	50	44	38
North West	77	44	57	70
South West	64	57	87	72
Surrey and Sussex	40	43	63	50
Thames Valley and Hampshire	64	77	52	50
Wales	67	80	50	57
West Midlands	36	63	56	71
Yorkshire and Humberside	86	77	83	78
HQ	54	52	56	43
Total	60	56	59	56

Note:

Senior operational managers are senior manager grades A to D. Percentages are calculated as proportion of all recorded SPDR markings for those grades. Where no marking is recorded the data are omitted.

Identity Checks (Licensed Premises)

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the risk of identity theft when identity is requested and taken by door staff at licensed premises; and if he will make a statement. [79529]

Mr. Coaker: No assessment has been made of this specific risk. However, since 11 April 2005 all door supervisors working on licensed premises have been required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority. This requires them to undertake training and a criminality check from the Criminal Records Bureau. If an applicant is found guilty of identity theft it is highly likely that he will be refused a licence. If a licensed door supervisor is subsequently found guilty of identity theft then it is also highly likely that his licence will be revoked.

Illegal Immigrants

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been employed on Home Office premises in each of the last five years. [77073]

John Reid: I am advised that of such records that are held locally, two members of staff were detected as not having valid leave to remain in the United Kingdom at the time of their employment. One in 2004, and one in 2005.

In addition, 12 contracted workers have been identified as having worked on Home Office premises illegally: eight this year, two in 2005, one in 2004 and one in 2002.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of foreign-born prisoners who *(a)* entered and *(b)* remained in the UK illegally. [64268]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate does not currently record the information requested. The provision of this information could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of prisoners who *(a)* entered and *(b)* remained in the UK illegally have been recommended for deportation on completion of their sentences. [64269]

Mr. Byrne: The provision of this information could only be obtained through review of individual case files and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department provides to police forces on processing illegal immigrants when an Immigration Service official is unable to attend; and if he will make a statement. [84092]

Mr. Byrne: Police will be provided with advice by the relevant local enforcement office in the event that resources do not permit attendance in person by an Immigration Service official.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in the past 12 months his Department has received information pertaining to illegal residency in the UK; and on how many occasions such information led to a deportation. [84253]

Mr. Byrne: Data on the number of separate pieces of information about illegal residency received by the Home Office are not currently recorded centrally and therefore not available.

Immigration (EEA) Regulations

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the ways in which the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006 *(a)* impact on the deportation of (i) European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and (ii) members of EEA nationals' extended families and *(b)* change the relevant processes in place previously. [73427]

Mr. Byrne: EEA nationals and their family members may be deported if their removal is justified on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health. The principles to be applied to such deportation cases are set out in regulation 21 of the 2006 Regulations. The deportation provisions in the 2006 Regulations will only apply to an "extended family member" of an EEA national if the United Kingdom has issued entry or residence documentation to the extended family member under the Regulations.

The deportation provisions in the 2006 Regulations are in most respects similar to those in the previous Regulations but introduce different tests for deportation where EEA nationals and their family members have acquired permanent residence in the UK or where an EEA national has resided in the UK for at least 10 years or is under 18. The 2006 Regulations also update the list of diseases relevant to deportation decisions taken on public health grounds and provide some opportunity for a person to leave voluntarily when facing deportation.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many case files have been lost by the Immigration and Nationality Department *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently in each of the past five years. [63967]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not available in the format requested.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vacancies there are at the Immigration and Nationality Department. [73621]

Mr. Byrne: There are currently 427 (2.4 per cent.) posts in the Immigration and Nationality Department that are vacant, according to the figures reported on the computerised resource reporting system called Adelphi.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will lead the inquiry into the allegations made in *The Observer* on 21 May regarding malpractice in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate; when the inquiry will report; if the report will be published; what the terms of reference are; from whom the inquiry will take evidence; and if he will make a statement. [73687]

John Reid: An internal disciplinary investigation has taken place, as a result of which a member of IND staff has been dismissed. A criminal investigation continues.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate compiled an action plan to take forward the recommendations made by Mr. Gbedemah; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [73688]

John Reid: I am advised that an action plan was initiated immediately upon the publication of Mr. Gbedemah's report. The action plan is an internal working document and as such it would not be appropriate to place it in the public domain.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what disciplinary action he has taken against officials in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate following Mr. Gbedemah's report. [73689]

John Reid: I am advised that 13 separate disciplinary investigations were commissioned following Mr. Gbedemah's report. Disciplinary action has been completed in respect of seven members of staff and is ongoing in respect of the remaining six.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people referred to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate by the Department for Work and Pensions for having suspect immigration documents in *(a)* the last six months, *(b)* the last 12 months and *(c)* each of the last five years have been (i) investigated and (ii) prosecuted. [75704]

John Reid: This information could be obtained only by individually searching IND databases for the outcome of each referral received, which would have significant resource implications.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department plans to reduce the charges for leave to remain applications once the deficit identified by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate associated with the processing of chargeable applications during 2003-04 and 2004-05 has been recovered. [76924]

John Reid: The fees for leave to remain are set to recover the full costs of the leave to remain service. These include not only the recovery of past deficits but also the direct and indirect costs associated with processing the application, including overheads and appeal costs. Our fees are set at a level appropriate for the costs of managing the service in an area of fluctuating volumes and we will continue to review this in the future.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what point he expects the deficit identified by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate which occurred in processing chargeable applications for leave to remain during 2003-04 and 2004-05 to have been recovered as a result of increases to leave to remain fees from 1 April 2005. [76925]

John Reid: Deficits identified by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate are being recovered through the fee for leave to remain in 2005-06. The accounts for the financial year 2005-06 are still being finalised and are yet to be audited by the National Audit Office. Until these accounts have been finalised I am unable to state whether the deficits referred to have been recovered.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total running costs were of the Department that handles further leave to remain charges within the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each year since their introduction. [76926]

John Reid: The published resource accounts for the fiscal year 2003-04 show that full costs of service provision for leave to remain applications totalled £44.985 million.

The published resource accounts for the fiscal year 2004-05 show that full costs of service provision for leave to remain applications totalled £74.588 million.

The resource accounts for the financial year 2005-06 are still being finalised and are yet to be audited by the National Audit Office.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was raised through further leave to remain charges in each year since their introduction. [76927]

John Reid: The resource accounts for the fiscal year 2003-04 show that £44.157 million were received as income from leave to remain charges.

The resource accounts for the fiscal year 2004-05 show income of £60.927 million in respect of fee income from leave to remain charges.

The resource accounts for the financial year 2005-06 are still being finalised and are yet to be audited by the National Audit Office.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which projects external consultants were hired for work for the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in the last financial year; who the consultants were in each case; and how much was paid in each case. [77071]

John Reid: Detailed information in the format requested is not available centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. In 2005-06 a total of £20.1 million (subject to audit) was spent by the

Immigration and Nationality Directorate on all external professional services, including consultancy support for projects.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid to external consultants for work for the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each year since 1997. [77072]

John Reid: I am advised that IND's expenditure on all external professional services comprising payments made to management, IT and accommodation consultants in the last three years was as follows:

	£ million
	Payments to external consultants
2005-06[1]	20.1
2004-05	17.7
2003-04	32.7

[1] Provisional figures, subject to audit.

Figures for earlier years are not available on a comparable basis.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent guidance he has issued to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's Security and Anti-Corruption Unit on developing a more proactive strategy for combating fraud and corruption. [73709]

John Reid: One of the recommendations in Tim Gbedemah's report on the investigation into the Public Enquiry Office (PEO) in Croydon was that the IND should consider giving its Security and Anti-Corruption Unit (SACU) sole responsibility for investigating allegations of corruption across the whole of IND and tasking the unit with developing a more proactive strategy for combating fraud and corruption. Ministers accepted all of the recommendations in the report.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what extent the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's Security and Anti-Corruption Unit is responsible for investigating allegations of corruption across the whole of the IND; and when it was given this role. [73710]

John Reid: IND's Security and Anti-Corruption Unit was given sole responsibility for investigating allegations of corruption made against all IND staff on 1 April 2006.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed in the Immigration and Nationality Directive at *(a)* senior management and *(b)* junior management level. [77403]

John Reid: I am advised that IND records show the number of people employed by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in senior, middle and junior management grades are shown in the following table:

	FTE	*Headcount*
Junior Manager		
Immigration Officer	3,439	3,562
Executive Officer	2,683	2,831
Higher Executive Officer	1,542	1,606
Chief Immigration Officer	813	847
Total	8,477	8,846
Middle Manager		
Senior Executive Officer	616	641
Grade 7	374	387
Grade 6	98	99
Immigration Inspector		212
Total	1,300	1,347
Senior Manager		
Senior Civil Servant	45	45
Total	45	45

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees from an ethnic minority the Immigration and Nationality Directorate has, broken down by category of staff. [77397]

John Reid: The information requested is presented in the following table. The collection of diversity data is intended to enable IND to monitor the effectiveness of its HR policies and processes. The provision of such data by employees is voluntary and information is held currently for just under 60 per cent. of our staff. Specific activities are under way to increase this figure to help ensure robust monitoring.

Ethnic minority staff employed in IND by grade—number and percentage

	Number	*Percentage*
SCS	0	0
G6/G7	27	8.08
SEO	69	15.40
HEO	234	22.12
EO	624	33.58
HMI	16	10.74
CIO	68	12.78
IO	453	23.72
AO	717	36.60
AIO	147	41.18
AA	278	39.15
Other	96	33.90

Total ethnic minority staff employed in IND—number and percentage

Total number of ethnic minority staff	2,729
Total as percentage of IND staff	28.25

Notes:
1. The figures are based on a 59.79 per cent. data set. We are taking active steps to improve these data; one Directorate specific manual exercise has been undertaken recently, these data returns will be reflected in the June 2006 figures and a small self-service electronic pilot exercise will be completed by September 2006 for inclusion in that quarter's figures.
2. The category "other" includes research officers and librarians.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers employed by his Department were born outside the UK, broken down by country of origin. [77398]

John Reid: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration Cases

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State responsible for immigration matters will respond to the representations of the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on behalf of his constituent, Mr. Matthew Pretorius, on permanent settlement status. [83526]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 10 July 2006.

Juvenile Custody

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff were employed in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in the care of vulnerable and at-risk children and young adults in custody in each of the last 20 years. [86384]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

London Bombings

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of each payment which *(a)* has been made and *(b)* is planned by the Government to (i) survivors and (ii) families of those affected by the London bombings on 7 July 2005; and to whom each payment was made. [76981]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Applications to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) are confidential as between the claimant and the Authority and no details of a claim can be released to any third party without the consent of the claimant.

CICA are, however, able to provide some details of claims lodged and payments made provided this does not enable individual claimants to be identified.

On this basis, information about numbers of final awards offered and accepted up to 30 June is given in the following table. This shows the tariff level for the main injury suffered.

Some of the award recipients may have received compensation over and above the tariff level indicated because they received tariff compensation for a second or third injury under the serious multiple injury formula, and/or additional compensation for loss of earnings and special expenses.

A number of substantial interim awards have also been made to seriously injured victims where the final prognosis for recovery is unclear and where CICA still have to make a final assessment of a claim for financial loss.

Many victims will also have received substantial payments from the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund, to which the Government donated a further £2.5 million in June 2006. Payments from the Fund, in the form of charitable grants, are made at the discretion of the Fund's trustees.

London Bombings—Final awards offered and accepted (to 30 June 2006)

Tariff band/level	*Tariff amount (£)*	*Number of final awards offered and accepted*
1	1,000	79
2	1,250	11
3	1,500	3
4	1,750	4
5	2,000	4
6	2,500	10
7	3,300	5
8	3,800	6
9	4,400	27
10	5,500	49
12	8,200	13
13	11,000	2
15	16,500	3
17	22,000	1
Total		217

Manor Lodge, Berkshire

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders living at Manor Lodge Approved Premises, Old Windsor, Berkshire are sex offenders. [84937]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* As I have previously advised the hon. Member, the number of sex offenders accommodated at any one time in any approved premises, (formerly bail and probation hostels) varies. Statistical information about the type of offences committed by offenders residing at an approved premises at any one time is not collected centrally.

National Asylum Support Service

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens from each of the countries which joined the EU in May 2004 are being supported by the National Asylum Support Service. [79017]

John Reid: I am advised that the information available is set out in the table.

Number of asylum seekers (including dependants) supported by NASS from countries that joined the EU in May 2004 as at the end of March 2006

Nationality	*Subsistence only*	*In dispersed accommodation*	*Total*
Cyprus	—	—	—
Estonia	—	—	—
Hungary	—	—	—
Latvia	•	—	•
Lithuania	—	5	5
Malta	—	—	—
Poland	5	—	5
Slovakia	—	—	—

Number of asylum seekers (including dependants) supported by NASS from countries that joined the EU in May 2004 as at the end of March 2006

Nationality	Subsistence only	In dispersed accommodation	Total
Slovenia	—	—	—
Czech Republic	—	10	10
Total	10	10	20

'*'= 1 or 2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum due to rounding.

NASS provides this support only to EU nationals who are, or have been, asylum seekers, whose claim is either outstanding or their circumstances are such that they are at present neither able to work nor to return home.

New Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76910]

John Reid: Home Office legislation since 1 April 2005 contains 50 criminal offences, tabled as follows:

Act	Number
Drugs Act 2005	2
Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005	26
Identity Cards Act 2006	6
Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006	6
Terrorism Act 2006	8
Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006	2

Non-custodial Sentences

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 880-82W, on non-custodial sentences, for what reasons reparation is not included in orders other than the action plan order and the reparation order. [86415]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table referred to in my answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 880-82W, gave general descriptions of the community sentences available for dealing with young offenders. Reparation, victim awareness and repairing the harm caused by offending are common threads running throughout the community sentencing framework. In practice all community orders offer the sentencer the flexibility to attach elements of reparation either within the order itself or in combination with another order.

Passports (Secure Storage)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent instructions he has issued to ensure that *(a)* passports and *(b)* other key documents are never left unsupervised and are always held in secure storage. [73704]

John Reid: Instructions were issued to all asylum staff in February of this year in relation to retaining documents. The relevant instruction is APN 02/2006 and can be found on the IND external website.

Police Stations

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many holding cells there are in police stations in each London borough; and how many of these cells are closed for refurbishment. [84663]

Mr. McNulty: The provision and closure of cells are operational matters for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police, the Metropolitan Police Authority and the City of London.

Prisons

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have been released on licence from each prison on the Isle of Wight are no longer in touch with the authorities monitoring their whereabouts. [67931]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 4 May 2006]:* The information requested is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

All offenders released on licence are subject to six standard licence conditions: three of which require them to 'keep in touch with your supervising officer', 'permanently to reside at an address approved by your supervising officer' and 'notify him or her in advance of any proposed change of address or proposed stay (even for one night) away from that approved address'. In the event that any such licence conditions are breached, the offender is liable to be recalled to prison upon the recommendation of the probation officer in order to protect the public. Once the licence is revoked and the offender recalled, the police are notified, in order to ensure a swift return to custody.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new places in *(a)* closed prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions his Department is planning to bring onstream during the 2006-07 financial year; and if he will make a statement. [74796]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 300 additional places in closed adult male establishments are planned for delivery in 2006-07 under the National Offender Management Service building programme.

In addition, the Youth Justice Board has commissioned and funded a 14-place juvenile unit at Her Majesty's prison Foston Hall which will shortly be available for use.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners are detained in open prisons. [77121]

John Reid: Towards the end of May 2006 there were around 300 prisoners in open prisons in England and Wales with a foreign nationality. The figures have been drawn from the prisons' administrative IT systems.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Foreign nationals are subject to the same risk assessment process as any other prisoner before allocation to open conditions. The overriding purpose of the security classification must be to ensure that prisoners are retained in custody with a level of security that is consistent with the need to protect the public. Following a review of the criteria for the categorisation of foreign national prisoners and their allocation to open conditions in May 2006, the Prison Service concluded that no changes were required of the policy. However, Governors have been instructed to take into account the impact of recent public statements regarding the likelihood of deportation on the risk of absconding when considering foreign national prisoners for Category D status and allocation to open conditions.

All life-sentenced foreign nationals and those sentenced for serious offences were returned from open conditions to closed during May and have been subject to an individual risk assessment in consultation with the Immigration and Nationality Directorate before a final decision as to whether or not they are suitable to return to open conditions.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 819W, on prisons, what category of offences had been committed by each of the non-foreign national prisoners who absconded from Ford prison in 2006; what the term of the prison sentence was in each case; on what date each escaped; and whether the prisoner remains at large in each case. [77859]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The detailed information requested may be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. However, I can advise that, as at 18 July, only two of the non-foreign national prisoners who absconded from Ford open prison in 2006 remain unlawfully at large.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1623W, to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on prisons, when the report on reconviction analysis being conducted by the Research, Development and Statistics Unit will be published. [84673]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The report will be published on the RDS website (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/onlinepubs1.html) by the end of 2006.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget is per person per day for meals for prison inmates. [85100]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no set budget for prisoner meals. Governors have the freedom to decide what proportion of the budget allocated to them should be spent on food for prisoners. For 2004-05, the latest period for which data is available, the average public sector Prison Service daily food cost was £1.87.

Private Security Industry Act

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department made of the number of people that might request each type of licence under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 prior to the start of applications. [76850]

Mr. Coaker: As stated in the Government's White Paper (Proposals for Regulation of the Private Security Industry in England and Wales, CM 4254) in March 1999, accurate statistics on the size of the private security industry have always been difficult to obtain. The most recent estimate contained in the White Paper was that in 1994 there were 162,000 licensable people, based on research by the Policy Studies Institute.

In their 2004-05 business plan the Security Industry Authority (SIA) estimated that the total licensable population was just over 221,000. The SIA has continued to update its estimates in the light of operational experience and the current estimate is that about 183,000 individuals require a licence. The majority of this change is due to the revision of the estimated size of the door supervisor sector. A breakdown of these figures by each type of licence is in the following table.

Sector	*2004-05 business plan estimates*	*Latest estimate*
Door supervisors	95,000	62,000
Security guards	125,000	120,000
Vehicle immobilisers	1,200	1,200
Total	221,200	183,200

Probation Service

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to be in a position to introduce legislation to reform the probation service. [86353]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We set out our plans for the probation service in "Working with probation to protect the public and reduce re-offending" which was published on 30 March. We will introduce the necessary legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Public Enquiry Office

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent instructions he has issued for CCTV coverage of the Public Enquiry Office counter to be improved. [73706]

John Reid: The recommendation has been accepted and consideration of implementation is ongoing.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken since the publication of the report on investigations into allegations about the Public Enquiry Office in Croydon to find out the views of asylum applicants on the allegations made by Mr. Pamnani. [73696]

John Reid: The recommendation has been accepted and consideration of implementation is ongoing.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he issued to Mr. Tim Gbedemah concerning the persons from whom he should take evidence during the investigation into allegations about the Public Enquiry Office in Croydon. [73698]

John Reid: I am advised that Mr. Gbedemah's terms of reference are set out at paragraph two of his report. No specific guidance was given to Mr. Gbedemah as to whom he should and should not interview.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to introduce a new code of conduct for PEO staff; when he will publish it; what *(a)* training and *(b)* guidance has been given to PEO staff on the new code; to what extent the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's Security and Anti-Corruption Unit is delivering the training; and what guidance the code will contain on non-work related contact with applicants. [73711]

John Reid: The recent investigation into events at the PEO, carried out by David Stephens and Tim Gbedemah, made a number of recommendations, including that consideration be given to putting in place a code of conduct for PEO staff.

This recommendation was accepted, and is currently being acted upon. We hope to have a draft code of conduct available for consultation with staff in July. The document will contain guidance on non-work related contact with applicants. The detail is currently being developed.

IND's Security and Anti-Corruption Unit and PEO managers will jointly deliver the training to new and existing staff.

Road Accidents (Mobile Telephones)

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* deaths, *(b)* serious incidents and *(c)* other accidents have been caused by persons driving while using hand-held mobile telephones since 1 December 2003, broken down by police force area. [83519]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The information available relates to factors that are judged by the police as having contributed to a road accident in which someone was injured. The table shows the number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police in 2005 that have "Driver using mobile phone" assigned as a contributory factor, broken down by severity, as well as the resulting fatalities. This information is not available for earlier years.

Fatalities in, and the number of, accidents where "Driver using a mobile phone" was reported as a contributory factor: 2005

	Fatalities	*Fatal accidents*	*Serious accidents*	*Slight accidents*
Metropolitan police	0	0	6	47
Cumbria	2	2	2	3
Lancashire	1	1	1	8
Merseyside	1	1	1	10
Greater Manchester	0	0	1	18
Cheshire	0	0	1	6
Northumbria	0	0	1	4
Durham	0	0	0	5
North Yorkshire	0	0	2	4
West Yorkshire	0	0	4	5
South Yorkshire	0	0	2	3
Humberside	0	0	1	8
Cleveland	0	0	0	2
West Midlands	0	0	1	21
Staffordshire	1	1	4	11
West Mercia	1	1	3	8
Warwickshire	0	0	1	9
Derbyshire	0	0	0	4
Nottinghamshire	0	0	1	6
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	4
Leicestershire	1	1	0	10
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	4
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	9
Norfolk	0	0	2	4
Suffolk	0	0	1	2
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	4
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	7
Essex	0	0	3	11
Thames Valley	2	2	1	26
Hampshire	0	0	1	18
Surrey	0	0	1	6
Kent	0	0	2	13
Sussex	1	1	3	13
City of London	0	0	0	1
Devon and Cornwall	1	1	0	10
Avon and Somerset	1	1	0	6
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	5
Wiltshire	0	0	0	4
Dorset	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	1	3
Gwent	0	0	1	2
South Wales	0	0	0	5
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	4
Northern	1	1	0	0
Grampian	0	0	0	0
Tayside	0	0	0	2
Fife	0	0	1	0
Lothian and Borders	0	0	0	0
Central	0	0	0	0
Strathclyde	0	0	2	9
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0	0	0
Total	13	13	52	364

Road Safety

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists have *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* nine penalty points on their licences. [82442]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not collected by my Department.

I have been advised that it is available only at disproportionate cost from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

Schlumberger Sema Ltd.

Mark Fisher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times his departmental officials have met Schlumberger Sema Ltd. [11150]

Mr. Byrne: Departmental officials in the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) and Schlumberger Sema Ltd have had a series of commercial relationships since 1996.

Security Industry Authority

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number of unregistered door supervisors and security guards operating in *(a)* each English region and *(b)* the Tees Valley. [63132]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to calculate the numbers of licensed or unlicensed security guards and door supervisors on a regional basis. The national figures for England and Wales are as follows. The Security Industry Authority (SIA) estimate that there are about 183,000 people who require a licence to work in the private security industry. As of 5 July, the SIA had accepted 162,452 complete applications, granted 119,653 licences, and refused 4,231. The remaining 38,568 applications were in the SIA's processing system. On that date there were also 213 companies with Approved Contractor status legally able to deploy about 15,450 of their staff while their licence applications were being processed.

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the number of people employed and working in the security industry who have not yet received a Security Industry Authority licence. [71953]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority's (SIA's) most recent estimate is that about 183,000 individuals require a licence to work in the private security industry. As at 5 July, the SIA had accepted 162,452 complete applications, granted 119,653 licences, and refused 4,231. The remaining 38,568 applications were in the SIA's processing system. On that date there were also 213 companies with Approved Contractor status legally able to deploy about 15,450 of their staff while their licence applications were being processed.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Security Industry Authority in awarding licences to security personnel; and if he will make a statement. [74129]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) estimate that there are about 183,000 people who require a licence to work in the private security industry. As of 5 July, the SIA had accepted 162,452 complete applications, granted 119,653 licences, and refused 4,231. The remaining 38,568 applications were in the SIA's processing system. On that date there were also 213 companies with Approved Contactor status legally able to deploy about 15,450 of their staff while their licence applications were being processed.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of contracted security guards that are currently working without licences. [79301]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The Security Industry Authority's (SIA's) most recent estimate is that about 183,000 individuals require a licence to work in the private security industry. As at 5 July, the SIA had accepted 162,452 complete applications, granted 119,653 licences, and refused 4,231. The remaining 38,568 applications were in the SIA's processing system. On that date there were also 213 companies with Approved Contractor status legally able to deploy about 15,450 of their staff while their licence applications were being processed.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken to process licence applications for operatives working in the private security industry was from the date the application was submitted to the date the licence was issued, in each month since April 2005. [79304]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The Security Industry Authority (SIA) do not calculate the average processing times for applications. Some, such as those involving overseas criminal records checks, unavoidably take a considerable time. The SIA have a published target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued.

Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between four and six weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 12 weeks to process most applications.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the licence applications submitted by operatives working in the private security industry *(a)* are currently being processed, *(b)* have been granted and *(c)* were returned to the applicants because they were completed incorrectly. [79305]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* On 5 July, the Security Industry Authority (SIA) had 38,568 applications in their processing system, and had granted 119,653 licences. Over the past six months, the average monthly number of incomplete applications returned to applicants has been about 2,800.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licence applications were held for processing by the Security Industry Authority on 1 March. [62302]

Mr. Coaker: 23,413 licence applications were held in the Security Industry Authority's processing system on 1 March 2006.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken was to process applications for Security Industry Authority licences in the latest period for which figures are available. [82490]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The Security Industry Authority (SIA) do not calculate the average processing times for applications. Some, such as those involving overseas criminal records checks, unavoidably take a considerable time. The SIA have a published target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued.

Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between four and six weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 12 weeks to process most applications.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for Security Industry Authority licences are being processed. [82491]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* As of 5 July, the Security Industry Authority had 38,568 applications in its processing system.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to allow applicants for Security Industry Authority licences to work if the processing of their licences is delayed. [82492]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Applicants who have been trained and whose applications are being processed by the Security Industry Authority can be legally deployed under the Licence Dispensation arrangements available to approved contractors. On 5 July there were approximately 15,450 people who could be legally deployed under Licence Dispensation.

Somalia

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Somali nationals arriving on flights from *(a)* Nairobi and *(b)* Addis Ababa claimed asylum at Heathrow in 2005. [84813]

Mr. Byrne: Only locally collated management information, which might be subject to change and does not represent national statistics, is available.

In 2005, a total of 29 persons claiming to be Somali nationals arrived at Heathrow and claimed asylum, of whom 25 travelled to the United Kingdom from Nairobi and four travelled from Addis Ababa.

Staff Discipline

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in his Department *(a)* have been suspended, *(b)* have been dismissed and *(c)* have had their responsibilities significantly changed in each of the last three months. [77076]

John Reid: The data available in respect of *(a)* and *(b)* are set out in the following table. Data for *(c)* could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

2006	*Suspended*	*Dismissed*
April	4	7
May	8	12
June	2	3

Figures are as of 14 June 2006 and include staff in the central Home Office and the Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

The figures for HMPS could not be obtained except at disproportionate cost.

Staff Misconduct

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of staff misconduct have been *(a)* received and *(b)* investigated in each directorate of his Department in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [76919]

John Reid: I am advised that available figures are as follows:

	Directorate		
	Central HO	*IND*	*HMPS*
1997	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000	1	n/a	n/a
2001	14	n/a	1,174
2002	15	n/a	1,373
2003	18	n/a	1,475
2004	13	n/a	1,393
2005	6	114	1,360
2006	10	47	317

Student Visas

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas student visa holders there were in the UK in each of the last five years; and in how many cases in each year the student *(a)* (i) did not register and (ii) failed to attend a course and *(b)* worked more than 20 hours a week. [75224]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not hold central records of student offenders.

Superannuation Liability

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what total amount of employers' normal contributions accruing superannuation liability charge has been accounted for by his Department in each of the last five years for which data are available. [61364]

Mr. Byrne: The amount of employers' accruing superannuation liability charges (ASLC) in respect of members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme is detailed as follows, for the last four years. The figures represent the total ASLC paid by the Home Office, its agencies, non-departmental public bodies and all other public bodies on the Home Office payroll.

The Home Office changed its payroll system during the 2001-02 financial year. To collate ASLC figures for this year would require more manual checking and verification using paper records from the previous payroll system. The information for this year could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2005-06	236,044,265.37
2004-05	236,043,234.83
2003-04	226,228,555.12
2002-03	205,645,836.05

Note:
From 1 October 2002 new entrants have been able to opt for a partnership pension account, a stakeholder arrangement with an employer contribution element. Employers' contributions to partnership pension accounts are not included in the above figures.

Translation Services

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of translation and interpreting services for foreign nationals *(a)* in prisons in England and Wales and *(b)* supervised by the probation service. [77415]

John Reid: Neither the Prison Service nor the probation service separately record this category of expenditure.

Worker Registration Scheme

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1280W, on the Worker Registration Scheme, how many workers from EU accession countries are legally working in the UK, without being registered under the Worker Registration Scheme. [75813]

Mr. Byrne: Nationals of the EU accession countries (other than Cyprus and Malta) are not working legally in the UK unless they are registered under the Worker Registration Scheme or are exempt from the requirement to do so. They are exempt if, for example, they have been working legally in the UK for 12 months or if they are working in a self-employed capacity, or are working for less than 30 days.

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many workers from EU accession countries have *(a)* applied and *(b)* been accepted under the Worker's Registration Scheme since 1 May 2004. [77602]

Mr. Byrne: The latest published Accession Monitoring Report covers the period May 2004 to March 2006 and sets out the number of citizens from the EU Accession countries (A8 nationals) who have applied to register with the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) during this period. This report is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

World Cup Tickets

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been in relation to the touting of tickets to England World Cup 2006 matches *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* via internet sites based in England and Wales; how many of these have resulted in convictions; and if he will make a statement. [84971]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not available centrally. Arrest data for ticket-touting offences during 2005-06 football season are currently being collated and will be published later this year. Measures within the Violent Crime Reduction Bill will extend coverage of ticket touting offences to the internet when the unauthorised sale of tickets for a regulated football match takes place within England or Wales.

Young Offenders

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many young people aged 15 to 18 years are in young offender institutions because of breach of an antisocial behaviour order, broken down by institution; [76021]

(2) how many 15 to 18-year-olds are in each young offender institution as a result of breaching an antisocial behaviour order. [81627]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not available in the form requested.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1066W, on young offenders, what mechanisms he uses to assess the progress of arrangements within young offender institutions designed to promote family contact. [84672]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Key policy requirements in relation to maintaining family contact through social visits, correspondence and by telephone are subject to review through local and national audit processes. In addition, establishments are, on occasion, subject to thorough inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons. Independent monitoring boards are also able to highlight good practice or areas of concern in their annual reports to the Secretary of State. Units accommodating under 18-year-olds are subject to monitoring by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

Detailed information on the arrangements made by individual young offender institutions to promote and evaluate family contact is not held centrally.

Youth Offending Initiatives (Funding)

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much of the £500,000 allocated in June 2005 to fund individual support orders has been spent; [78400]

(2) how many youth offending teams have submitted plans to the Youth Justice Board for 2006-07 which include provision for individual support orders in the budget; and what guidance he plans to issue to the Youth Justice Board on plans which do not include such provision. [78404]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The £500,000 allocated in June 2005 was available to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) until 31 March 2006 to fund individual support orders (ISOs) delivered by local youth offending teams (YOTs) to support juveniles with antisocial behaviour orders. 31 applications for funding in respect of ISOs have been received by the YJB for a total of £62,000 to 31 March 2006.

As part of their plans for using the £45 million prevention budget for the period to March 2008, seven YOTs have included specific schemes for ISO interventions. All YOTs, however, are required to support interventions in support of ISOs whether or not there is a specific scheme. Such support may be delivered through another programme being funded through an allocation from this budget, such as a youth inclusion programme or a youth inclusion and support panel, or it may be provided through an existing programme. The use of ISOs is being actively promoted by the YJB and the Home Office, as an aid to helping YOTs fulfil their role in tackling antisocial behaviour, and action is in hand to ensure a better uptake.

Youth Rehabilitation Programmes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's budget is for rehabilitation programmes for youth offenders in 2006-07. [84889]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2006-07 the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) will receive a total of £96 million from the Home Office to be directed towards rehabilitation programmes. This sum comprises £34 million for intensive supervision and surveillance programmes (ISSP) and intensive fostering, £19.5 million for substance misuse programmes, £8.5 million for community education programmes and approximately £34 million for education programmes across the whole of the custodial estate.

Youth offending teams (YOTs) are primarily funded locally by their statutory partners as well as by the YJB and a proportion of that local funding will also be directed to rehabilitation programmes.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 19 July 2006

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

House of Lords

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House on how many occasions the Government were defeated in the House of Lords during this Session; on how many occasions the effect of defeats involving legislation were reversed by this House; and if he will make a statement. [85391]

Mr. Straw: There were 51 such occasions up to 14 July in the current Session. This figure covers Divisions in which Government Tellers were appointed.

There is no clear definition of a reversal of the effect of a defeat, since the response from this House, as well as outright acceptance or rejection of a Lords amendment, includes a range of possibilities such as partial acceptance or related amendments elsewhere in the Bill.

Parliamentary Answers

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Leader of the House what steps he has taken since his appointment to improve the *(a)* timeliness and *(b)* content of parliamentary answers; and what information he collects on the percentage of answers which are given later than (i) the day named and (ii) the conventional deadline for written questions. [86593]

Mr. Straw: Since my appointment I have made clear to the House the importance I attach to the timeliness and quality of responses to parliamentary questions tabled in the House. As I have indicated to the House, I have raised the matter directly with ministerial colleagues.

Ministers recognise their obligation under the ministerial code to give accurate and truthful information to Parliament and to be as open as possible with Parliament. Ministers also recognise the requirements that a written question tabled for a named day should receive an answer on that day and an ordinary written question should receive a substantive response within a working week of it being tabled.

My office offers guidance to other Departments about the handling of responses to parliamentary questions. Departments are responsible for keeping their own records on the timeliness of answers and provide this information to the House when requested by the Select Committee on Public Administration or through Members' questions. I also intend regularly to monitor these statistics from the start of the next Session.

Short Money

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many members of staff are paid for out of Short money on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition; how many staff were paid for from this allowance in each of the previous four years; and if he will make a statement; [86152]

(2) for what purposes Short money may be used; and if he will make a statement. [86153]

Mr. Straw: Short money is given to Opposition parties to help them to carry out their parliamentary business. This can include research associated with Front-Bench duties, developing and communicating alternative policies to those of the Government and shadowing the Government's Front Bench. There is specific provision for meeting costs necessarily incurred in running the office of the Leader of the Opposition. Each Opposition party has to provide a certificate from an independent auditor each year to the effect that all the expenses claimed were in respect of the party's parliamentary business. No information is available to me about the number of staff employed by the Leader of the Opposition who are paid from Short money.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Website

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will ensure that the parliament.uk website advanced search function displays all document types that have been published since May; and what steps are being taken to remedy technical problems with the site. [85659]

Nick Harvey: As the advisory notice on the advanced search page makes clear, accurate searches of all document types since May cannot currently be guaranteed, although the general search facility is fully operational. Only the content of the *Official Report* is affected, and remedial work is under way to restore full functionality to the advanced search function in the near future.

World Squares for All Group

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what basis staff from the Parliamentary Works Directorate sit as members of the client team of the World Squares for All group; what remit staff have been given in connection with this work; and under whose authority staff are members of the group. [85958]

Nick Harvey: The World Squares for All steering group overseeing the feasibility study on Parliament Square includes representatives from a number of bodies who have an interest in Parliament Square and its environs. All the bodies are represented by officials rather than elected members.

Those represented include Westminster City Council, the Greater London Authority, English Heritage, the Royal Parks Agency, the Parliamentary Estate, Transport for London, the Cabinet Office and Westminster Abbey.

The Director of Estates represents the Parliamentary Estate on the World Squares for All steering group. His role is to act as liaison between the parliamentary authorities and the steering group. He ensures that the steering group is made aware of the impact of any proposals or potential issues and their impacts and effects on the Parliamentary Estate, ensuring these are fully understood by the group and their consultants.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support his Department is making available for home-grown biofuel production in Swindon. [86293]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave her on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 257-8W.

Diesel Spills

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with oil companies and retailers measures that could be taken to reduce the risk of diesel spills to motorcycle users. [86274]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government's Motorcycling Strategy sets out how we are working closely with a range of interested organisations to develop a clear understanding of the road safety risk of diesel spillage and to develop solutions. This is being taken forward in the Motorcycle Technical, Engineering and Environmental task group and the Traffic Management, Planning and Transport Policy task group, within which motorcycle users are already involved. I would welcome the involvement of oil companies and retailers and will ask the groups to see how this could be encouraged.

Driving Standards Agency

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has issued to the Driving Standards Agency in the last two years. [85808]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport has given guidance on the following topics to the Driving Standards Agency within the last two years:

Business Planning

Performance Management

Risk Management

Value for Money

Legal advice

Driving Tests

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* original estimate was and *(b)* most recent estimate is of the cost of the planned driving test supercentres. [85823]

Dr. Ladyman: The costs of the Multi-Purpose Test Centres project were originally estimated at £60 million; the latest version of the business case shows that they have reduced to £55 million.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made with the programme of new driving test supercentres; how many are planned; how many are open; in which locations; and what the timetable is for future sites for which land purchases are required. [85824]

Dr. Ladyman: A total of 68 Multi-Purpose Test Centres (MPTCs) are planned throughout England, Wales and Scotland. To date, sites have been acquired for seven new MPTCs at Shrewsbury, Newport, East Lothian, Gloucester, Ipswich, Upminster and Swansea.

Nineteen sites are forecast to become operational before 31 March 2007. None of the new test centres has yet opened, but the centre at Quedgeley in Gloucester will become operational during September 2006.

All the remaining sites are planned to be operational by October 2008. This will meet the implementation date of the European Community Directive 2000/56/EC.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving test appointments were *(a)* kept, *(b)* cancelled by the test centre and *(c)* cancelled by those taking the test in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) broken down by (A) region and (B) test centre. [85811]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table shows the number of driving test appointments kept and cancelled by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) for the last five years, for each DSA region and nationally. We do not hold records of volumes of tests cancelled at test centre level or those cancelled by customers.

	Applications	*Cancelled*	*Kept*
2001-02			
Nationally	1,504,892	21,469	1,483,423
London	359,256	7,018	352,238
Midlands	396,310	6,307	390,003
Wales	264,601	3,215	261,386
Northern	365,006	3,964	361,042
Scotland	120,042	965	119,077
2002-03			
Nationally	1,633,249	32,404	1,600,845
London	375,495	5,783	369,712
Midlands	436,990	14,211	422,779
Wales	295,995	4,371	291,624
Northern	396,944	6,811	390,133
Scotland	127,825	1,228	126,597

	Applications	Cancelled	Kept
2003-04			
Nationally	1,483,423	56,222	1,427,201
London	352,238	12,134	340,104
Midlands	390,003	21,461	368,542
Wales	261,386	7,116	254,270
Northern	361,042	13,826	347,216
Scotland	119,077	1,685	117,392
2004-05			
Nationally	2,019,042	50,921	1,968,121
London	449,034	20,390	428,644
Midlands	546,874	13,411	533,463
Wales	362,470	5,261	357,209
Northern	518,532	11,144	507,388
Scotland	142,132	715	141,417
2005-06			
Nationally	2,184,289	43,391	2,140,898
London	490,474	18,733	471,741
Midlands	585,842	10,233	575,609
Wales	399,346	6,441	392,905
Northern	548,673	6,737	541,936
Scotland	159,954	1,247	158,707

All test types are included, except for 2003-04 and 2005-06 when Approved Driving Instructor qualifying tests are excluded. This is because DSA's targets for keeping appointments did not distinguish between test types in the other years.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the costs associated with the cancellation of a driving test appointment. [85812]

Dr. Ladyman: During the year 2005-06, the average compensation payment made by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) for cancelling a car test was about £35. The total paid in compensation was some £311,000.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Driving Standards Agency on the hazard perception test; and if he will place in the Library copies of correspondence with the agency in relation to this issue. [85807]

Dr. Ladyman: Department for Transport Ministers have frequent meetings with Driving Standards Agency officials, as with officials from other parts of the Department, to discuss a range of issues.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has conducted into the effectiveness of the hazard perception test as part of the driving test. [85809]

Dr. Ladyman: In advance of the introduction of the hazard perception test the Department commissioned extensive research, including the following:

1998—The effects of hazard perception training on the development of novice driver skills. DETR Road Safety Research Report No. 4.

2000—Novice drivers' safety. DETR Road Safety Research Series No.2.

2002—The development of hazard perception testing. TRL Report TRL558.

Copies of the two DETR reports have been placed in the Libraries of the House. All reports are available from the DfT website (www.dt.gov.uk).

The Department is currently conducting further research which will evaluate the effectiveness of the hazard perception test.

Eurostar

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport where the unused regional Eurostar trains are stored; and what the cost to public funds has been of the unused trains. [82342]

Derek Twigg: The regional Eurostars are not in store. Five are in the course of modification and the other two are being used for testing of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

Hastings to Bexhill Link Road

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of the proposed Hastings to Bexhill link road. [86516]

Dr. Ladyman: All major schemes are assessed against the Government's five overarching objectives of safety, environment, economy, integration and accessibility. The environmental impact of this scheme was considered before provisionally approving the Bexhill to Hastings link road in the December 2004 local transport capital settlement.

Overseas HGVs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of heavy goods vehicles from overseas using roads in England and Wales. [86120]

Dr. Ladyman: Estimates of the number of foreign registered heavy goods vehicles on roads in Britain are not available. However, estimated numbers leaving the UK are published in table 1 of the quarterly bulletin, "Road Goods Vehicles Travelling to Mainland Europe". A copy of this bulletin is available on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_transstats/documents/page/dft_transstats_611744.hcsp

Transport Operational Command Unit

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many arrests by the Metropolitan Police's Transport Operational Command Unit have led to successful prosecutions. [85475]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

An accurate figure showing the number of successful prosecutions resulting from Transport Operational Command Unit (TOCU) specific arrests is not available.

The TOCU covers all London boroughs. In the 2005-06 planning year TOCU police officers arrested 7,952 suspects. They were all processed through one of the 32 Borough Operational Command Unit criminal justice units covering the areas of arrest.

Railways

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which stations will have fewer stopping services *(a)* under new franchise agreements completed by his Department since it took over responsibility for franchising from the Strategic Rail Authority and *(b)* under the specifications for new franchise agreements which are currently subject to a tendering process. [82308]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Transport completed franchise agreements for the Great Western, Thameslink/Great Northern and Integrated Kent franchises in December 2005.

Present service levels are contained in the National Rail timetable published by Network Rail. Service levels to be provided under the Greater Western franchise with effect from December 2006 are set out in the consultation timetable published by First Great Western in January 2006, as amended by the operator in announcements on 3 April and 15 June 2006. No changes to Thameslink/Great Northern services are proposed. Future changes to services in the Integrated Kent franchise are set out in briefing documents published on the Department's website.

The South Western franchise tenders have been received. The detailed specification for this is available on the Department's web site.

The specification for the new Cross Country, West Midlands and East Midlands franchises is still being prepared and will not be finalised until October 2006.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age is of the rail rolling stock operated by each train operating company. [85564]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 24 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1990-2W to the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen). The average age has not changed materially since this date.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the potential total saving from the Government's decision to specify a reduction in the number of services on some lines and to some stations in the First Great Western franchise area as part of the franchise renewal process. [85569]

Derek Twigg: The subsidy/premium profile for the Greater Western franchise has been published on the Department's website. This can be compared with the subsidy and premiums associated with the former constituent franchises (First Great Western, First Great Western Link and Wessex Trains) in 2005-06, published by the Office of Rail Regulation in its document "National Rail Trends Yearbook" and is available on its website.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of trains in each franchise were delayed in the last year for which figures are available; and what average number of trains per day were delayed in each franchise. [85804]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held by the Department in the format requested.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* incidents there were of and *(b)* prosecutions there were for (i) vandalism and (ii) trespass on railway lines in each British Transport police area in relation to (A) adults and (B) juveniles in each of the last five years. [85814]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Information relating to vandalism and trespass on railway lines is held by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of arson on the railways there have been since April 2003, broken down by *(a)* train operating company and *(b)* route. [85815]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Information relating to arson on the railways is held by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: general.enquiries@.btp.pnn.police.uk.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* incidents there were of and *(b)* prosecutions there were for (i) criminal damage and malicious mischief and (ii) trespass on rail lines in relation to (A) adults and (B) juveniles in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [85816]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Information relating to criminal damage and trespass on railway lines is held by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN. E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Road Safety

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road deaths there have been in the Leicester city council area in each of the last five years. [86141]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of fatalities in personal injury road accidents in the City of Leicester in each year from 2001 to 2005 is shown in the following table.

Fatalities in City of Leicester: 2001-05

	Number
2001	10
2002	4
2003	7
2004	11
2005	10

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there are in *(a)* the Leicestershire county council area and *(b)* in Leicester city. [86142]

Dr. Ladyman: The table shows the number of speed camera sites, broken down by type, which are operated by the Leicestershire Safety Camera Partnership.

	Leicestershire	Leicester city	Total
Fixed	8	7	15
Mobile	43	22	65
Total	51	29	80

There may be several camera housings contained within one site. The police have the discretion to enforce speed limits outside the national safety camera programme, and this could happen anywhere on the road network.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in road traffic accidents in (i) the London borough of Bexley and (ii) Greater London in each of the last five years. [86223]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries in (i) the London borough of Bexley and (ii) Greater London resulting from personal injury road accidents reported to the police[1] in each of the last five years is given in the following table.

Number of fatalities and injuries in personal injury road accidents[1] in Bexley and Greater London: 2001-2005

	Bexley		Greater London	
	Fatalities	Injured[2]	Fatalities	Injured[2]
2001	8	892	300	44,322
2002	8	976	281	41,227
2003	4	762	272	38,205
2004	2	730	216	34,365
2005	6	660	214	31,691

[1] Reported to the police
[2] Includes serious and slight injuries.

Street Lighting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the impact on road safety of removing or restricting the use of street lighting in rural and semi-rural areas. [85886]

Dr. Ladyman: Research has not been undertaken or commissioned by this Department specifically on the impact on road safety of removing or restricting the use of street lighting in rural or semi-rural areas.

The Highways Agency is currently reviewing the technical standard that sets the criteria for provision of road lighting on the strategic road network, including the road safety benefits.

Train Overcrowding

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce overcrowding on trains; and if he will make a statement. [77469]

Derek Twigg: We are currently seeing huge growth in the railways, with more than 1 billion passengers carried last year, and this is set to continue. To help meet this challenge we are investing record amounts in the network.

Focus is being given to improving timetabling, infrastructure maintenance and renewals and other factors that can impact on reliable delivery of train services, which in turn will impact on crowding levels. We are also considering different measures to increase the capacity of the network, from train layout and length, turnaround times and infrastructure improvements. Major investment programmes such as the West Coast Main Line modernisation project have already seen capacity improvements.

It is for the train operating companies to take decisions about the deployment of rolling stock. We will continue to review train counts and train plans to assess whether resources are being deployed effectively.

Transport Innovation Fund

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role the Transport Innovation Fund will play in generating sustainable increases in national productivity. [84375]

Dr. Ladyman: Through its productivity strand the Transport Innovation Fund will support national, inter-regional, regional, inter-urban (and exceptionally local) transport schemes which are expected to make a substantial and sustainable contribution to national productivity.

Wide Loads

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what guidelines his Department has issued to *(a)* police constabularies and *(b)* the Highways Agency regarding the movement of wide loads on roads; [86124]

(2) if he will introduce guidelines to police constabularies and the Highways Agency that wide loads should not be moved during peak times on motorways and major trunk roads. [86125]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has not issued any specific guidelines.

We have published a code of practice on the self-escorting of abnormal loads, prepared jointly by the Department, the Highways Agency, the police and haulage associations. It encourages scheduling movements at off-peak times when there is less traffic.

The Highways Agency and the police would normally restrict the movement of wide loads that have a significant impact on other road users to times which cause minimum disruption. However, disruption to other road users is not the only consideration. Other factors, such as safety, security and environmental issues (such as noise and disturbance in residential areas) can influence the timetabling of movements.

As there is already a general acceptance that loads should be moved at off-peak times I do not feel that there is a need to issue any specific guidelines. However, this remains under review.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria he has agreed with the greyhound racing industry in order to allow it to self-regulate in terms of animal welfare; and if he will make a statement. [86588]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA has set up a Greyhound Working Group to examine the welfare aspects of greyhound racing and to offer advice to Ministers and officials on future regulations and a code of practice.

The group has yet to make any recommendations. Our preference is that, whenever possible, welfare standards should be regulated by the industry. Self-regulation must be open and auditable, with the standards set and the effectiveness of the enforcers monitored by central Government.

Diversity Action Plan

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on the Countryside Agency's Diversity Review; how much he expects the consultation "Outdoors for All?" draft diversity action plan will cost; and how much has been allocated to the running costs of the diversity action plan for each year of its planned duration. [85470]

Barry Gardiner: Between 2002 and 2005 the Countryside Agency spent some £1.74 million on the diversity review. In 2006-07 spending on the consultation exercise on the draft diversity action plan is expected to be in the region of £1 million.

No firm figures are available on costs from 2007 onwards. A draft action plan is currently the subject of a public consultation exercise, and until that has been completed no conclusions can be reached about the activities to be undertaken during the 10-year life of the plan or their cost. The agency has estimated that the cost of pursuing the draft action plan might be in the region of £25 million over its 10-year life.

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effect on energy consumption of energy efficiency measures over the last 10 years. [79694]

Ian Pearson: Figures for the effect on energy consumption within the UK by energy-saving measures for this particular period are not readily available. However, for the climate change programme review, we prepared estimates of the effects on carbon emissions for the household sector in the 1990s and separately for the present decade.

The Government estimate that energy efficiency improvements in the household sector in the 1990s would have contributed around 4.5 million tonnes of carbon (MtC) of emissions reductions, that is, some 12 per cent. of 1990 emissions. At the same time, growth in demand for underlying energy services—warmer homes, hot water—would have increased emissions by 11.5 MtC; the increase in the use of gas for generating electricity instead of coal in the 1990s, which reduced emissions from power stations, and so reduced the associated emissions from electricity use in homes, businesses, etc, would have decreased emissions by 8 MtC; and smaller factors, mainly fuel switching by householders and changes to external temperatures, would have contributed a further 1 MtC of reductions. The overall effect on emissions was a net reduction of around 2.5 MtC.

In the present decade, before the effects of policies are included, we estimate that background energy efficiency would save a further 4.5 MtC. Increasing demand for energy services, together with the effects of the other factors described earlier, means that the net overall reduction in this period would be approximately 0.3 MtC.

The estimated effect of all the energy efficiency policies for households set out in the new UK climate change programme 2006, is an additional reduction of 4.8 MtC by 2010. Most of these savings are expected to be delivered between 2005 and 2010, through tighter building regulations and further activity under the energy efficiency commitment.

Data are not available to conduct similar analyses for the industry and service sectors, but the contribution of energy efficiency is expected to be similar in percentage terms.

Environment Agency

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Environment Agency's outstanding borrowing is under sections 48 to 50 of the Environment Act 1995; and how much of that borrowing is in relation to meeting obligations related to its navigation responsibilities. [86362]

Barry Gardiner: The Environment Agency has no outstanding borrowing. Its financial memorandum is very restrictive as to the circumstances under which its borrowing powers can be exercised and those powers have not been exercised. Therefore, there is no outstanding borrowing relating to the agency's navigation function.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the Environment Agency has reduced the fish movement enforcement budget. [84680]

Mr. Bradshaw: The fisheries grant in aid was increased by £3 million a year from 2002, and since 1997 the Government have given around £60 million to the Environment Agency to support its fisheries activities. At present, every Government Department is under instructions to make efficiency savings. This generally involves a fundamental review of the work to be done, and a reprioritisation of our responsibilities and how we manage them. Consequently, the Environment Agency GIA was reduced this year by £400,000.

Of the £5.8 million in GIA, £600,000 is spent on compliance checking and enforcement of fish movements. A reduction in GIA therefore necessitated a reduction in funding for work in this area by £150,000. If sales of rod licences are above target this year the agency may be able to make good part or all of this cut.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the Environment Agency has reduced funding for the salmonid improvement project. [84677]

Mr. Bradshaw: The fisheries grant in aid was increased by £3 million a year from 2002, and since 1997 the Government have given around £60 million to the Environment Agency to support its fisheries activities. At present every Government Department is under instructions to make efficiency savings. This generally involves a fundamental review of the work to be done, and a reprioritisation of our responsibilities and how we manage them. As a result the Environment Agency has had its fisheries grant in aid (GIA) reduced this year by £400,000.

Consequently, since the majority of the £5.8 million GIA is spent on salmonid work, a reduction in GIA necessitated a reduction in work in this area and the agency reduced its salmonid improvement project by half, to £250,000.

Recreational Boaters

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which recreational users receive services provided by the Environment Agency on its inland and coastal waterways. [86361]

Barry Gardiner: In line with the Government's policies on health, recreation and social inclusion the Environment Agency has a duty to have regard for all recreational users.

Waste Incineration Directive

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued to the Environment Agency concerning the enforcement of the Waste Incineration Directive in relation to the burning of tallow; and if he will make a statement. [86399]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1956W.

General guidance on the waste incineration directive's scope, regulatory and technical requirements was updated in June this year and is available at the following address:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/wasteincin/pdf/wid-guidance-edition3.pdf.

Water Companies

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the projected rate of return on capital allowed under agreed plans for 2005-10 with Ofwat is for each water company; and what rate of return on capital was achieved by each company in each of the last five years. [81090]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat publishes pre-tax rates of return—measured as operating profit as a percentage of regulatory capital value—in its annual report "Financial performance and expenditure of the water companies in England and Wales". Post-tax returns have not previously been published. The figures in the table have been calculated as operating profit less current tax, as a percentage of regulatory capital value.

At the 2004 price review, Ofwat set a real terms post-tax return of 5.1 per cent. When comparing this to actual returns the comparable rate is the "Vanilla WACC (Weighted Average Cost of Capital)". This is on a real basis and assumes a pre-tax cost of debt and post-tax cost of equity—on this basis the return that Ofwat set was 5.8 per cent.

Water only companies were allowed a premium on the return of 0.3—0.9 per cent.

At price limits, Ofwat takes companies' particular levels of debt into account before allowing for tax.

Post tax return

Percentage

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Anglian	5.1	6.2	4.0	6.4	5.5
Dwr Cymru	5.4	5.9	4.6	4.1	4.6
Northumbrian	5.9	6.3	5.2	4.6	5.6
Severn Trent	7.0	6.9	6.1	6.1	5.9
South West	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.2	4.8
Southern	6.1	5.2	5.1	4.2	5.0
Thames	3.4	6.7	6.3	5.4	5.6
United Utilities	5.7	6.0	5.7	6.0	6.5
Wessex	6.9	6.7	9.1	7.7	7.1
Yorkshire	5.6	6.4	5.9	5.4	6.0
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	4.8	5.5	4.7	4.7	5.2
Bristol	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.1	4.0
Cambridge	5.5	6.4	7.4	23.0	9.0
Dee Valley	8.4	8.4	5.1	7.2	8.6
Folkestone and Dover	9.4	9.3	8.1	6.3	7.4

Post tax return

					Percentage
	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Mid Kent	5.9	6.9	3.1	6.9	6.4
Portsmouth	9.8	8.6	6.4	6.6	6.3
South East	6.8	6.5	6.3	5.1	2.5
South Staffordshire	7.1	6.6	7.5	6.5	6.8
Sutton and East Surrey	6.3	9.9	10.9	6.6	9.6
Tendring Hundred	6.4	6.9	5.9	6.6	6.7
Three Valleys	6.1	6.3	5.1	3.8	6.3
Industry	5.6	6.3	5.7	5.7	5.7

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list in date order the *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by the Law Officers' Departments since October 2005. [81643]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Identity Theft

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1602, on identity theft, what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the prosecution of cases of identity theft. [73782]

The Solicitor-General: I have had no recent discussions.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Carbon Capture

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, what research he has commissioned on advanced coal technologies and carbon capture and storage since 1997; and what the cost was of such research. [85228]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK's Cleaner Coal Technology programme started in 1999. Under this programme we have supported 48 collaborative R and D projects on advanced coal technologies through four calls to the value of £13 million as well as a significant number of small R and D projects in collaboration with British Coal Utilisation Research Association for which some £150,000 per year was allocated. In all 174 Cleaner Coal projects have been supported to date, with an additional £3.5 million provided for collaborative Cleaner Coal Technology projects with the USA since then. Under the Department's New Technology programme (the successor to the Cleaner Coal programme) £3.5 million was set aside for carbon abatement (including carbon capture and storage) R and D projects during 2005-06.

We published two reports produced internally investigating carbon capture and storage and the results of these can be found in "The Review of Carbon Capture and Storage in the UK" and "The Carbon Abatement Technology (CAT) Strategy for Fossil Fuel Use", both of which can be found in the Libraries of the House. Both reports can also be found on the DTI Website at

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/co2capture/review.pdf

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/coal/cfft/cct/pub/catreportlinked.pdf.

Coal Industry

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what opportunities will be available via the Coal Forum proposed in the Energy Review to discuss development and export opportunities for clean coal and carbon capture from coal-fired generation. [86420]

Malcolm Wicks: As stated in the "Energy Review Report" further information about the Forum's remit and particulars will be announced shortly. We will need to take views on how the participants in the Coal Forum will wish to address the clean coal and CCS part of their remit.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* compulsory redundancies in his Department during the (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08 financial years; what discussions he has had with the Treasury about providing funding for this; what discussions he has had with trade unions representing officials in his Department about such redundancies; how many officials in his Department have (A) taken voluntary severance and (B) been made redundant in each month since January, broken down by (1) Directorate and (2) grade; what discussions he has had with the Treasury about head count reduction in his Department; when he expects to reach agreement with the Treasury about the next Comprehensive Spending Review; if he will place in the Library copies of advice his Department provides to officials on taking voluntary redundancy; and if he will make a statement. [81239]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This answer applies to the "core" DTI and excludes UKTI and all Executive agencies. The Department has just completed a voluntary early severance/retirement scheme and is currently considering whether any further schemes may be needed in the future to support further reductions in posts.

No formal discussions have been held with HM Treasury about funding of redundancy schemes.

The Department holds regular meetings with the departmental trade union side to discuss potential staff surpluses and proposals for early severance schemes

and is currently discussing with the unions implications for staff of meeting the Department's reduced administration budget.

The following table sets out the number of officials who have taken voluntary severance/retirement and compulsory redundancy since January 2006:

2006	Grade	Voluntary early severance or retirement	Redundancy
January	Range 5 (Executive Officer)	1	—
February	Range 3 (Administrative Officer)	1	—
	Range 6 (Executive Officer)	1	—
	Range 10 (Grade 7)	1	—
March	Range 2 (Administrative Assistance)	4	
	Range 3	1	—
	Range 4 (Administrative Officer)	2	—
	Range 5	2	—
	Range 6	1	15
	Range 7 (Higher Executive Officer)	3	—
	Range 8 (Higher Executive Officer)	2	1
	Range 9 (Senior Executive Officer)	—	2
	Range 10	3	1
	Range 11 (Grade 6)	1	—
April	Senior Civil Service	1	—
June	Range 2	1	—
	Range 3	2	—
	Range 4	1	—
	Range 9	1	—
Total		29	19

Group	Voluntary severance/retirement	Compulsory redundancy
Business/Innovation	13	19
Energy	3	—
Services	7	—
Fair Markets	1	—
Legal	3	—
UKTI	2	—
Total	29	19

The Department is working closely with HMT colleagues on preparations for the next Comprehensive Spending Review which should be resolved by summer 2007. Early discussions with the Treasury have focused on how the Department can make savings across all its budgets, including in the administration of the Department.

Staff considering voluntary early departures are able to access the Cabinet Office pensions website which explains the benefits available under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, and those accepting are invited to attend either a pre-retirement course or a course covering job search, setting up a business and pursuing self-employment.

Droit de Suite

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the total sum to be paid in 2006 to *(a)* artists and *(b)* artists' families as a result of the Droit de Suite law. [85365]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Artist's resale right is a new right in the UK and it is not possible accurately to predict the amount of royalties that will be paid this year. However, a study conducted before the directive was implemented, based on 2001-02 figures, estimated that, had the right existed during this period, approximately £1.8 million would have been paid to artists for sales of their works. A later study based on the period of March 2003 to February 2004 indicated that the total would be approximately £1.4 million.

In 2006 no money will be paid to the families of artists as the UK has used a derogation within the directive and the right does not currently apply to works where the artist is deceased.

Ethnic Diversity

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to promote ethnic diversity in the workplace. [85492]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has a public service agreement (shared with the Department for Work and Pensions) to significantly increase the employment rate of ethnic minorities. DTI is part of the Ethnic Minority

Employment Task force—the Government-wide group tasked with increasing ethnic minority employment.

The DTI also brought in regulations outlawing workplace discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief.

DTI funds ACAS and BusinessLink who both provide advice to businesses on equality issues and increasing ethnic diversity in the workforce.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83631]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor any of the Ministers in his Department attended FIFA World Cup 2006 matches in Germany.

Fuel Poverty

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas were classified as being in fuel poverty in each year since 1997; and what each figure represents per 1,000 total households. [85941]

Malcolm Wicks: The numbers of urban, suburban and rural households in fuel poverty in England are presented for all available years since 1996 using the current fuel poverty methodology. The analyses for the years 2003 and 2004 have been done using the respective combined years' datasets of the English House Condition Survey.

Note that all figures are quoted to the nearest 100,000 households. Because of rounding, totals may not sum to the official fuel poverty statistics. Small inter-year variations may also be due to rounding and may not be statistically significant.

Number of fuel poor households

Thousand

	1996	*2001*	*2003*	*2004*
Urban	1200	500	400	300
Suburban	3000	800	500	600
Rural	1000	500	300	300

Number of fuel poor households per 1000 total households

	1996	*2001*	*2003*	*2004*
Urban	282	93	70	68
Suburban	253	72	48	50
Rural	258	110	76	74

National Grid

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* Ofgem and *(c)* the National Grid company regarding undersea connector cables linking Orkney and Shetland to the National Grid; and when he anticipates these connections being in place. [86410]

Malcolm Wicks: None.

The provision of a cable connection to the Orkneys and the Shetland Islands is a matter for the transmission licensee for the relevant area—in this case Scottish and Southern (SHETL). It is the responsibility of Ofgem to ensure that any expenditure incurred in constructing the cable is economically and efficiently incurred.

Officials from this Department have held discussions with the Scottish Executive and Ofgem on the most appropriate way of facilitating those connections.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations his Department has received from commercial energy companies regarding *(a)* whether Government subsidies would be required to make the construction and operation of new nuclear generating stations viable and *(b)* the level of subsidy which would be required per nuclear generating station. [85593]

Malcolm Wicks: All responses to the energy review consultation exercise, which closed on 14 April 2006, have been posted on the DTI website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review/consultation-submissions/page27883.html.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to discuss with directors of *(a)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and *(b)* the Office for Civil Nuclear Security the adequacy of safety and security inspectors in the event that private operators come forward with proposals to build new nuclear power plants. [86088]

Malcolm Wicks: Issues relating to the allocation of existing regulatory staff, or the recruitment of additional staff to deal with proposals for new nuclear power plants, will be a matter for the directors of the respective independent regulators.

The availability of regulatory resources is one issue amongst many that would feature in any future discussions that the Department held on such proposals.

Postal Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of the Post Office network. [86227]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI is backing the efforts of the management of Post Office Ltd. to turn the business around and create a network appropriate for the 21st century. We have invested over £2 billion in total since 1999 to help them to do so.

We want to see a Post Office network that meets the needs of today and the future and not those of 20 or 30 years ago. The DTI are discussing with other Government Departments and Post Office Ltd. how we can best achieve this.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact on employment in *(a)* Blaenau Gwent and *(b)* other local economies of the closure of local post offices. [84952]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are committed to a viable Post Office network and have invested more than £2 billion to help maintain it. We continue to support the rural post office network with annual Social Network Payments of £150 million until 2008 and the policy of preventing avoidable closures of rural post offices remains in place. The Department is in discussion with Post Office Ltd. and other Government Departments about the future of the network. Decisions will be taken after proper consideration of all the issues.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions have taken place between *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department and Royal Mail on the new pricing system due to be introduced on 21 August; and if he will make a statement. [85769]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. This is a matter for Postcomm, the independent regulator for postal services.

Postcomm's decision to introduce pricing in proportion followed extensive consultations and detailed discussions with Royal Mail.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the Post Office on the accuracy of post box collection times; and how many *(a)* early and *(b)* late collections were recorded in the latest period for which figures are available. [85914]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. Adam Crozier, the Chief Executive of Royal Mail has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Royal Mail

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions have taken place between Royal Mail and officials from his Department about the percentage of shares to be retained by the Government after the proposed employee share scheme. [86225]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Royal Mail has submitted proposals on an employee share ownership scheme and these proposals are currently under consideration by the Department. Ministers and officials meet Royal Mail representatives on a regular basis and have discussed these proposals with them. No decisions have been made on whether to introduce a share scheme.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions have taken place between his Department and Royal Mail on possible job losses in the Royal Mail group. [86226]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have given the Royal Mail group greater commercial freedom and have established an arm's length relationship so that the board can operate the business as it decides best to meet the challenges of market development and changing customer needs.

The Department has held discussions with Royal Mail about its plans to modernise the business through the introduction of new technology and equipment. It is for the Royal Mail management to decide on the appropriate size of the Royal Mail work force as a result of this modernisation.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much Government funding has been provided to the Royal Mail in each of the last five years; and how it has been allocated. [86228]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Government support has been provided by permitting Royal Mail and POL to utilise accumulated profits held in reserves on the Royal Mail balance sheet and direct funding from Government. These amount to £2 billion since 1998. The direct funding related to the urban reinvention programme and Your Guide were provided as follows:

£000

	Urban Reinvention	*Your Guide*
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	10,896	25,000
2003-04	72,359	—
2004-05	72,812	—
2005-06	17,869	—

In 2003, loan facilities amounting to £1,044,000 were put in place but Royal Mail has not drawn down on these.

Small Arms Trade

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward legislation to control the overseas brokering of small arms by UK citizens and UK registered companies. [86375]

Malcolm Wicks: Controls on the trafficking and brokering of military goods were introduced in 2004. Trafficking and brokering of small arms done overseas by UK persons already requires a UK trade licence when the goods are being transferred to an embargoed destination (and a licence would normally be refused).

I am planning next year to review the effectiveness of the controls introduced in 2004 and would be happy at that stage to consider the scope of their application.

South East England Development Agency

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the annual expenditure of the South East England Development Agency in each *(a)* county and *(b)* unitary authority in the south-east of England was in each year since its inception. [86258]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the question answered on 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, Columns 43-44W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Slave Trade

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had on establishing a national slavery memorial day. [86345]

Mr. Lammy: There is already a UN International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on 23 August. Some cities in the UK, such as Liverpool, already mark this with a significant range of events and activities. With the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade approaching in 2007, some members of the Deputy Prime Minister's Advisory Group, and others, have asked for a memorial day specific to Britain. There are differences of opinion about which date is most appropriate, and whether the focus should be on a day or other commemorative activities. Our aim is to ensure that all communities are able to mark this important event in ways that they feel are most appropriate.

Tourism (South West)

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists have visited the South West region in each year since 1997. [86096]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 18 July 2006]*: The following tables set out the number of visits to the South West region from (i) overseas and (ii) the UK where this included an overnight stay. Information is provided between 2000 and 2005; equivalent data prior to this period are not available.

Inbound visits to the South West by year

	Visit (all)
2000	2,042
2001	1,689
2002	1,852
2003	1,885
2004	2,033
2005	[1]2,137

[1] 2005 data are provisional. *Source*: International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Domestic overnight trips to the South West by year

	Visit (all)
2000	24,700
2001	25,200
2002	26,000
2003	22,800
2004	[1]20,500
2005	[2]21,280

[1] VisitBritain believes the old UKTS methodology significantly underreported 2004. [2] In 2005 an improved methodology was introduced for UKTS so direct comparison with previous years is not appropriate. *Source*: UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

In addition, the South West region receives a substantial number of day visitors; the last Leisure Day Visitors Survey in 2002-03 recorded a total of 48 million day visitors to the region.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid his Department is providing to people displaced from eastern Burma; and if he will make a statement. [86016]

Mr. Thomas: There are three types of internally displaced people (IDPs) in eastern Burma. These are (with the latest available numbers, from October 2005): (i) people in temporary settlements in ceasefire areas administered by ethnic nationalities (340,000); (ii) villagers who have been evicted by the Burmese Government and moved into designated relocation sites (108,000); and (iii) civilians hiding from the Burmese Army in areas most affected by armed conflict (92,000).

The recent military offensive against the Karen people has swelled the number of civilians hiding in conflict areas by at least 15,000. DFID's approach to providing emergency assistance to these IDPs has been to work through local community groups inside Burma. This is a complementary approach to the use of relief teams operating cross-border from Thailand, and it enables access to IDPs who would not be reached by any other means, and through a mechanism which is much less-well supported by other donors. The development of civil society within the country is also a fundamental step in a successful transition to democracy.

The number of IDPs that we can reach from inside the country is limited. Access is difficult, and the small local groups with whom we are working do not currently have the capacity to deliver greater volumes of emergency relief—although we are working to strengthen their ability to do more. Those delivering assistance to IDPs cross-border from Thailand face similar challenges. Therefore, we recognise the importance of maintaining co-ordination with all donors (both those delivering assistance cross border, and those working inside the country) to ensure that together we manage to reach as many IDPs as possible.

DFID also provides support to IDPs in temporary settlements in ceasefire areas in eastern Burma through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to which we provide £500,000 a year, of which approximately 75 per cent. is attributable to work with displaced people in this area.

In addition, our health, education and rural livelihood projects provide assistance in eastern Burma, and support internally displaced people in temporary settlements and designated relocation sites there, as well as other vulnerable people.

DFID is also providing support to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working among displaced Burmese people in the refugee camps on the Thai side of the Thai-Burma border—as a grant to the Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) of £1.8 million over three years. In addition, the UK contributes approximately the same amount again as its share of the EC's support to the TBBC. The British Embassy in Bangkok advocates on behalf of Burmese refugees living in Thailand through the United Nations

High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to improve the situation in the refugee camps in Thailand and to bring about a relaxation of the regulations prohibiting freedom of movement and employment outside the camps.

In parallel, the Government fully support international efforts, particularly through the UN, to bring about tangible progress in restoring democratic freedoms and full respect for human rights. The UK has co-sponsored successive highly critical UN resolutions on Burma and played a leading role in drafting the resolution most recently adopted at the UN General Assembly in December 2005. This expressed grave concern at the attacks by military forces in violation of cease-fire agreements and called on the regime to end the systematic violations of human rights, including enforced displacement.

UN Security Council members last discussed the situation in Burma on 16 December under 'Any Other Business'. In this discussion, the UK highlighted the on-going human rights abuses, the detention of political prisoners, internal conflicts and the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Though there was no consensus to issue a presidential statement or other formal report, the discussions reflected the concern felt in many parts of the international community over the regime's failure to make progress towards democracy and to respect international human rights norms. At present there is no agreement within the Security Council, including among the permanent members, to add Burma to the Council's formal agenda, but the UK, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, will continue to co-ordinate closely with the UN and partners in the Security Council and the region in considering how best to maintain pressure for positive change in Burma.

Child Labour

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the extent of the use of child labour in *(a)* Tunisia, *(b)* Cameroon and *(c)* Tanzania. [86022]

Hilary Benn: DFID has not carried out assessments in these countries but helps to support the work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the leading international body which sets and monitors labour standards including child labour. In their global report on child labour published in May this year, the ILO reported an 11 per cent. fall in child labour globally since 2000. However, progress has been slowest in sub-Saharan Africa where 26 per cent. of children are economically active.

In its national strategy for growth and poverty reduction, the Government of Tanzania identifies child labour as a key challenge. DFID is providing over £110 million this year to support implementation of the overall national strategy. In addition, DFID is supporting multilateral organisations such as the ILO and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as well as civil society organisations to reduce and prevent child labour in Tanzania.

DFID does not have a programme in Tunisia and only a limited programme in Cameroon, which is focused on forestry.

Hospices

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to help improve access to hospice and palliative care in resource-poor countries; and if he will make a statement. [85396]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is committed to the development of health services that respond to the broad health needs of the population, and palliative care clearly has a vital place in this. DFID support is largely directed at countries where the health spend is less than $10 per person per year and often far less. The public spend in the Congo is $2, in Ethiopia $1.50 and in Burundi $0.70. Clearly these countries are not able to deliver the range of services that they would wish and realistically are unlikely to invest significant public budgets in palliative care. We support countries to deliver their health programmes and the priority interventions defined in their national health plan. Increasingly we provide resources through various forms of flexible budget support.

DFID officials have met staff from the hospice community on a number of occasions, most recently during a public consultation on a revised DFID health strategy. Many committed groups lobby DFID to make greater efforts on what they see as neglected areas in the international health response. Recent communications have challenged DFID to do more on palliative care, cancer services, neglected tropical diseases, blindness, disability, malnutrition and non-communicable diseases. DFID accepts that palliative care services need to be better reflected in national health plans and budgets and that realistically support needs to be provided through home-based rather than institutional settings.

Iraq

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to provide emergency medical supplies for children in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [86007]

Hilary Benn: The Iraqi health care system faces enormous challenges which long pre-date the 2003 conflict. In the early 1980s, Iraq enjoyed some of the best health care in the Middle East. However, by 2000, international health indicators for Iraq were comparable with some of the poorest countries in Africa. Under-five mortality had increased from 50 per 1,000 in 1990 to 133 in 2001. One in four children under five were chronically malnourished. Hospitals, clinics and water and sanitation plants suffered from chronic lack of maintenance.

DFID has given most of its assistance to the Iraqi health sector through financial contributions to international organisations that have particular expertise in health. These contributions include:

£5 million to the World Health Organisation (WHO), which has helped to fund the delivery of emergency medical supplies,

supported clinics and hospitals in Baghdad and Basra, and supports the Iraqi Government's Health Sector Working Group. More information can be found at http://www.who.int/en.

£32 million to the International Red Cross for immediate humanitarian assistance

£70 million to the United Nations and World Bank multi-donor trust funds for Iraq. These trust funds finance reconstruction in a number of areas including health. The UN trust fund has approved 10 health and nutrition projects, in total valued at $96 million. The World Bank trust fund also has a $25 million health rehabilitation project which finances priority emergency services, including basic medical equipment and essential drugs. More information on both trust funds can be found at http://www.irffi.org

However, many challenges still remain and DFID and the international community will continue to work with the Iraqi authorities to help them to rebuild the health sector.

Important progress has been made: health care spending across Iraq is up more than 30 times on pre-war levels; 5 million children have been vaccinated, and diseases such as polio, measles and malaria have declined; 240 hospitals and 1,200 primary health centres are functioning; and 20 hospitals are being rehabilitated and a paediatric hospital is being built in Basra.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Child Care

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will estimate the total cost of allowing close relatives to become registered under the childcare approval scheme so that working parents would then be entitled to *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* employer assisted childcare; and if he will make a statement. [85796]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Children with Difficulties

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* Mid Sussex are classified as having emotional, social or behavioural difficulties. [85834]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The information is given in the following table.

Maintained primary and secondary and all special schools[1,2]: number and percentage of pupils at School Action Plus or with statements of SEN who are classified as having emotional, behavioural and social difficulties[3,4,5]. January 2006. West Sussex local authority and Mid Sussex parliamentary constituency

	West Sussex local authority		Mid Sussex parliamentary constituency	
	Number	Percentage[6]	Number	Percentage[6]
Maintained primary	775	16.8	99	20.1
Maintained secondary	1,241	32.1	109	22.4
All special schools	219	14.8	44	15.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital school.
[3] Pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of SEN provided information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need. Information on primary need only is given here. Data are not collected on pupils at School Action.
[4] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[5] There are a number of sensitivities about categorising pupils by their type of need. It is important that anyone using the data should be aware of the concerns and also understand the limitations of the data's reliability and validity. There are a range of factors which may affect the data recorded: (i) definitions of each type of need are necessarily limited in scope and some are more difficult to establish; (ii) many children have a number of needs and it is sometimes difficult to decide which is the major need; (iii) professionals from education and health fields may classify some children differently and there is some evidence that parental background may sometimes affect diagnosis; (iv) the levels of identification of SEN and the levels of School Action, School Action Plus and statementing within SEN are very varied between local authorities—this is likely to affect some types of need more than others; (v) in some authorities funding policies may effect SEN identification.
[6] Number of pupils with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils at School Action Plus or with a statement of SEN.
Source:
Schools Census

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of his Department. [76793]

Mr. Dhanda: The chief accounting officer of the Department for Education and Skills is the Permanent Secretary, David Bell.

Mr. Bell has a Master of Arts and a Master of Education (Glasgow), and a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (Jordanhill College of Education).

He began his career in teaching where he became a primary head teacher in Essex. He has also held the posts of Director of Education at Newcastle city council and chief executive of Bedfordshire county council, before being appointed Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools by Her Majesty in Privy Council. He became chief inspector in 2002. David took up his current post on 1 January 2006.

The role of accounting officer is one that the Permanent Secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for Department-wide procedures in financial and other matters.

The accounting officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers, such as the Director General of Finance.

Departmental Staff/Teacher Numbers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the percentage change in *(a)* his Department's staff and *(b)* the number of teachers was in each year since 1997. [84258]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is set out in the following tables:

(a) Departmental staff

Year[1]	FTE staff numbers	Percentage change
1997	4,480	—
1998	4,500	+0.4
1999	4,560	+1.3
2000	4,970	+9
2001	5,430	+9.3
2002	4,820	-11.2
2003	5,020	+4.1
2004	5,130	+2.2
2005	4,550	-11.3
2006[2]	4,166	-8.4

[1] The numbers recorded are from April in each year. [2] At 1 July 2006

The information for 1997 to 2001 relates to the former Department for Education and Employment.

(b) Teachers

Year[1]	FTE teacher numbers (thousand)	Percentage change
1997	399.2	—
1998	397.7	-0.4
1999	401.2	+0.9
2000	404.6	+0.9
2001	410.2	+1.4
2002	419.6	+2.3
2003	423.6	+0.9
2004	427.7	+1.0
2005	431.9	+1.0
2006 (provisional)	435.4	+0.8

[1] The numbers recorded are from January in each year.

Early-years Provision

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* nursery, *(b)* playgroup and *(c)* day-care providers charged a fee in 2005-06 to make up the difference between the money received from Government to fund provision for three and four-year-olds and the cost of provision. [86389]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The entitlement should be made available free at the point of delivery. It is not acceptable for parents to have to pay a fee or for there to be any conditions attached to the free entitlement. This would restrict the choice of provider for some families and, in some cases, deny children access to the free entitlement. Charges for care beyond the hours of the free entitlement are a private matter between the provider and parent.

From April 2006, funding for the free nursery education entitlement to local authorities has been provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Local authorities have discretion over the rate at which they fund settings for delivery of early years provision.

The code of practice on the provision of free nursery education places for three and four-year-olds says that local authorities should fund provision delivered in different sectors on a fair and equitable basis, taking into account local needs and circumstances.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are *(a)* taking up and *(b)* eligible for the free (i) nursery, (ii) playgroup and (iii) day-care provision for three and four-year-olds in 2006-07. [86390]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not collected in the form requested.

Since April 2004 all three and four-year-olds have been entitled to a free, good quality, part-time early education place. The free entitlement consists of a minimum of 12.5 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year and will be extended to 15 hours a week by 2010. By that time, parents who wish to do so will also be able to access the free entitlement flexibly across a minimum of three days.

Some local authorities may additionally offer subsidised childcare places but information on this is not collected centrally.

The available information on the number of three and four-year-olds taking up free early education places is shown in table 1.

Provisional figures for January 2006 show that all four-year-old children receive some form of free entitlement. The figure for three-year-olds is 96 per cent. This covers all maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers and represents 538,800 three-year-olds and 558,200 four-year-olds.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 17/2006 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (provisional)" in April, which is available on my Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Final figures for January 2006 will be published in Statistical First Release "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (final)" at 9:30 am on 31 August 2006, which will also be made available on my Department's website www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Table 1: Number of three and four-year-olds taking up nursery education places[1, 2, 3] by type of early education provider, England 2002-06[4], position in January each year

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 provisional
Private and voluntary providers[5]					
Number	379,800	428,600[6]	445,300[6]	432,800[6]	431,000[6]
Percentage of population[7]	32	37	39	39	38
Number taking up free places	274,000[8]	365,100[6, 9]	388,600[8]	396,700[6, 8]	397,100[8, 10]
Percentage of population[7]	23	31	34	35	35

Table 1: Number of three and four-year-olds taking up nursery education places[1, 2, 3] by type of early education provider. England 2002-06[4], position in January each year

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 provisional
Independent schools[11]					
Number	56,800	55,800	54,700	52,000	48,100
Percentage of population[7]	5	5	5	5	4
Number taking up free places	31,900[8]	40,500[6, 8]	38,400[8]	39,200[6, 8]	38,300[9, 10]
Percentage of population[7]	3	3	3	3	3
Maintained nursery and primary schools					
Number	701,200	690,900	676,500	663,800	658,000
Percentage of population[7]	59	59	59	59	59
Nursery schools and nursery classes in primary schools					
Number	341,400	331,300	320,200	312,300	312,800
Percentage of population[7]	29	28	28	28	28
Infant classes in primary schools[12]					
Number	359,900	359,500	356,300	351,500	345,200
Percentage of population[7]	30	31	31	31	31
Special schools[13, 14]					
Number	4,800	4,400	4,100	3,700	3,600
Percentage of population[7]	—	—	—	—	—
All providers[15]					
Number	1,142,700	1,179,700[6]	1,180,500[6]	1,152,400[6]	1,140,800
Percentage of population[7]	96	101	103	103	102
Number taking up free places	1,012,000	1,100,900[6, 8]	1,107,500[8]	1,103,400[6, 8]	1,097,000[9, 10]
Percentage of population[7]	85	94	97	98	98

— = less than 0.5 per cent.
[1] Headcount of children aged three and four at 31 December in the previous calendar year, rounded to the nearest hundred.
[2] Numbers of three and four-year-olds in schools may include some two-year-olds.
[3] Any child attending more than one provider may have been counted twice.
[4] Provisional
[5] Includes some Local Authority providers (other than schools) registered to receive Nursery Education Grants; excludes independent schools and providers not registered to receive nursery education grants.
[6] Scaled up from the data as returned by providers to all providers of early years education.
[7] Numbers of three and four-year-olds taking up places expressed as a percentage of the three and four-year-old population.
[8] Providers returned the number of places for three and four-year-olds for which they had received or expected to receive funding.
[9] Local Authorities returned the number of funded three and four-year-olds for which they expected to receive funding.
[10] Scaled up from the data as returned by Local Authorities to all providers of early years education.
[11] Includes direct grant nursery schools.
[12] Includes reception and other classes not designated as nursery classes.
[13] Includes general hospital schools.
[14] Excludes pupils who are also registered elsewhere.
[15] Rounding of components may cause discrepancies in totals.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the total budget is in 2006-07 for the free *(a)* nursery, *(b)* playgroup and *(c)* day-care provision for three and four-year-olds; [86391]

(2) what average funding his Department provided per head to local authorities for free *(a)* nursery, *(b)* playgroup and *(c)* day-care provision for three and four-year-olds in 2005-06. [86392]

Beverley Hughes: For 2005-06, funding for children under five within the total of Schools Formula Spending Shares (FSS) was £2,886 million and the average unit of funding was £3,220 across all settings.

From 2006-07, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) replaced Schools FSS: £82 million was added to the total of DSG for 2006-07 to fund the expansion of the early years entitlement from 33 weeks to 38 weeks per year. Funding for under fives is not identified separately within DSG, and there is a single guaranteed unit of funding for each authority, the average of which is £3,640.

Extended Hours

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have indicated they intend to operate extended hours from the start of the 2006 autumn term in (i) each London borough and (ii) each region of England; [86158]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough operate extended hours; [86156]

(3) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools operate extended hours in each region of England; [86157]

(4) what guidance he has issued to schools on the charges they can make to pupils for attending extended school hours. [86430]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* We have a target for 2,500 schools to be providing a core offer of extended services by September 2006. This includes access to a varied menu of activities, parenting support, childcare 8am to 6pm, swift and easy referral to specialist services and wider community access. Currently, we have over 9,000 schools engaged with their local authority on the extended schools agenda with a representative split of primary and secondary schools. This is encouraging progress against our September target. We do not currently have data on the total number of schools operating extended hours broken down by borough or region. However, we do have data from a baseline survey of maintained schools published in September 2005. This survey showed that 61 per cent. of secondary schools and 40 per cent. of primary schools offer childcare or activities before school. The survey suggested that more schools offered activities after school hours—a total of 87 per cent. of primary, and 95 per cent. of secondary schools. In future we will be able to draw on data from the school census, which will include information about the extended services that schools are providing.

This Government have published guidance for schools and local authorities on planning and funding extended schools, including charging for extended opportunities, on 5 June 2006. It is intended to help schools plan and fund their extended opportunities in ways that will best support children, young people and their families; reflect local needs and circumstances; and build on existing provision offered by the voluntary and private sectors.

The guidance includes advice on what schools may and may not legally charge for. It describes some typical extended activities and how they might be funded. The guidance emphasises the need for schools to ensure free access to extended activities for the most disadvantaged children and young people.

Institutes of Enterprise

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent in each year since 1998 to encourage Institutes of Enterprise; how many new institutes were endowed in each year; how many students attended institutes in each year; and if he will make a statement. [85553]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Science Enterprise Centres (SECs)—sometimes known as Institutes of Enterprise—were created under the Science Enterprise Challenge Programme. The first round, which covered the academic years 1999/2000 and 2000/01, allocated £28,900,000 to fund the creation of 12 SECs across the UK. The second round, for academic years 2001/02, 2002/03, awarded £14,500,000, as continuation funding to six of the existing SECs and to create one further SEC, brining the total number of SECs to 13.

Student attendance for the four years of the Science Enterprise Challenge Programme is as follows[1]:

	Number
1999-2000	2,923
2000-01	11,998
2001-02	11,975
2002-03	24,397

[1] One of the SECs reported its student numbers as a percentage of the total student body, rather than as an absolute figure, these percentage figures are not included in the above totals.

After 2003 enterprise education became a devolved matter and, in England, was subsumed into the Higher Education Innovation Fund, under which individual HEIs have the choice where to focus their activities.

Language Learning

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many GCSE pupils in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire studied a foreign language in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement; [81445]

(2) how many A-level pupils in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire studied a foreign language in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [81446]

Jim Knight: Figures for the number of pupils who were entered for a GCSE foreign language in *(a)* England and *(b)* East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last nine years are given in the following table.

15-year-old pupils[1] entered for a GCSE foreign language[2]

	England	*East Riding of Yorkshire*
	Number	
1996/97	434,054	3,471
1997/98	442,130	3,427
1998/99	499,897	3,325
1999/2000	454,574	3,530
2000/01	468,487	3,588
2001/02	456,805	3,547
2002/03	449,376	3,551
2003/04	430,397	3,429

15-year-old pupils[1] entered for a GCSE foreign language[2]

Number

	England	*East Riding of Yorkshire*
2004/05	365,320	2,854

Figures for the number and percentage of pupils who achieved grade A*-C in a GCSE foreign language are given in the following table.

15-year-old pupils[1] achieving grade A-C in a GCSE foreign language[2]*

	England		*East Riding of Yorkshire*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1996/97	201,266	46	1,420	41
1997/98	204,683	46	1,559	45
1998/99	219,314	44	1,504	45
1999/2000	220,544	49	1,661	47
2000/01	231,884	49	1,700	47
2001/02	228,372	50	1,621	46
2002/03	214,336	48	1,342	38
2003/04	218,039	51	1,359	40
2004/05	210,895	58	1,653	58

Figures for the number and percentage of pupils who achieved grade A*-G in a GCSE foreign language are given in the following table.

15-year-old pupils[1] achieving grade A-G in a GCSE foreign language[2]*

	England		*East Riding of Yorkshire*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1996/97	418,977	97	3,337	96
1997/98	434,701	98	3,379	99
1998/99	445,061	89	3,288	99
1999/2000	447,319	98	3,478	99
2000/01	460,725	98	3,554	99
2001/02	449,451	98	3,497	99
2002/03	439,066	98	3,502	99
2003/04	421,496	98	3,379	99
2004/05	360,528	99	2,828	99

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Maintained institutions only.

2004/05 GCSE examinations saw the first pupils for whom modern foreign languages were not compulsory.

Figures for the number of pupils who were entered for an A-level foreign language in *(a)* England and *(b)* East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last nine years are given in the following table.

Pupils entered for an A-level foreign language

Number

	England[1]	*East Riding of Yorkshire*[2]
1996/97	41,750	181
1997/98	36,568	155
1998/99	34,484	145
1999/2000	30,997	142
2000/01	30,905	123
2001/02	28,252	116
2002/03	27,475	91
2003/04	27,052	85
2004/05	26,665	98

Figures for the number of pupils who achieved an A-E grade in at least one A-level foreign language are given as follows, and are given as a proportion of all candidates entered for an A-level foreign language.

Pupils entered for an A-level foreign language

	England[1]		*East Riding of Yorkshire*[2]	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1996/97	37,200	89	151	83
1997/98	33,606	92	131	85
1998/99	31,883	92	118	81
1999/2000	28,763	93	120	85
2000/01	28,673	93	103	84
2001/02	27,439	97	113	97
2002/03	26,848	98	87	96
2003/04	26,540	98	81	95
2004/05	26,222	98	98	100

[1] All schools.
[2] Maintained institutions only.

School Sports

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures he is taking *(a)* to increase participation in sporting activities at schools and *(b)* to widen the number of sporting activities that are available to pupils while at school. [86418]

Jim Knight: The Government are investing over £1.5 billion (including lottery funding) in the five years to 2008 to implement the national school sport strategy. The Departments for Education and Skills and for Culture, Media and Sport share a public service agreement target to increase the percentage of five to 16-year-olds who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality physical education and school sport to 75 per cent. by 2006 and 85 per cent. by 2008. The long-term ambition—by 2010—is to offer all children four hours of sport. Spearheading action is the creation of a national network of sports colleges and school sport partnerships.

Good progress is being made. Currently 80 per cent. of schools in England are within a school sport partnership and all schools will be by September 2006. The 2004/05 school sport survey found that 69 per cent. of pupils in schools within a partnership were spending at least two hours in a typical week on high quality physical education and sport, an 11 per cent. increase on 2003/04. The survey also found that partnership schools offer on average almost 15 different sports. Copies of the 2003/04 and 2004/05 survey reports have been placed in the House Library.

Slave Trade

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received on including teaching on the slave trade as part of the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [86344]

Jim Knight: Members of the Deputy Prime Minister's Advisory Group on the 2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade have raised this issue on a number of occasions. I am also aware that there have been a large number of letters on the issue addressed to the lead officers at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority who are responsible for

developing the national curriculum. Although we are reducing the amount of detailed prescription in the national curriculum, I am keen to see what can be done to ensure that this important part of our nation's history is properly understood. The £910,000 of funding that my Department is providing for the understanding slavery initiative (www.understandingslavery.com), in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, is an important part of this.

Special Schools

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advice his Department provides to local education authorities on the role of special schools in the teaching of students with *(a)* special educational needs and *(b)* behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. [86011]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* Our SEN strategy "Removing Barriers to Achievement" makes clear that we see a vital and continuing role for special schools. The Government believe that special schools have an important role to play within the overall spectrum of provision for children with special educational needs—educating some children directly and sharing their expertise with mainstream schools. We are promoting the participation of special schools in the Department's diversity programmes, including the Specialist Schools Programme, to make the most of the skills and expertise in the special sector, by promoting collaboration, outreach, training and other activities.

Special schools are specially organised to make provision for pupils with special educational needs, so all special schools will teach pupils with special educational needs. There is a wide spectrum of special educational needs that are frequently inter-related. Needs fall broadly into four areas: communication and interaction; cognition and learning; behaviour, emotional and social development; and sensory and/or physical.

The Department through its National Primary and Secondary Strategies provides materials designed to raise standards in teaching and learning for both special and mainstream schools.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the work of special schools; and what role he plans for such schools in the provision of education for children with special needs. [86417]

Mr. Dhanda: In 2003 we published the 'The Report of the Special Schools Working Group' which mapped out a future programme for the special schools sector. The report proposed that special schools should increasingly cater for the population of children with severe and complex needs; that they should be outward-looking centres of expertise and work more collaboratively with mainstream schools.

Our SEN strategy "Removing Barriers to Achievement" made it clear that we see a vital and continuing role for special schools. Special schools have an important role to play within the overall spectrum of provision for children with special educational needs educating some children directly and sharing their expertise with mainstream schools. We are promoting the participation of special schools in the Department's diversity programmes, including the Specialist Schools Programme, to make the most of the skills and expertise in the special sector, by promoting collaboration, outreach, training and other activities.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85185]

Mr. Dhanda: Statutory instruments produced by the Department for Education and Skills were reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments for defective drafting on six occasions during the period in question.

Sure Start

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children have participated in Sure Start in Leicester South constituency since its introduction. [86143]

Beverley Hughes: Three Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) covering 1,640 children under four and their families were set up in the Leicester South constituency between 2000 and 2003. All SSLPs are becoming Sure Start children's centres and will offer services to children under five years of age and their families. There are three Sure Start children's centres up and running in the Leicester South constituency covering 2,050[1] children under five and their families. Two of these centres build on existing SSLPs.

[1] 2,050 children include 771 children previously served by the two SSLPs that have become children's centres.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to publish the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland; which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations were involved in drawing up the draft guidance; what the timetable is for the consultation; and if he will make a statement. [85219]

Paul Goggins: The aim is to publish guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland early next year. In developing the guidance the Department has taken on board the views of representatives from a wide range of professional and specialty backgrounds including nursing and midwifery, obstetrics and gynaecology, public health, psychiatry, clinical genetics, family

planning doctors and general practitioners. It is proposed to issue draft guidance to interested parties for consultation in September.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who the members of the working party on guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland are; what relevant specialist qualifications each holds; what the career of each has been to date; what criteria were used in selecting them; how many and what percentage are on the public record as *(a)* supporting and *(b)* opposing abortion; when the working party has met; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; if he will list public meetings organised by the working party; who addressed each meeting; at what cost; who attended each public meeting; whether a record of each public meeting was kept; what the cost was of each public meeting, broken down by (A) administrative costs, (B) costs of refreshments and (C) other costs; and if he will make a statement. [85222]

Paul Goggins: Members of the working party were not asked about their personal views on abortion as the intention was that the working party should comprise individuals from a wide range of professional and specialty backgrounds including nursing and midwifery, obstetrics and gynaecology, public health, psychiatry, clinical genetics, family planning doctors and general practitioners.

The working party has met twice. The first time was 4 May 2005 at The Mount in Belfast and the second time was on 19 December 2005 at Castle Buildings, Stormont. The meeting on 4 May was exploratory in nature, and to enable a free and frank exchange of views no formal record was taken. Minutes of the meeting on 19 December at Castle Buildings will be placed in the Library. This document includes details of members of the working party.

No public meetings have been held by the working party.

Adoption

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the decision to allow civil partnership couples the right to adopt children in Northern Ireland. [85090]

Paul Goggins: No one has the "right" to adopt and the proposed new legislation will continue to uphold this principle. However, the law must establish basic criteria which a person must satisfy in order to be eligible to apply to adopt. Under Northern Ireland's existing adoption legislation, the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, a single person of either sex, irrespective of their sexual orientation, may apply to adopt a child. Only married couples may apply to adopt a child jointly. Civil partners, however, are unable to adopt either jointly or singly.

On 4 July I launched a public consultation "Adopting the Future", which outlines a proposed strategy for adoption services in Northern Ireland. One of the proposals designed to increase the opportunities for children to be adopted is that civil partners and unmarried couples (whether of different sexes or the same sex) living as partners in an enduring family relationship should be eligible to adopt jointly.

As is currently the case, where persons are eligible to adopt, they will be required to undergo a rigorous assessment of their suitability before any placement or adoption can take place. Every child deserves a safe and happy childhood. Where this is not possible within their own family or extended family, it is essential that every effort is made to secure permanence for the child as early as possible. If a couple in an enduring partnership can demonstrate that they can provide a child with a secure and happy home, where that child can thrive and be cared for into adulthood and beyond, the law should at least allow the couple to be assessed.

I am aware that this is a sensitive issue and would reiterate that these proposals are part of a consultation process. Everyone who has a contribution to make is welcome to do so and all views will be taken into consideration.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what precautions will be put in place by social services when children are placed for adoption in civil partnership settings. [85091]

Paul Goggins: In order to be approved as adoptive parents, any prospective adopter or couple is required to undergo a stringent assessment process carried out by an adoption agency over a period of several months. The assessment includes:

Checks on medical history and police checks
Current conditions in the applicant's lives
Relationship stability
Motives for adoption
Knowledge and experience of children
Capacity for the parenting role
Expectations concerning the child
Identity and culture
Relations and other social networks
Personality and interests
Religion and attitude to life
Openness to individual difference

Proper assessment is the key to ensuring that only suitable people are ultimately able to adopt. There is a range of qualities a single person or a couple need to demonstrate before they can be approved as adoptive parents.

Where an adoption agency has decided that adoption of a child by a particular person or couple would be in that child's best interests, social services are required to monitor the placement and ongoing support is available until an adoption order is made. Ultimately, the court will decide whether or not to make the adoption order.

Arson

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many arson attacks have been recorded on *(a)* homes, *(b)* commercial premises and *(c)* industrial premises in each of the last three years. [78505]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following table:

	Dwelling premises[1]	*Commercial premises*[2]	*Industrial premises*[3]
2003-04	637	173	45
2004-05	538	167	34
2005-06	686	212	46

[1] Dwelling includes houses (occupied and unoccupied) and caravans used as dwellings.
[2] Commercial premises include buildings such as shops, banks, licensed premises, restaurants, and petrol stations.
[3] Industrial premises include buildings such as factories, warehouses, and haulage depots.

Incapacity Benefit Recipients

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Department of Social Development has taken to assist those receiving incapacity benefits to get back into work in rural areas in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [86306]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) helps employers fill vacancies and assists jobseekers to find employment through a network of 35 Jobs and Benefits offices (JBOs) and JobCentres located in towns and cities throughout Northern Ireland.

Within the JBOs, personal advisers carry out 'work-focused interviews' to help those on working age benefits, including incapacity benefit (IB), identify any barriers to work and encourage them to address these, assess 'job-readiness' and assist clients into work or training programmes or towards other support which will improve their options and capability for work. The process has recently been improved through the introduction of action plans for people who are ill, have a disability or are lone parents.

The Department has been piloting the Pathways to Work initiative in three areas (Ballymoney, Lurgan and Magherafelt) since 3 October 2005 and in Newtownabbey, Enniskillen and Newry since April 2006. The initiative builds on existing provision and offers early, sustained support from specially trained personal advisers with the aim of helping IB recipients consider a return to work. The support package includes innovative health rehabilitation programmes with a work focus, to help clients understand and manage their health condition. New financial incentives include a £40 a week return to work credit to help "make work pay" for those moving into a job paying less than £15,000 per annum.

The pilot will be expanded to a further four offices by the end of 2006, covering 30 per cent. of clients making a fresh claim to incapacity benefit. The choice of pilot locations has taken account of the rural/urban mix and the potential impacts on the client group in rural areas. It is recognised that the costs of attending mandatory interviews are likely to be greater for those living in rural areas so travel costs are paid and interviews are arranged at a time to suit the client.

Beta Blockers

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is taking *(a)* to inform users of beta blockers of the proposed gradual withdrawal of this drug without causing distress or anxiety and *(b)* to ensure that general practitioners withdraw beta blockers gradually from patients with high blood pressure. [84941]

Paul Goggins: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recently produced clinical guidelines on the management of high blood pressure in adults; this includes new guidance relating to the use of beta-adrenoceptor blockers. Beta blockers are also used for a number of other clinical conditions. Beta blockers are not being withdrawn and remain a licensed medicine for use in Northern Ireland.

I recently announced the establishment of a formal link between NICE and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, and will shortly confirm the arrangements for determination of the applicability of NICE guidelines to the HPSS in Northern Ireland. The Department will give specific consideration to the communication of information contained in this particular guidance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people prescribed beta blockers in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months have ailments other than high blood pressure. [84974]

Paul Goggins: Information is only available on the total number of beta-adrenoceptor blocking drug items dispensed in primary care in the past 12 months. Information is not available on the actual number of individuals that this relates to or the ailment for which the drug has been dispensed.

Table 1: Number of beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs dispensed

2005	907,553

Source:
Prescription cost analysis, Central Services Agency

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients prescribed beta blockers for high blood pressure in Northern Ireland are over the age of 55; and if he will make a statement. [84975]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available for the clinical condition of high blood pressure or for the age group requested but only on the total number of beta-adrenoceptor blocking drug items dispensed in primary care in the past 12 months.

	Number of blocking beta-adrenoceptor drugs dispensed
2005	907,553

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis, Central Services Agency

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were prescribed beta blockers for high blood pressure in the last 12 months, broken down by board area. [84976]

Paul Goggins: Information is only available on the total number of beta-adrenoceptor drug items dispensed in primary care in the past 12 months. This information is not readily available by health board

area, nor is information available on the actual number of individuals that this relates to.

	Number of beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs dispensed
2005	907,553

Source
Prescription Cost Analysis, Central Services Agency.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost has been of beta blockers in the Northern Ireland health budget in each of the last three years. [84977]

Paul Goggins: The information is shown in the following table:

Total ingredient cost for beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs

	(£)
2003	6,451,614
2004	6,879,635
2005	6,806,766

Notes
1. Total ingredient cost refers to gross cost before discount, except for drugs listed in the Northern Ireland drug tariff that have already had discount applied.
2. The costs provided only cover drugs dispensed in primary care. Costs of drugs prescribed and dispensed in hospital cannot be captured central due to the use of different hospital IT systems.

Source
Prescription Cost Analysis, Central Services Agency.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the potential effects on costs arising from the transfer of patients from using beta blockers to other drugs available for high blood pressure; and how long the transfer will take to implement. [84978]

Paul Goggins: Information is not available for the clinical condition of blood pressure. It is anticipated that pharmacological costs may rise due to the transfer of patients from beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs to ACE inhibitors. Cost impact assessments made by NICE indicate however that full implementation of the NICE guideline achieved over a number of years might produce some savings as a result of reduced numbers of strokes and ischaemic heart disease. No estimate has been made of possible corresponding savings that might occur in Northern Ireland.

The timescale for implementation of this change is dependent upon the needs of individual patients. It is particularly important that patients do not stop using their medication without seeking professional advice.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have experienced *(a)* side effects and *(b)* life-threatening side effects as a direct result of being prescribed beta blockers for high blood pressure in each of the last five years, broken down by board area. [84979]

Paul Goggins: As beta-adrenoceptor drugs can be prescribed for a number of conditions it is not possible to tell from existing information if a person was prescribed beta blockers for high blood pressure. As with other medicines, there are a number of known side effects with beta blockers. All serious adverse drug reactions suspected to be related to any medicine, or combination of medicines, should be reported directly to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency.

The Department has no data on admission to hospital as a direct result of side effects/life threatening side effects as a result of the providing of beta blockers for high blood pressure.

Brothels

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many brothels he estimates there are in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* each police district command unit. [83913]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland has advised that it would be inappropriate to disclose the number of brothels they believe to be active as this could compromise ongoing operations aimed at disrupting such activities and bringing about successful prosecutions.

The PSNI continues to gather intelligence and information about such activities across Northern Ireland.

In September 2005 South Belfast DCU set up a drugs and vice team after analysis indicated problems related to sex crimes. In that DCU the PSNI have successfully closed down 20 brothels and charged 12 persons in connection with offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Dangerous Dogs

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there has been a review of the Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 since the legislation was implemented; and whether there are plans to review *(a)* the legislation and *(b)* enforcement of it. [86576]

David Cairns: The Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 has not been formally reviewed. However, on 19 May 2006 the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development wrote to all district councils seeking their views on the operation of the legislation with particular emphasis on any difficulties preventing effective enforcement.

The Department is currently considering the responses from councils and will meet in the near future with council representatives and other interested organisations to discuss the issues raised.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1009W, on departmental expenditure, what accounted for the increases in expenditure by *(a)* employment and learning, *(b)* health, social services and public safety and *(c)* the Northern Ireland Office on advertising between 2003-04 and 2004-05; and if he will take steps to reduce the amount spent on advertising. [77217]

Mr. Hanson: Further to my answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1009W, I have informed the

hon. Member in writing that figures provided for four Departments in 2004-05 were incorrect. This answer is based on the corrected figures given on 4 July 2006.

The increase in expenditure by *(a)* employment and learning is accounted for by the Essential Skills Campaign to address the problems of literacy and numeracy. The corrected figures show that spending by *(b)* health, social services and public safety decreased during the period. The increase in expenditure by *(c)* the Northern Ireland Office was due to the recruitment advertising of NIO posts locally and nationally. The corrected figures also show that expenditure by environment increased during the period. This is due to additional funding for newly launched road safety campaigns in respect of motorbikes, speeding and drugs and to increase airtime for the anti-drink driving campaign at certain times of the year such as Christmas and bank holidays.

Steps have already been taken to reduce the amount spent on advertising. A fundamental review of how Government procure and manage advertising has been completed. The review report, published in April 2006 and available in the House of Commons Library, sets out a series of recommendations which will contribute to an overall reduction in the amount spent on advertising and an increase in effectiveness.

Fertility Treatment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many women over the age of 55 years are undergoing IVF treatment on the NHS in Northern Ireland; and if he will estimate the average cost of each programme of treatment. [85050]

Paul Goggins: There are no women over the age of 55 years undergoing IVF treatment on the NHS in Northern Ireland. In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) is only available to couples where the female partner has not passed her 38th birthday.

The Royal Group of Hospitals estimate the current cost for a cycle of IVF treatment to be £2,875. This includes the cost of outpatient attendances, drugs, scans and consultant time.

Festivals

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which 10 community festivals in Northern Ireland received the most public funding in each of the last two years. [82878]

Maria Eagle: The 10 community festivals which received the most public funding in each of the last two years are shown in the following tables:

2004-05

Festival	*Funding provided (£)*
Feile an Phobail	360,037.95
Maiden City Festival	82,700.63
Ardoyne Fleadh Cheoil	75,080
Greater New Lodge	43,110
Tommy Makem International Festival of Song	23,000
Belleek and Fiddlestone Arts and Cultural Festival	15,783.19
William Kennedy Piping Festival	15,000
The Hills above Drumquin Townland: Festival	14,914.81
Armagh City and district council Mall Events Project	14,900
Living History Festival	13,097.40

2005-06

Festival	*Funding provided (£)*
Feile an Phobail	273,768.01
North West Rural Development Maritime Festival 2006	101,681
Maiden City Festival	84,150
Ardoyne Fleadh Cheoil	66,405
Greater New Lodge	36,660
Panarts (Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival)	18,500
Armagh Festival of International Folk and Song	17,500
William Kennedy Piping Festival	15,000
Country Comes to Town	12,000
The Irish Country Lifestyle Festival	11,113.17

Notes:
For the purpose of this answer, a community festival is defined as follows:
"a concentrated and orchestrated series of events with a common theme and within a defined period"
This definition is taken from the 'Community Festivals Fund Policy and Guidance Framework' launched in February 2006.
The answer does not include information on funding allocated to speciality arts and sports festivals.

Fuel Poverty

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in Northern Ireland are estimated to be living in fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [86316]

Mr. Hanson: The 2004 Interim House Condition Survey collected fuel poverty information on a household and not an individual basis and has indicated that the number of households in fuel poverty in rural areas of Northern Ireland is 61,470 and the number in non-rural areas is 92,060.

The Department for Social Development, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and all the public, voluntary and community organisations concerned with fuel poverty will continue to bring forward and promote a range of measures to address this important issue, particularly in vulnerable households.

Housing

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* house prices and *(b)* trends in social housing stock in Northern Ireland; and what steps he is taking to assist first-time buyers in Northern Ireland. [85436]

Mr. Hanson: The Department for Social Development publishes information on houses prices and trends in social housing in its Northern Ireland

Housing Statistics report. The following tables from the 2004-05 report set out the relevant information:

Table 1: Estimated median house price and percentage increase by purchasing group, October to December 2003 to October to December 2005[1]

Purchasing group	*Period October to December*	*Estimated median house price (£)*	*Percentage increase*
First Time Buyers	2003	66,666.67	38.1
	2005	92,076.40	
Home Movers	2003	94,366.20	37.9
	2005	130,136.99	

[1] Estimate derived from data provided to DSD, Statistics and Research Branch by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML).

Table 2: Trends in social housing stock 2002-05

Thousand

	NIHE stock	*Housing Associations stock*	*Total stock*
2002	113.4	19.7	133.1
2003	105.8	20.5	126.3
2004	94.6	21.0	115.6
2005	96.6	[1]21.3	[1]117.9

[1] The figure for 2005 is currently provisional.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive also annually publishes a report on the Northern Ireland Housing Market—"Review and Perspectives". The report covering the period 2006-09, which provides a range of housing statistics and analysis, was published in February 2006. A copy is available on its website at www.nihe.gov.uk and can be found under the Publications/Reports/ Housing Market Reviews. I will arrange to have a copy placed in the Library.

The review indicates that since 1979 the Housing Executive has sold more than 110,000 dwellings to sitting tenants accounting for almost a quarter (24 per cent.) of the owner-occupied sector and 16 per cent. of the housing market as a whole. The 2001 House Condition Survey provided the first reliable estimate of what proportion of these had been resold on the open market. In March 2001, some 94,000 dwellings had been sold and approximately 18,000 (19 per cent.) of these had been resold on the open market: two thirds to new owner-occupiers and the remaining one third to private landlords, reflecting the fact that they generally provide a good source of high-quality affordable homes, particularly for first-time buyers and landlords who see them as a sound investment. Between 2000 and 2004 the annual house sales figure remained at over 5,000 but in 2004-05 the number of dwellings sold fell by 24 per cent. to 3,135. The reduction reflected the introduction of major revisions to the House Sales Scheme and it is envisaged that house sales will remain at between 2,500 and 3,000 over the next three year period. Annual research carried out by the University of Ulster in relation to sold Housing Executive dwellings confirms that they continue to perform well on the open market.

The co-ownership shared equity scheme remains the Department's main measure for providing assistance to first time buyers experiencing affordability problems. The scheme has been very successful assisting over 19,000 households since 1978. In recognition of this success, Government increased their funding by £23 million over the 3-year period to 2008 to provide almost £39 million and this will help support around 2,400 applicants over this period. A series of changes to the scheme have also just been introduced to make it more accessible for people on lower incomes: the basis of calculation of the co-ownership rental charge will reduce from 3.5 per cent. to 2.75 per cent. As a result a typical co-ownership home buyer with a £100,000 property on a 50:50 basis will see their monthly rental reduce from £160 to £126. The professional fees associated with buying a home through co-ownership are also being reduced from £400 to £250.

Given the sharp increase in house prices, the value limits that apply to properties eligible for purchase through co-ownership have been reviewed. The limit for the greater Belfast and Derry city council areas has increased from £115,000 to £135,000 and from £102,500 to £115,000 elsewhere.

The Department has also been examining recent initiatives which were introduced to address affordability in the rest of the UK. The Chancellor, in his last budget, announced an increase in the stamp duty threshold to £125,000, and this will specifically assist first-time buyers.

Illegal Dumping

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in deterring illegal dumping in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to border areas; and if he will make a statement. [86299]

David Cairns: The Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) continues to work closely and successfully with other enforcement agencies, including those in the Republic of Ireland. This has resulted in improved communication and intelligence, allowing joint action to tackle serious incidents and serious offenders.

EHS, through its environmental crime team, has disrupted the activities of those engaged in the illegal waste trade. As a result, large illegal dump sites are being discovered less frequently. Officers are also discovering increasing amounts of shredded material, treated in this way to mask the point of origin.

On the evidence provided by EHS, the Public Prosecution Service took 47 successful prosecution cases to the end of June 2005, compared with 58 for all of 2005, and 24 in 2004. The 129 successful prosecutions to date have generated fines in excess of £210,000. Around 100 further cases have been scheduled for hearing in the courts.

Jobcentres

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many jobcentres are operating in *(a)* non-rural and *(b)* rural areas of Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [86318]

Maria Eagle: The Department helps employers fill their vacancies and assists jobseekers to find employment through a network of 35 offices (25 Jobs and Benefits offices, JBOs where a joint work-focused

service is provided with the Social Security Agency, and 10 jobcentres) located in towns and cities throughout Northern Ireland.

There are eight offices serving the city of Belfast, two in Londonderry, and one each in the cities of Armagh, Lisburn and Newry. The remaining 22 offices are located in each of the main rural towns of Northern Ireland.

In order to deliver the Government's policy on welfare-to-work the Department is working in partnership with the Social Security Agency to provide a joined-up work-focused jobs and benefits service. Some 25 of the planned 35 offices have been rolled out as JBOs. It is expected that rollout of the remaining 10, Andersonstown, Ballymena, Ballynahinch, Bangor, North Belfast, Cookstown, Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newtownards and Strabane, will be complete by March 2008.

MI5 Headquarters

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what costs have been incurred for the new MI5 headquarters in Northern Ireland; what the projected total cost is; and to which budget the funding has been allocated. [85444]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

It has been the established policy of successive Governments not to comment on such matters.

Police

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers are allocated to the Ards area of Strangford. [85089]

Paul Goggins: The police strength for Ards DCU is as follows:

Regular—143.75

Full-Time Reserve—20

Part-Time Reserve and Con part-time combined—56

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83169]

Mr. Hain: Details of the public appointments to public bodies sponsored by the Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland departments can be found in "Public Bodies", copies of which are in the Library. "Public Bodies" has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of "Public Bodies" contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. Comparable information for 1976 in respect of the Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland departments could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

More detailed information about the chairs and members of Northern Ireland Office public appointments is published each year in the NIO departmental report. Similar information for those sponsored by Northern Ireland's eleven government departments is published in their annual public appointments' annual report. Copies of the latest versions of both these reports are available from the Library of the House and can be found on the internet at:

www.nio.gov.uk/nio_departmental_report_2006.pdf and www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/public-appointments .

Rape Crisis Centre

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure the continued operation of the Rape Crisis Centre in Belfast; and if he will make a statement. [86319]

Paul Goggins: Government are committed to funding high-quality services which provide the best possible support for victims of rape and sexual violence in Northern Ireland.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has previously highlighted to the Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre (NI) Ltd. concerns regarding the failure of the organisation to comply with the terms and conditions of grant funding. These concerns included the keeping of proper records, sound financial accountability and proper corporate governance arrangements.

The latest financial verification report indicates a continuing failure to address the long-standing issues raised and the Department has now advised the organisation that it is mindful to cease funding and invited any comments it wishes to make on this matter within 14 days.

The decision to cease funding for any organisation which provides a service to vulnerable people is never taken lightly. However, in view of the continued failure of this organisation to meet Government accounting requirements, the Department has been left with no other option but to cease funding.

The funding that would have been directed to the Rape Crisis Centre will be allocated to other support services for victims of rape and sexual violence.

Road Maintenance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many motorists have submitted claim forms for damage done to their vehicles due to pot holes on roads in the last three years; and how many received compensation for damages. [86388]

David Cairns: The number of vehicle damage compensation claims related to potholes received by the Department for Regional Development over the last three years and the number for which vehicle compensation was paid are set out in the following table.

	Pothole claims received	Compensation paid
2003-04	940	586
2004-05	667	429
2005-06	668	364

Sexual Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department gave to the Belfast Brook Advisory Centre in each year since its opening; and what the rates of sexually transmitted infections were in Northern Ireland in each year over the same period. [85221]

Paul Goggins: Information is only available from 1997. Health and Social Services Boards have provided the following funding to Brook in each year since 1997.

	£
1997-98	52,702
1998-99	52,596
1999-2000	62,786
2000-01	83,356
2001-02	75,112
2002-03	79,347
2003-04	88,961
2004-05	107,469
2005-06	107,831

In addition the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has provided one-off funding to the organisation as follows.

	£
1997-98	nil
1998-99	1,875
1999-2000	10,000
2000-01	6,450
2001-02	9,000
2002-03	4,000
2003-04	nil
2004-05	nil
2005-06	nil

The incidence rates of sexually transmitted infections is not available. However, information is available on the total number of episodes (for selected diagnoses of sexually transmitted infection), seen for care at GUM clinics, in Northern Ireland since 1995. This is shown in the following table.

Calendar year	Number of sexually transmitted infections
1995	2,076
1996	[1]—
1997	[1]—
1998	2,650
1999	3,118
2000	3,504
2001	3,494
2002	3,741
2003	3,873
2004	3,930
2005	4,393

[1] Incomplete data

Notes:

Figures represent new treatment episodes of sexually transmitted infections occurring in the specified age groups, and not individual people. An individual may have contributed more than one episode of a particular diagnosis and to more than one diagnosis. Selected diagnoses for 1995 are: Postpubertal uncomplicated Chlamydia; Postpubertal uncomplicated gonorrhoea; Infectious syphilis; Anogenital herpes simplex (first attack) and Anogenital warts (first attack). Selected diagnoses and codes for 1998 and onwards are: Uncomplicated genital Chlamydia; Uncomplicated gonorrhoea; Primary and secondary infectious syphilis; Anogenital herpes simplex (first attack) and Anogenital warts (first attack).

Source:

KC60 return, Genito-Urinary Medicine clinics.

Speed Cameras

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which areas will be targeted by the Police Service of Northern Ireland to test the SPECS3 cameras to apprehend speeding cars; and if he will make a statement. [85052]

Paul Goggins: The cameras are to be trialled on the Kempstones Road between Dundonald and Newtownards. This is for the purposes of scientific testing only.

Stephen Murtagh

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the Stephen Murtagh case. [85057]

Paul Goggins: My hon. Friend the Member for St. Helens, South (Mr. Woodward), met Stephen Murtagh in April and decided that a review of the published papers associated with the circumstances leading to the death of Mr. Murtagh's wife, Janine, would be appropriate. The Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is conducting the review and will report to me in the autumn.

Street Lighting

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Department of Regional Development has plans to remove restrictions on the number of street lights in rural areas. [86303]

David Cairns: The Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service (Mr Geoff Allister) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mr Geoff Allister, dated 19 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding whether the Department of Regional Development has plans to remove restrictions on the number of street lights in rural areas.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

The main criterion for providing street lighting in rural areas is based on the density of housing although we also take

cognisance of night time injury accident statistics which indicate that the provision of lighting would contribute to a reduction in such accidents.

In June 2006, Roads Service Board agreed an extension to the rural lighting criteria to ensure a consistent approach to the lighting of important junctions on the strategic network. This additional criterion will apply when new junctions are provided, and existing junctions that meet the criterion shall be lit retrospectively over a number of years subject to the availability of funds.

However, in the course of its considerations, Roads Service has to seek a balance on the demand for additional lighting against the effects of increased urbanisation of the countryside and the environmental impact on wildlife, flora and the night sky.

Students

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many full-time students resident in the Irish Republic attended *(a)* further and *(b)* higher education colleges in Northern Ireland in 2005; at what total cost to the education budget in that year; and what proportion of this cost was paid by the Government of the Irish Republic. [84934]

Maria Eagle: The number of full-time students resident in the Irish Republic attending further education colleges in Northern Ireland in the 2004-05 academic year was 1,010. The cost of this to the further education budget in that year was in the region of £3.5 million. No element of the cost of the further education budget was paid by the Government of the Irish Republic.

The number of full-time students resident in the Irish Republic attending higher education colleges in Northern Ireland in the 2004-05 academic year was 2,249. The approximate cost of this to the higher education budget in that year was £7.8 million. No element of this cost was paid by the Government of the Irish Republic.

Suicide

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what provision he has made to assist families affected by suicides within the *(a)* East Belfast, *(b)* North Down and *(c)* Ards/Castlereagh area of Strangford; and if he will make a statement. [85051]

Paul Goggins: The Ulster Community and Hospitals Health and Social Services Trust provides a range of mental health intervention and strategies to support the families of suicide victims, including counselling for bereavement in conjunction with specialised agencies such as CRUSE.

Since February 2004, the Trust has been operating a Crisis Response and Home Treatment Team, which is available 365 days per year to provide an appropriate response to individuals who have attempted self-harm or are suicidal.

In addition to this service, members of this team assess any patient who presents to the A&E department of the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, suffering from mental health problems. Furthermore, the Trust has recently trained three staff in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training and arrangements are presently being made for suicide awareness sessions in local sports and community clubs.

South and East Belfast Trust offer the primary care route of referral for assessment of mental health and will offer bereavement counselling through Community Psychiatric Nursing and Social Work services. They can also offer to support families in a crisis through involvement with their Crisis Response and Home Treatment Team. South and East Belfast Trust also signpost individuals and families to voluntary organisations such as CRUSE who offer straightforward bereavement counselling.

Regionally, a Families Forum is to be established. This forum will nominate representatives to sit on the forthcoming Suicide Strategy Implementation Body and will allow those bereaved by suicide to have a major say in the implementation of the Strategy.

Vaccination

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the most recent take-up rate is of MMR vaccine, broken down by council district in Northern Ireland. [85729]

Paul Goggins: Information on the take-up of MMR vaccine broken down by council district area is not collected centrally. However, the Department collects information from health and social services (HSS) boards on the immunisation status of each board's resident children with regard to several conditions including MMR.

The latest available information on MMR immunisations by HSS Boards is detailed in the following table, which shows the percentage of children resident in each board's administrative area that completed a primary course of MMR immunisations at any time before their second birthday, which occurred during the year ending 31 March 2005.

Board of Residence	*MMR (Percentage)*
Eastern	86.2
Northern	89.3
Southern	90.1
Western	88.2
Northern Ireland	88.4

Valuation and Lands Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1872W, on the Valuation and Lands Agency, when the documentation will be placed in the Library. [85448]

Mr. Hanson: These documents were placed in the Library on 28 June 2006.

Wind Turbines (Hospitals)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 216W, on wind turbines (acute hospitals), whether other acute hospitals have expressed an interest in having a wind turbine constructed at their sites in the next 12 months. [85727]

Paul Goggins: Causeway Hospital, Coleraine, has expressed an interest in developing a wind turbine installation on the site within the next 12 months.

PRIME MINISTER

G8 Summit

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Prime Minister if he will raise the issue of the Russian Federation's level of compliance with the Energy Charter Treaty and its transit protocol with President Putin at the forthcoming G8 Summit in St. Petersburg. [85092]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to my statement of 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 151-54.

Honours

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will ensure that *(a)* individuals who use tax havens and *(b)* directors whose firms are involved in (i) exploitation of cheap labour at home or overseas, (ii) tax avoidance or price fixing and (iii) health and safety violations are not considered for honours. [83379]

The Prime Minister: Guidance for nominating potential recipients of honours and the criteria for consideration for awards of honours are available on the Cabinet Office website (www.honours.gov.uk) and in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Behaviour

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with Sir John Bourn on matters concerning the behaviour of Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [85015]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Maldon and Chelmsford East (Mr. Whittingdale) during my evidence to the Liaison Committee on 4 July.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Medical Services

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review *(a)* the contract with Atos Medical Services as part of the Welfare Reform Programme and the Disability Equality Duty scheme and *(b)* the training requirements for Atos medical staff. [84388]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* The contract between the Department and Atos Origin is reviewed on an on-going basis to ensure it delivers services that are fully compliant with all current relevant legislation.

Each year a programme of continuing medical education is agreed with Atos Origin that identifies training need priorities for all Atos medical practitioners. Participation is mandatory and ensures medical knowledge and expertise is kept up to date. Implementation is monitored through an established governance framework. Any changes or amendments to the contracted service arising from changes in business requirements include a review of the training requirements for doctors.

Benefit Claimants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to tackle the perceived stigma of claiming benefits by people in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [84955]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) is currently undertaking its annual monitoring of the rural proofing of Government policy. The CRC has appointed a team of consultants who will be interviewing officials from each Government Department on selected subjects. One subject selected for the DWP is the payment of benefits. The interviews are expected to take place this month.

The Department also produces an internal annual Rural Proofing Report for the Countryside Agency; this includes examples of how the Department has addressed service delivery issues in rural areas. A copy of the Countryside Agency's Rural Proofing Report for 2004-05 is available in the Library.

A fundamental element of our plans for the future is the need to transform the way customers access and use the services of Jobcentre Plus so we can release resources to focus on customers who need more help. Customers are no longer required to attend our offices to make claims for benefits, undertake jobsearch activities or to enquire about their benefit payments. As we transform our services, other more efficient channels are now available to our customers, such as Jobseeker Direct, Interactive TV, or the Jobcentre Plus website, and these new options will greatly assist our customers living in rural areas.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely impact in each region of introducing a lower rate of benefit for young people under the age of 25 claiming the proposed employment and support allowance. [78108]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The proposal in the Green Paper was to align the basic rate of the employment and support allowance with jobseeker's allowance basic rates. In the main phase, a work-related activity component or support component would be added on top.

During the consultation period, stakeholders raised concerns that this would penalise disabled young people. Therefore, in our consultation report we announced that we will not proceed with plans for a young person's rate during the main phase. Claimants will get the same benefit rate, regardless of age, once on the main phase of the benefit. We believe that this provides the best balance between aligning rates until the medical assessment is completed, and making sure

we provide an appropriate level of support for all people with health conditions or disabilities.

The Green Paper consultation report (CM6859) is available in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities had an increase in the numbers of incapacity benefit claimants between 2001 and 2005. [86398]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* The information has been placed in the Library.

Job Vacancies (Hartlepool)

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were listed at Jobcentre Plus in Hartlepool constituency in each year since 1997. [77176]

Mr. Jim Murphy: *[pursuant to the reply, 26 June 2006, Official Report,* column 54W]: Information on Jobcentre Plus vacancy data at parliamentary constituency level is only available from April 2004 and is set out in the following table.

Hartlepool Parliamentary Constituency

Period	*Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus*	*Average number of 'live' unfilled vacancies on any given day*
2004 (from April)	5,040	1,150
2005	5,080	1,120

Source: Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Pensioners

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the amount spent by his Department, including the costs spent on administration costs, responding to requests from pensioners who live abroad and have their pensions frozen in each year since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [83378]

James Purnell: Information that is available is in the following tables. We are unable to provide costs prior to 2004-05.

Costs for 2004/05 and 2005-06

	2004-05	*2005-2006*	*£million Total*
Frozen state pension paid to pensioners living abroad	870.58	900.17	1770.75
Direct costs to administer frozen state pensions for pensioners who live abroad.	3.6	3.8	7.4
Total	874. 18	903.97	1778.15

Costs For The First Three Months Of The Financial Year 2006-07

	£million 2006-07
Frozen state pension paid to pensioners living abroad	232.69
Direct costs to administer frozen state pensions for pensioners who live abroad.	1.0
Total	233.69

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what pilot projects have been funded as part of the initiative announced in the 1997 pre-Budget report to encourage the improved take-up of benefits by pensioners; how many projects were given long-term funding; and how many pensioners were involved in the pilot projects. [85560]

James Purnell: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report,* column 1754W, on pensions reform, if he will add a column to the table provided in the answer showing comparable data assuming the Pension Commission's proposals were implemented in total. [86518]

James Purnell: The figures presented in the 11 July 2006, *Official Report,* column 1753W refer to people reaching state pension age. They consequently will not be affected by including the assumption of the full implementation of the Pensions Commission proposals—i.e. to include the payment of a full basic state pension to all people aged 75 and over.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* state pension and *(b)* pension credits in each nation and region of the UK; and what total spending was on each benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [86512]

James Purnell: Information that is available relating to the state pension caseload and number of individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Great Britain on 31 November 2005 is in the following table. Information relating to Northern Ireland is the responsibility of my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Government office region	*State pension caseload*	*Pension credit—individual beneficiaries*
North East	481,080	193,790
North West	1,252,520	432,360
Yorkshire and the Humber	926,680	321,090
East Midlands	799,720	241,310
West Midlands	990,990	345,030

Government office region	State pension caseload	Pension credit—individual beneficiaries
East of England	1,052,410	274,090
London	950,070	344,550
South East	1,520,840	336,510
South West	1,073,570	273,700
Wales	588,310	197,990
Scotland	942,970	337,800

Source: DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

The total estimated spending on state pensions and pension credit in 2005-06 is in the following table.

	£ million, nominal terms, estimated outturn
Basic state pension	43,029
Additional state pension	8,243
Non-contributory state pension	31
Total state pension expenditure	51,303
Pension credit - guarantee credit	5,402
Pension credit - savings credit	1,019
Total pension credit expenditure	6,420

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and some additional disclosure control has been applied.
2. Expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest million pounds.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:
DWP Expenditure tables

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of total spending on the *(a)* basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in each (i) country and (ii) region of the UK in (A) 2024, (B) 2034 and (C) 2044 (1) under the current arrangements and (2) under the Government's proposed pension reforms. [86514]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. Tables 1 and 2 show the total expenditure on basic state pension and pension credit respectively for the UK.

Under our reforms, more people will be getting state pensions based on their national insurance records, and there will be a more generous basic state pension due to the restoration of the earnings link. This provides a solid foundation for private saving. Incentives are further enhanced by reducing the growth of the savings credit.

Increase in the basic state pension leads to higher incomes for pensioners and as a consequence reduces the spending on pension credit. The reduction in pension credit as a result of the overall reform package can be seen in table 2. Column 2 of the table shows the level of spending without the White Paper reforms while column 3 shows spending after reforms.

Table 1 shows total expenditure under current basic state pension policies, and under the proposed reforms.

Table 1: Expenditure on basic state pension

	£ billion, 2006-07 prices	
	Without reform	With reform
2024	62.5	77.5
2034	75.9	109.7
2044	81.0	137.7

Table 2 shows total expenditure under different pension credit policies, all of which assume the stated policy of uprating the standard guarantee with earnings until 2008: the current system projected forward with the standard guarantee uprated by prices after 2008; the same scenario but with the standard guarantee uprated with earnings after 2008; and the projected outcomes under the White Paper reforms.

Table 2: Expenditure on pension credit

	£ billion, 2006-07 prices		
	Without reform, standard guarantee price-linked from 2008	Without reform, standard guarantee earnings-linked from 2008	With reform
2024	1.9	13.0	5.9
2034	1.1	21.2	3.8
2044	0.9	36.1	4.6

Notes:
1. Costs or savings presented in the table are based on long-term projections of United Kingdom benefit expenditure consistent with the Budget report 2006, and estimated expenditure effects of the proposed reforms.
2. Table 2 estimates of expenditure are dependent on projections of numbers receiving pension credit in the future. These projections are subject to a range of uncertainties and a number of factors including policies on uprating different benefits and assumptions on rates of take-up. The assumptions applied here are consistent with those that underpin published long-run expenditure projections.
3. Table 1 includes, in the 'With reform' column, earnings uprating the basic state pension, improving coverage, and the effects of state pension age increases.
4. Table 2 includes, in the 'With reform' column, continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee; the savings credit maximum is uprated by earnings from 2008 and then by prices from 2015; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension and reforms to the state second pension described in the White Paper.
5. Figures exclude the effect of personal accounts.
6. Figures include the effects on expenditure on the basic state pension and on pension credit arising from increases in the state pension age as set out in the White Paper.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1716W, on Afghanistan, how many *(a)* ministerial and *(b)* official-level meetings on Afghanistan have taken place between the three Departments since January. [81738]

Margaret Beckett: There are regular ministerial and official meetings on Afghanistan. Since January, seven ministerial meetings and 16 senior official meetings specifically on Afghanistan have been held. At the official level there is daily contact between Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence personnel.

Brazil

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she had with the Brazilian Government regarding *(a)* human and animal health, *(b)* human rights and *(c)* environmental issues relating to Brazilian beef imports during her recent official visit. [84359]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not discuss these issues in detail during her recent visit to Brazil. However, we regularly raise such matters with the Government of Brazil, bilaterally and with our European partners.

Recently, at the Human Rights Council, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs discussed with Paulo Vannuchi, Brazilian State Secretary for Human Rights, ways in which our countries could deepen co-operation. In April, on his visit to Brazil, my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, also raised human rights with Paulo Vannuchi and agreed that the protection of human rights defenders was one of the key areas in which Brazil and the UK could co-operate.

Animal health is an issue taken seriously by the UK and the EU. In August last year, the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office sent an inspection mission to Brazil. The findings were discussed in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health in Brussels and the committee was satisfied that no additional restrictions on imports were justified at that stage.

The UK has initiated a high-level dialogue on sustainable development with the Brazilian Government to promote action on sustainable development challenges—including deforestation, whether it is caused by soya production or cattle farming. The Government actively supports efforts in Brazil to promote agricultural practices that reduce environmental impact and levels of deforestation. For example, the UK, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund, is supporting an Amazon Deforestation Soya Certification Project which aims to combat deforestation by developing and implementing an independent certification scheme for "forest-friendly" soya.

Burma

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of investment channels through British Overseas Territories to Burma. [85893]

Mr. McCartney: We have made no such assessment, however, Overseas Territories are required to give effect to the EU Common Position on Burma sanctions.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the European Union on securing a United Nations resolution on the Government of Burma. [85894]

Mr. McCartney: The proposal for a UN Security Council Resolution on Burma was raised at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 12 June. All EU member states represented on the Security Council gave their support for a debate and resolution on Burma.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of India regarding its trade and investment policy towards Burma. [85895]

Mr. McCartney: We have not made any specific representations to the Government of India regarding trade and investment in Burma. We do, however, have dialogue with the Indian Government about their policy towards Burma and have highlighted international concern about human rights and democracy in that country.

In my discussions with the Indian Deputy Foreign Minister in the margins of the Human Rights Council on 20 June, I asked the Government of India to use its influence to encourage the Burmese Government to respect human rights and bring about political change.

Colombia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of proposals for demobilisation of paramilitaries and guerrillas in Colombia. [75044]

Mr. Hoon: The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions of October 2005 made it clear that we and other EU member states consider that the effective and transparent implementation of the Law on Justice and Peace will have a positive impact on peace-building in Colombia.

On 18 April, the Government announced the completion under this law of the formal process of paramilitary demobilisation which saw over 30,000 paramilitaries demobilise. The challenge now for the Government of Colombia is to reintegrate the ex-combatants successfully into society, while addressing the rights of the victims of the internal armed conflict to truth, justice and reparation.

The Colombian Government is also actively involved in talks with the National Liberation Army, a left-wing guerrilla group. The latest round of talks took place in Cuba in April. The Colombian Government's recent efforts to begin preliminary talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's biggest illegal guerrilla group, have been consistently rejected by the guerrillas. We continue to monitor the situation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Colombia on the impact on political stability of reductions in the international drugs trade. [75045]

Mr. Hoon: We have regular discussions with the Colombian Government at official level over our counter-narcotics co-operation. This co-operation is

ongoing and is part of our commitment, together with international partners, to help the Government of Colombia tackle the scourge of drug production and drug trafficking which have such a devastating impact on many thousands of innocent Colombians. Clearly, we also have a strong interest in helping Colombia fight the illegal drugs trade, not least because an estimated 80 per cent. of the cocaine coming into Britain originates from Colombia. All the three major illegal armed groups in Colombia have been proven to be actively involved in the illegal drugs trade which fuels the internal armed conflict in the country, undermines political stability and contributes to human rights abuses. Furthermore, the vast international income from cocaine leads to extensive money laundering. Corruption and intimidation backed up by violence is rife in Colombia.

With international assistance, Colombia is taking great steps towards tackling the international trade in drugs and other associated crimes. The counter-narcotics strategy adopted by the current Government seeks to reinforce existing judicial measures to hit drug traffickers and confiscate assets, and tackles the interconnected problems of violence, social and economic inequality, and abuse of human rights.

Conscription (Children)

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the United Nations about child conscription into state armies in developing countries. [84469]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has identified child rights as one of its top three human rights priorities. One important focus for this work is addressing the issue of children affected by armed conflict, including the recruitment of children into armed forces and armed groups. The UK has supported the establishment of a UN monitoring and reporting mechanism on this issue and is actively involved in the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict to ensure that action is taken to follow up reports from this mechanism. The UK welcomes the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict to advocate the rights of children affected by armed conflict. The UK also promotes ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict through its network of diplomatic posts.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of children conscripted into armies for military action in *(a)* Asia, *(b)* Africa and *(c)* Latin America. [84470]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no estimate of the number of children recruited by armed forces and armed groups in these countries. A number of studies exist in this area, including some by non-governmental organisations, as well as statistics on the numbers of children involved in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes. The picture of the numbers affected is complicated by the many ways in which children can be affected by conflict, for example as porters, messengers, spies or cooks, as well as active combatants. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict said in a report to the General Assembly in September 2005 that over 250,000 children continue to be exploited as child soldiers. The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers estimated in its 2004 Global Report that up to 100,000 children in Africa remained involved in hostilities and also provided estimates for situations in specific countries in Asia and Latin America. This report is accessible most easily at the following website:

http://www.child-soldiers.org/resources/global-reports

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of children conscripted into armies in *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* the Philippines, *(c)* Colombia, *(d)* Burundi, *(e)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(f)* Liberia, *(g)* Somalia, *(h)* Afghanistan, *(i)* Burma and *(j)* Uganda; what recent representations she has made on the conscription of children into the army of each country; and if she will make a statement. [84497]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no estimate of the number of children recruited by armed forces and armed groups in these countries. A number of studies exist in this area, including some by non-governmental organisations, as well as statistics on the numbers of children involved in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes. The picture of the numbers affected is complicated by the many ways in which children can be affected by conflict, for example as porters, messengers, spies or cooks, as well as active combatants. One helpful source in this area is the Child Soldiers Global Report 2004, produced by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers which provides estimates for the countries listed. This document is accessible most easily at the following website:

http://www.child-soldiers.org/resources/global-reports

Ministers and officials have made representations on this issue. For example, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade has raised our concerns on a number of issues in Burma including the recruitment of child soldiers with the Burmese ambassador in London, and in writing to the Burmese Foreign Minister. During 2005, officials were active in a series of EU démarches in countries where the use of child soldiers is a particular problem. Démarches were conducted in Burundi, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Nepal, Sudan and Uganda. The UK has also sought to ensure that disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes are sustainable and make appropriate provision for the particular needs of children. This has included specific assistance in a number of the countries listed, for example the Ministry of Defence's assistance in reforming recruiting practices in the Sierra Leone army.

Departmental Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the carbon emissions of her

Department; what commitment she has made to reducing such emissions; and if she will make a statement. [81059]

Mr. Hoon: In 2004-05, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) carbon emissions from energy on the UK estate totalled 3,374 tonnes. We are committed to reducing our emissions and are taking the following actions:

we are in the process of implementing the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme to help us identify opportunities to reduce our use of energy;

we are upgrading the energy control systems at Hanslope Park, our rural site in Buckinghamshire, and in our Main Building. We have commenced a programme of replacing inefficient light fittings across the estate;

we monitor our performance against targets for energy reduction, among other environmental issues, through an externally certified Environmental Management System, in line with the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government estate;

we apply the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), which includes forecast energy consumption, to new builds and major refurbishments;

we actively encourage staff and contractors to follow good practice in using energy efficiently and effectively through, for example, an Energy and Recycling Campaign in February 2006;

we are installing software on the next generation of the FCO's global IT network, due to start roll out early in 2007, to power down workstations automatically out of hours.

In addition, the FCO is offsetting the carbon dioxide and other emissions generated by the air travel of Ministers and officials based in the UK starting with our 2004 emissions—one year ahead of the requirement of Government Departments to offset air travel by April 2006. We encourage our posts to apply good environmental management and are running a pilot project on environmental management at nine posts to determine how best we might introduce the principles of formal environmental management to our wider network.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the Unnumbered Command Papers produced by her Department in each Session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if she will make a statement. [81303]

Mr. Hoon: A list of Foreign and Commonwealth Office Unnumbered Command Papers since 1992 can be obtained from the Library of the House and I will arrange for a copy of the list to be sent to the hon. Member. Previous years could be listed only at disproportionate cost.

Copies of unnumbered Command Papers from the 2001 and 2005 Parliaments are available to hon. Members via the Library of the House and to members of the public via the Public Record Office.

Diplomatic Service (School Fees)

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of her Department is on the payment of school fees for the children of staff employed in the diplomatic service abroad when those children attend *(a)* international schools abroad or *(b)* fee-paying schools in the UK. [86064]

Mr. Hoon: It is a condition of their employment that members of the diplomatic service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children also have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive full-time education from the age of five years. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) therefore helps staff meet these potentially conflicting obligations in two circumstances:

Children who accompany their parents on postings overseas are expected to use free state schooling if it is available locally and is of a suitable standard. At posts where no suitable schooling is available free-of-charge locally, the FCO refunds the cost of local school fees to enable children to receive the level of education to which they would be entitled in the UK.

Staff are liable to move at regular intervals, every 12-48 months, often to locations where schools offering English language education are unavailable or inadequate. Providing continuity of education can therefore pose real problems, particularly during the important examination years. The FCO therefore provides an accountable allowance to enable children to board at school in the UK, while their parents remain subject to the worldwide mobility obligation.

Dr. Laurence Jones

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will take urgent steps to enable Dr. Laurence Jones to return to the UK from Australia; for what reason his retrieved passport could not be temporarily validated for travel back to the UK; for what reason his replacement passport was not issued within the initial 20-day period; and for what reason it was not issued within the subsequent two-week period of which notice was given by her Department. [86162]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* We regret the inconvenience caused to Dr. Jones and apologise for the delay to the issue of his passport, which was caused by an unfortunate administrative error. The passport was despatched to him by courier on 17 July from our high commission in Canberra. It is expected to be delivered to him in Darwin on 19 or 20 July. The passport section in our high commission in Canberra has advised Dr. Jones of this development directly. He has also been informed that we will reimburse all telephone expenses incurred by him with regard to his application.

Export Licences

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications for a standard individual export licence were referred to her Department by the Export Licensing Organisation (ELO) in 2005; how many of these applications were considered by the Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance Group; in

how many of these applications the Group initially advised against the granting of a licence; how many were the subject of written submissions from the Group; and in how many cases where an initial recommendation for refusal was issued by the Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance Group her Department recommended to the ELO refusing that licence. [86519]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office received 7,381 standard individual export licence applications in 2005. It is not possible to give a further breakdown of departmental assessment of applications since this information is not recorded. All applications are assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria, including against criterion 2, which deals with human rights concerns. Should there be a clear risk that the equipment on the application is a risk to human rights in the recipient country, the licence will not be issued. Human Rights, Democracy and Governance Group are asked to advise on applications where specific human rights concerns arise. Ministerial decisions are sought for finely balanced cases.

Extradition Treaties

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries the UK has extradition treaties; how many people were extradited *(a)* to each country from the UK and *(b)* to the UK from each country in the latest year for which figures are available. [83822]

Joan Ryan: I have been asked to reply.

The Extradition Act 2003 divides the UK's extradition partners into two categories. Part 1 territories are those EU member states who, like the UK, operate the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) procedure. These are:

Austria; Belgium; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; the Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; and Sweden

Part 2 territories include those Members of the Council of Europe who are not in the EU and are party to the European Convention on Extradition; Commonwealth territories; and bilateral extradition treaty partners, such as the United States. These are:

Albania; Andorra; Antigua and Barbuda; Armenia; Argentina; Australia; Azerbaijan; The Bahamas; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belize; Bolivia; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei; Bulgaria; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Cook Islands; Croatia; Cuba; Dominica; Ecuador; El Salvador; Fiji; The Gambia; Georgia; Ghana; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Haiti; Hong Kong Special Administrative Region *; Iceland; India; Iraq; Israel; Jamaica; Kenya; Kiribati; Lesotho; Liberia; Liechtenstein; the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mauritius; Mexico; Moldova; Monaco; Nauru; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; Romania; Russian Federation; Saint Christopher and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; San Marino; Serbia and Montenegro; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Swaziland; Switzerland; Tanzania; Thailand; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Turkey; Tuvalu; Uganda; Ukraine; United States of America; Uruguay; Vanuatu; Western Samoa; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In 2005, under the EAW procedure, the UK extradited 77 people to other EU member states and had 66 people returned to this country. Under part 2 of the 2003 Act, the UK extradited 62 people last year and had 11 people returned to this country.

This information is shown in the following table:

UK extradition statistics for 2005

Part 1 *Country*	*Surrendered by UK*	*Returned to UK*
Austria	0	0
Belgium	8	1
Cyprus	0	1
Czech Republic	0	0
Denmark	3	0
Estonia	0	0
Finland	2	0
France	4	7
Germany	8	6
Greece	0	4
Hungary	0	0
Ireland	11	4
Italy	0	1
Latvia	0	1
Lithuania	27	0
Luxembourg	0	0
Malta	0	0
Netherlands	3	10
Poland	4	0
Portugal	3	1
Slovakia	0	0
Slovenia	0	0
Spain	3	29
Sweden	1	1

Part 2 *Country*	*Surrendered by UK*	*Returned to UK*
Albania	1	0
Australia	2	0
Canada	2	1
Cayman Islands	0	1
Croatia	1	0
Czech Republic[1]	4	1
Estonia[1]	1	0
France[1]	6	0
Germany[1]	7	1
Grenada	1	0
Hungary[1]	1	0
Italy[1]	5	0
Jamaica	0	2
Lithuania[1]	3	0
Monaco	1	0
Norway	1	1
Poland[1]	1	0
Portugal[1]	1	0
Romania	2	0
Serbia & Montenegro	0	1
Slovakia[1]	2	0
South Africa	1	0
Spain[1]	3	2
Switzerland	1	0

Part 2 Country	Surrendered by UK	Returned to UK
Turkey	1	0
USA	14	1

[1] Indicates an EU member state where all or some of the extradition requests were made/received before the date the State began operating the Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant.

Human Cloning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1519-20W, on human cloning, if she will place in the Library copies of the instructions sent to the UK delegation; if she will list the *(a)* Departments, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* individuals (i) she consulted and who (ii) made representations to her Department; if she will place in the Library copies of any representations received; and if she will make a statement. [86126]

Mr. McCartney: As I explained in my answer to the hon. Member on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1519-20W, the instructions sent to the UK delegation covered a range of options for possible votes on different draft resolutions or motions. Publication of instructions to Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts could be damaging to our international relations. It would not therefore be appropriate to place a copy in the Library of the House. The FCO consulted the Department of Health, which takes the lead on the issue, the Office of Science and Technology, as it then was, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Medical Research Council, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Royal Society. We lobbied other governments in capitals and in New York and received a range of views in response. These discussions were held in confidence. We do not have copies of oral representations received from others. The chief executive of the British Bioindustry Association wrote to my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary on 12 October 2004, strongly supporting the UK position. Copies of this letter and my right hon. Friend's reply will be placed in the Library of the House.

The Government's views were set out in New York on several occasions, including in statements by the UK Permanent Representative to the UN General Assembly in October 2004 and March 2005. Copies of these statements will also be placed in the Library of the House. I will also send the hon. Member copies of the letters and statements to be placed in the Library of the House.

Israel (F16 Military Aircraft)

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what investigations *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have undertaken into the use of F16 Israeli military aircraft during airstrikes into (i) Gaza since the start of May 2006 and (ii) Lebanon since 12 July 2006; and what the results of those investigations have been. [86515]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Tel Aviv is monitoring the situation closely. It has confirmed reports that Israel is using F16s in its incursions into Gaza and Lebanon.

Middle East

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received from the EU Commissioner for External Relations regarding the outcome of her recent visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories; and if she will make a statement. [81730]

Margaret Beckett: I have had no specific discussions with EU Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner regarding the outcome of her visit, but we have remained in close contact with the European Commission on a number of issues relating to her visit, such as the temporary international mechanism.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on the Middle East, what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of existing security arrangements in the Gulf; and if she will make a statement. [84141]

Margaret Beckett: Security of the Gulf is vital to our interests. We support a number of initiatives in the region, such as the International Institute of Strategic Studies' regional "Gulf Dialogue". Cabinet level delegations have attended the two conferences in Bahrain in 2004 and 2005. If any initiative is to be successful, leadership must come from the region.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what investigations she is undertaking to ascertain whether military equipment or components supplied directly or indirectly from the UK are being used by Israel in the military action it has been taking inside Lebanon since 12 July. [86592]

Dr. Howells: In common with all of our diplomatic posts, our Embassy in Tel Aviv monitors local developments closely and notes any information which comes to light that military equipment supplied by the UK has been used in a manner inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria. The Government will take this into consideration when assessing any future export licence applications. The Government may also revoke relevant licence(s) and ask the authorities in the country concerned to investigate.

All export licence applications from the UK are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria, taking full account of the prevailing circumstances at the time of application.

Nomenclature

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's policy is on changes in nomenclature of foreign place names in official documents following linguistic

revisions by foreign governments, with particular reference to *(a)* India, *(b)* Burma and *(c)* China; and if she will make a statement. [84234]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) consults the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) on issues concerning foreign geographical names. The PCGN is an interdepartmental body, whose principal function is to advise the Government on policies and procedures for the proper writing of geographical names for places and features outside the United Kingdom, excluding those of the Antarctic. The final decision on the appropriate name to use, however, rests with the lead section on geographical names within the FCO.

The policy for the application of geographical names is to follow the practice of the supreme administering authority of the country concerned. It is the FCO's policy to recognise changes of geographical name where these fall within the sovereign competence of a particular foreign government. For example, in India the name change from Madras to Chennai has been made according to due processes within the Government of India and requires appropriate acknowledgement within the FCO. The name Madras would therefore now be considered a former name for this city, in the same way that Salisbury is a former name for Harare.

However, there will be a number of occasions where a geographical name within the sovereign competence of a particular foreign government is already known in a traditional form in the English language and it would not be unusual for this form to be used within the FCO for ease of recognition. For example, the Burmese geographical name Yangon has long been known in the English language as Rangoon, and that form continues to be acceptable today. However, the use of English-language terms can also alter over time. This could be considered to have occurred in the case of Beijing, where the name Peking is today rarely encountered as the English-language name.

North Korea

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of the effectiveness of efforts to limit the illicit flow of nuclear material to North Korea; and if she will make a statement. [81729]

Margaret Beckett: We are not aware of any flow of illicit nuclear material. North Korea's graphite-moderated reactor at Yongbyon has been fuelled using indigenously produced natural uranium fuel.

Pakistani scientist Dr. A. Q. Khan has admitted to having supplied uranium enrichment technology to North Korea, although North Korea denies having a uranium enrichment programme.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the potential for proliferation of *(a)* nuclear weapons material and technology and *(b)* missile technology from North Korea to state or non-state actors. [81731]

Margaret Beckett: North Korea's willingness to supply to others ballistic missile systems and technology is well established. Given the complexity of ballistic missiles and the necessary support systems, we believe it is extremely unlikely any non-state actor would seek to procure them.

While North Korea might be willing in principle to supply nuclear weapons material and technology to others, we do not currently assess this to be a significant risk. We and our allies, however, are monitoring continuously for any indication North Korea might be considering such a transfer.

Pastor Zhang Rongliang

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she intervened in the case of Pastor Zhang Rongliang, sentenced to imprisonment in China. [85128]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are very concerned about human rights abuses in China. We have raised the case of Pastor Zhang Rongliang with the Chinese Government on a number of occasions, including at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 3 July. The Chinese Government gave no new information about Pastor Zhang and we have received no official confirmation of recent reports of his sentencing. We will continue to raise our concerns about the harassment and imprisonment of religious practitioners in China and to closely monitor Pastor Zhang's case.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many public appointments are within her patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83180]

Mr. Hoon: Details of the public appointments to public bodies sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) can be found in "Public Bodies", copies of which are in the Library of the House or at the following website:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies "Public Bodies" has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of "Public Bodies" contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. Comparable information for 1976 in respect of the FCO could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

A summary of the FCO's latest information on public appointments to public bodies is as follows:

Diplomatic Service Appeal Board

Chair: Vacant

Remuneration: £0

Deputy Chair: Diana Ratzer

Remuneration: £0

Notes:

Remuneration is only paid when the Board meets. The Board last sat in 2004.

The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine

Chair: Sir David Wright

Remuneration: £0

Secretary: Robert Alexander

Remuneration: £0 Civil Servant

Notes:

None

Wilton Park Academic Council

Chair: Dr Farhan Nizami

Remuneration: £0

Secretary: Jane Rawbone

Remuneration: £0 Civil Servant

Notes: The Wilton Park Academic Council (WPAC) oversee the conference themes and academic independence of Wilton Park Conferences, an Executive Agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Wilton Park is responsible for organising WPAC meetings and members are unremunerated.

British Association for Central and Eastern Europe

Chair: The right hon. Lord Radice

Remuneration: £0

Director: Nicholas Jarrold

Remuneration: £48,000 per annum

Notes: The Chair is appointed by the British Association for Central and Eastern Europe with the approval of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

The British Council

Chair: Lord Kinnock

Remuneration: £0

Chief Executive: Sir David Green

Remuneration: £149,576

Notes:

None

Great Britain-China Centre (The)

Chair: Peter Batey, OBE

Remuneration: £0

Notes:

The Chair is elected by the Executive Committee, with the approval of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. All new members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Executive Committee.

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

Chair: Jonathan Taylor

Remuneration: £0

Executive Secretary: Dr John Kirkland

Remuneration: £0

Notes:

None

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (The)

Chair: Hugh Bayley, MP

Remuneration: £0

Chief Executive: David French

Remuneration: £99,066 per annum

Notes:

Government funding is by FCO Grant in Aid. Other expenditure is from special purpose grants.

BBC World Service (Including BBC Monitoring) (BBCWS)

Director BBCWS: Nigel Chapman

Remuneration: £228,000 per annum

Chairman:

Remuneration: £0

Notes:

Chair, Deputy and members are the same as those for the BBC, and are listed only under that body (Department for Culture, Media and Sport Public Corporation) to avoid double-counting. The total gross expenditure figure shown above is gross expenditure from WS accounts plus BBCM accounts.

Foreign Compensation Commission

Chairman (part-time): Dr John Barker

Remuneration: Fee-paid on a daily basis. Budget allocation is £20,000 per annum

Secretary and Chief Examiner (part-time): Barrie England

Remuneration: £11,200 per annum

Notes:

None.

Ad Hoc Advisory Groups

All of the information that follows refers to Boards chaired by Officials or Ministers:

Caribbean Board

Chair: Colleen Harris and Pat Ramsey/Marilla Logan (job-share)

Notes:

The Caribbean Board provides advice and runs projects.

Consular Strategy Board

Chair: Rob Macaire, Director of Consular Services

Notes:

The aim and remit of the Board is to develop the Consular Strategy: In partnership, to investigate and debate the key challenges identified in that Strategy and the National Audit Office report on Consular Services, and to help Consular Directorate identify emerging trends and advise on potential difficulties of any proposed policies.

Public Diplomacy Strategy Board

Chair:

Notes:

This group ceased operation on 30 January 2006 following Lord Carter's review of Public Diplomacy and was replaced by new Public Diplomacy Board, with the same status but different membership (see below).

Public Diplomacy Board

Chair: Lord Triesman

Notes:

The aim of the Public Diplomacy Board is to improve public diplomacy effectiveness by:

Setting the strategic direction of UK public diplomacy;

Monitoring and evaluating the outcomes;

Making recommendations on resource allocation.

Travel Advice Review Group

Chair: Rob Macaire, Director of Consular Services

Notes:

The Travel Advice Review Group (TARG) was set up at the request of my right hon. Friend the former Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) following completion of the Review of FCO Travel Advice in 2004. The group comprises mainly the stakeholders to the review, i.e. those from all walks of the travel and tourism industry as well as insurance, airlines, non-governmental organisations, the Confederation of British Industry and travel publications. The purpose of the TARG is to discuss issues relating to FCO travel advice that are of common interest.

UK India Round Table

Chair: Right hon. Lord Barnes CH

Notes:

Members of the UK India Round Table are invited by my right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary to become members. Current members are:

Sir Tim Lankester

Bryan K. Sanderson CBE

Professor Dame Sandra Dawson DBE

Sir Mark Tully

Ms Patience Wheatcroft

Karan F. Bilimoria CBE DL

Richard Lambert

Dr Tidu Maini BSc ACGI DIG PhD

Nick Pearce

Jon Snow

Malcolm Chalmers

Members receive no remuneration apart from expenses.

Sudan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role her Department has played in engaging the international community to provide additional support to the African Union force in Darfur; what progress has been made; and what contribution the UK has made to the provision of such support. [84213]

Margaret Beckett: The UK has played a leading role in supporting the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). We have committed £20 million for this financial year, bringing our total contribution to AMIS since its inception to £52 million. The money has provided vehicles, logistical support and other practical assistance.

We are also playing a leading role in efforts to secure further support for AMIS. We regularly lobby our EU and other international partners to provide additional assistance. The US, the EU and certain other donors have already made substantial contributions. We expect further pledges to be made at the forthcoming AMIS Donors Conference in Brussels on 18 July.

Treaties

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by how many international treaties the United Kingdom is bound; and if she will make a statement. [85390]

Mr. Hoon: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) treaty records, which began in 1835, list 6,826 bilateral and multilateral treaties to which the United Kingdom became party and which entered into force for the United Kingdom. The authoritative "Index of British Treaties", published by HM Stationery Office in 1970, contains 1,498 such treaties for the period 1101 to 1835, thus giving a total of 8,324 treaties to-date.

This figure relates to treaties that have not been expressly terminated or otherwise recorded as no longer in force for the United Kingdom. FCO treaty records are held in electronic format and comprise both modern elements and information derived from 19th century records. The number of treaties stated above is the most accurate figure possible based on the finding-aids available.

UN Conference on Small Arms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of why it was not possible to get an agreement on stricter controls at the UN Conference on Small Arms; what opportunities there are for revisiting this issue; and if she will make a statement. [86517]

Dr. Howells: It was very disappointing that the UN Small Arms Review Conference failed to agree an outcome document, particularly as the UK had succeeded in agreeing a consensus text on the need for work at the national, regional and global levels to strengthen transfer controls. Fortunately, as the achievement of a consensus text indicates, all countries now recognise the need to address the issue of transfer controls within the UN Programme of Action. Over 100 states at the Review Conference expressed support for strengthening transfer controls. The UK will continue to work with all states to build support for agreement on common guidelines for small arms and light weapons transfers, building on the progress made at regional level in the past three years under the UK's Transfer Controls Initiative. The UK is also keen to work with Canada on its proposal for an informal meeting of states in 2007 focused on transfer controls.

DEFENCE

BL755 Cluster Munition

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the failure rate of the BL755 cluster munition and *(b)* its reliability for use in combat situations; [83981]

(2) by what method his Department assesses BL755 failure rates; and if he will make a statement; [83982]

(3) whether the classified reports which support the Department's assessment of the failure rate for the BL755 cluster munition contain evidence derived from combat use; [83983]

(4) whether an assessment has been made of the failure rate for the BL755 cluster munition based solely on evidence from combat use. [83984]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2515W, to my hon. Friend for Stroud (Mr. Drew).

Information on the failure rate of the BL755 cluster bomb used by the RAF is collected during regular in-service surveillance trials. These trials are carried out by the Design Organisation (Lockheed Martin UK Insys Ltd.) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

The results of these trials are used to confirm the reliability of the BL755 cluster bomb for operational use. Some analysis of the accuracy and performance of BL755 cluster bombs used during operations has been

undertaken; however, the reliability of individual weapons was not specifically addressed as part of this analysis.

Efficiency Savings

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Royal Air Force, *(c)* Army and *(d)* Defence Procurement Agency will meet the 2.5 per cent. reductions as part of the Ministry of Defence's 2.5 per cent. departmental efficiency savings. [87042]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence's 2.5 per cent. efficiency savings target equates to a total of £2.8 billion of annual efficiency gains across the department by the end of the three-year Spending Review 2004 period. A breakdown of how the MOD intends to achieve this target can be found in the MOD efficiency technical note, which is published on the Department's website at www.mod.uk.

Gulf War Illnesses

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* former and *(b)* serving British soldiers have been diagnosed with Gulf war-related illnesses. [85951]

Mr. Watson: Information on all the illnesses reported by veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict while still serving is not held centrally, as the Ministry of Defence does not hold records of all medical conditions reported after an individual has left the services. The NHS is responsible for the health care of ex-service personnel but information on diagnoses does not differentiate Gulf veterans. For those Gulf veterans still serving, Defence Medical Services are responsible for providing treatment for all medical conditions. We do not, however, hold diagnostic information specific to the operations on which personnel were deployed.

Helicopters

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* medium and *(b)* heavy lift helicopters are in service with the (i) Royal Air Force and (ii) Army, broken down by make. [85793]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The numbers of medium and heavy lift helicopters, in service in the Forward Fleet as at May 2006, broken down by type, are given in the following table:

Medium Lift

Type	*Number in service*
Puma HC1	26
Sea King Mk 3/3a	17
Merlin Mk 3	14

Heavy Lift

Type	*Number in service*
Chinook Mk2/2a	28

All medium and heavy lift helicopters in service in the Forward Fleet are owned by the Joint Helicopter Command. There are no medium and heavy lift helicopters operated by the Army. In addition to the figures shown in the table, the Royal Navy operate 30 Sea King Mk 4 medium lift helicopters.

Iraq

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions Ministers in his Department have *(a)* met the bereaved families of British soldiers killed in Iraq and *(b)* visited in hospital British soldiers wounded in Iraq. [86416]

Des Browne: Defence Ministers frequently visit members of the armed forces injured in Iraq. Since February, Defence Ministers have visited injured personnel on the following occasions:

Secretary of State:

Visited the Field Hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base in Iraq on 17 May 2005

Visited the Field Hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base in Iraq on 2 December 2005

Visited Headley Court and Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 20 January 2006

Visited the Field Hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base in Iraq on 18 March 2006

Visited the Field Hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base in Iraq on 18 May 2006

Minister for the Armed Forces:

Visited the Field Hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base in Iraq on 6-9 March 2005

Visited Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 14 June 2005

Visited 7th Armoured Brigade in Germany on 8-9 May 2006

Visited Headley Court on 10 July 2006

Minister for Defence Procurement:

Visited the Field Hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base in Iraq on 7 July 2005

Visited Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 18 November 2005

Under Secretary of State:

Visited Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 21 February 2005

Visited Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 8 September 2005

Visited Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 16 June 2006

For details of visits prior to those above, I refer the hon. Member to an answer given by my predecessor, the then Secretary of State for Defence, on 2 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 899W, to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart).

Relatives of personnel killed in Iraq have also met the Defence Secretary at a repatriation ceremony at RAF Lyneham on 8 February 2005 and at a Remembrance Service at Salisbury Cathedral on 20 May 2005. The Minister for the Armed Forces attended a repatriation ceremony on 18 May 2006 at RAF Brize Norton.

In addition to the specific visits identified above, Ministers have on numerous occasions visited personnel in Iraq and in the UK once they have returned from operational duty. On some of these

occasions, Ministers will have met with personnel and their families. As it was not the main focus of these visits, the exact details have not been recorded.

Military Equipment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the level of stocks of surplus clothing held by each of the armed forces was in each of the last five years. [85775]

Mr. Ingram: The armed forces hold sufficient stocks of clothing to meet their requirements as determined by Defence Planning Assumptions. Any surplus clothing (e.g. due to a change in the requirement) is disposed of through the Disposals Services Agency. Information on surplus clothing stock levels is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will reconsider the purchase of the armoured Pinzgauer vehicles on order for troops in Afghanistan; [82515]

(2) what the performance specifications are of the new patrol vehicle Vector; what type of vehicle it is; and how its armour protection compares with the *(a)* Snatch Land Rover and *(b)* RG-31; [82573]

(3) what assessment he has made of the level of protection afforded to troops by the *(a)* RG-31 vehicle and *(b)* Snatch Land Rover. [84311]

Des Browne: Vector is the name of the programme to buy a new, Pinzgauer based, protected patrol vehicle to supplement the current Land Rover Snatch vehicle. The programme is on contract for delivery of vehicles in 2007. The key performance requirements for Vector are improved mobility, payload and capacity compared to Snatch. We do not comment on levels of armour protection, as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security of our armed forces.

Nuclear Test Veterans

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with representatives from *(a)* the USA, *(b)* Canada, *(c)* Australia and *(d)* New Zealand on nuclear test veterans and sharing of best practice. [86144]

Mr. Watson: I have had no discussions with these countries on nuclear test veterans and sharing of best practice. MOD officials maintain contact with these countries on a wide range of veterans' issues, mainly under the auspices of the Senior International Forum. We are of course aware of the recent Australian and New Zealand Reports on the health of nuclear test veterans. We are studying these carefully and have been in touch with officials from both countries with respect to their findings.

Operation Mountain Thrust

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* NATO commanders and officials and *(b)* British (i) commanders and officials and (ii) Ministers were consulted by (A) US commanders and (B) the US Administration before Operation Mountain Thrust in Afghanistan. [82854]

Des Browne *[holding answer 6 July 2006]*: I can confirm that NATO/UK commanders and officials, and British Ministers, discussed Operation Mountain Thrust with US commanders and the US Administration.

Veterans

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the possible barriers that veterans face when attempting to access *(a)* housing and *(b)* employment on leaving the armed forces. [84858]

Mr. Watson: We are working closely with the Department for Committees and Local Government to enable service personnel to qualify under the "local connection" provisions of the Housing Act 1996, in order to overcome the barriers common to both servicemen and their civilian counterparts in access to affordable or social housing. The Joint Service Housing Advice Office offers advice and information about mortgages and affordable home ownership solutions including shared equity schemes. For those single personnel in danger of homelessness, it can facilitate access to temporary accommodation.

The success of Service leavers who use the career transition partnership as part of their resettlement preparation in securing employment after discharge—over 50 per cent. within one month of discharge, rising to over 95 per cent. six months after departure—suggests that there are few barriers to employment of most service personnel. Coaching provided by the Partnership often gives service leavers a competitive edge over other candidates and many of the personal attributes inherent in service culture are highly prized by civilian employers.

The Career Transition Partnership has an effective marketing arm that carefully targets prospective employers who can offer quality jobs to service leavers. Its marketing strategy includes dispelling negative misconceptions about service personnel and their ability to adapt to the civilian workplace. Employers who engage service leavers are seldom disappointed and tend to seek more when vacancies arise.

Individuals who depart under early service leaver arrangements may face more of a challenge. Those that discharge from recruit and basic professional training establishments before completing courses of instruction are unlikely to have gained the transferable competencies and professional qualifications of those service personnel who have entered productive military service. They therefore are more likely to have to contend with the same barriers to employment as confront civilians with a comparable lack of marketable skills. However, on discharge all ex-regular

military personnel, regardless of age, have immediate access to the Department of Work and Pensions new deal, which includes occupational and basic skills training.

HEALTH

Acute Hospital Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has accepted the recommendations of the 2002 Royal College of Physicians working party on isolated acute medical services. [85594]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* At the time of publication, the Government noted this report, which was based on a survey conducted in spring 2001 and made a valuable contribution to the development of best practice in this area.

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advertising campaigns her Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81924]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The table sets out the advertising campaigns commissioned by the Department's communications directorate since July 2004, showing the date and cost.

2004-05

Campaign	*Date*	*Advertising cost (£ million)*
Drugs (joint campaign with the Home Office)	July, December 2004 February, March 2005	0.99
Flu	October, November 2004	1.50
NHS including nurse recruitment	September 2004 February 2005	5.84
Sexual health	January, February 2004	1.26
Social care/worker recruitment	January, March 2005	2.14
Smoking testimonial campaign	July to September, November 2004	7.90
Emotional consequences and local NHS Stop Smoking	January to March 2005	8.75
Second hand smoke - children	—	—
Motivations that matter - young adults (smoking)	—	—
Second hand smoke - adults	—	—
Local NHS stop smoking	—	—
Testimonials and local NHS Stop Smoking	—	—
Winter (Get the right treatment)	November 2004	0.59
E111	April 2004 until March 2005	0.32

2005-06

Campaign	*Date*	*Advertising cost (£ million)*
Drugs (joint campaign with the Home Office)	October, December 2005 February, March 2006	1.70
Flu	October, November 2005	1.85
NHS including nurse recruitment	September 2005	0.24
Sexual health	—	0.00
Social care/worker recruitment	February, March 2006	2.44
Smoking testimonial campaign	December 2005	0.56
Emotional consequences and local NHS Stop Smoking	—	—
Second hand smoke - children	May to June 2005	4.90
Motivations that matter - young adults (smoking)	July to August 2005	4.32
Second hand smoke - adults	September to October 2005	4.25
Local NHS stop smoking	September to November 2005	0.79
Testimonials and local NHS Stop Smoking	February to March 2006	5.53
Winter (Get the right treatment)	October, November 2005	0.59
E111	May 2005 to March 2006	1.37

Alliance Medical

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on progress in reviewing the scans carried out by Alliance Medical. [85465]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Scan quality is independently audited every six months by the clinical guardian of the contract, Professor Adrian Dixon, national health service sponsors and Alliance Medical Ltd.'s head of clinical governance. In addition, two audits have been produced by the Royal College of Radiologists in conjunction with the Department. The audits are available at the Royal College of Radiologists website at:

www.rcr.ac.uk/docs/radiology/pdf/MR_CG_Audit_Apri!2006.pdf

and at:

www.rcr.ac.uk/docs/newsroom/pdf/MRI_AUDIT_REPORT_FINAL_17505.pdf

The second audit, which was published in April 2006, again found that there was little overall difference in the clinical opinion between independent service provider (Alliance Medical Ltd.) and the NHS reports and, that there was little overall difference in the technical quality of the magnetic resonance examinations between the two services overall.

Quality is monitored consistently throughout the contract as an integral part of the clinical governance framework. Any discrepancies or concerns are audited on a case by case basis by the clinical guardian of the contract.

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the likely effect on costs to *(a)* local authority social services and *(b)* the NHS of caring for patients with mild Alzheimer's disease of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's proposal to restrict treatment for such patients. [86973]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No such estimate has been made. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisal of these drugs has not yet concluded. Until NICE issues revised guidance to the national health service, its original guidance issued in 2001 continues to apply.

Social Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that voluntary, private and public providers of care receive the same levels of fee and remuneration for publicly-funded care places. [85864]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The principles for contracting for care services set out in "Building Capacity and Partnerships in Care" include fairness to all service providers and the encouragement of fair competition.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people employed in the care of elderly and vulnerable people in West Lancashire have subsequently been found to have criminal records and to be unsuitable for such employment; and what steps she has taken to remedy this situation; [83460]

(2) what steps her Department takes to ensure that private companies providing care in West Lancashire for *(a)* the elderly and *(b)* vulnerable adults ensure that all their employees are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau before commencing employment. [83464]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I understand from the Criminal Records Bureau that figures for people with criminal records found to be unsuitable for employment in the care of elderly and vulnerable people specifically in West Lancashire are not available.

The Criminal Records Bureau estimates that in 2005 some 25,000 unsuitable people were prevented from working with children and vulnerable adults as a direct result of Criminal Record Bureau checks.

All care homes, domiciliary care agencies, adult placements schemes and nurses agencies in England are regulated by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), which is the independent regulator for social care. The CSCI is responsible for registering and inspecting the regulated social care sector in accordance with statutory regulations and national minimum standards to ensure consistency and improve the quality of life and level of protection for the most vulnerable people in society.

Regulated social care providers are required to conduct rigorous pre-employment checks on prospective staff including obtaining a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. Since 26 July 2004, there has also been a requirement for prospective employees in these areas to be checked against the protection of vulnerable adults list before starting work.

The CSCI takes appropriate enforcement action where there is a breach of the regulations.

Information about the reasons for enforcement action by the CSCI is not collected centrally.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that people who have (i) multiple sclerosis and (ii) other long-term and fluctuating conditions receive access to social care at an early stage in the progression of their condition. [86235]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national service framework for long-term conditions, published in March 2005, has as a key quality requirement the need to ensure people living with long-term conditions are offered a timely integrated assessment of their individual health and social care needs.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the uniformity of access to social care in different parts of the country. [86238]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not made any recent assessment of the uniformity of access to social care in different parts of the country. Fair access to care services (FACS) is designed to deliver uniformity of access within council areas, not between councils. Decisions about eligibility for services are made by individual councils in response to local need and according to criteria set out in the FACS guidance "Fair Access to Care Services Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care". The guidance is contained in local authority circular (2002)13 and available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/01/96/41/04019641.pdf

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will increase the amount spent on equipment used by social care workers to care for individuals with *(a)* multiple sclerosis and *(b)* other conditions resulting in mobility problems. [86239]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for primary care trusts and councils to decide, locally, how best to allocate resources and provide appropriate mobility equipment for their population.

Central Budget Review

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) of 20 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 175W, on section 64, when the central budget review will be completed. [63119]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The central budget review for 2006-07 was completed at the end of April 2006. Final central budget allocations were issued to directors at the start of June. The allocations have been subject to minor reductions to cover a small number of pressures that were considered inescapable.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* other representations her Department has received on Chippenham community hospital. [85497]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Due to the way data is collected, the Department is unable to provide the number of letters received in relation to Chippenham community hospital.

Dental Laboratories

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental laboratories there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* North Dorset in December 2005; and what estimate she has made of the number of dental laboratories which have closed in each area since this date. [86094]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Between December 2005 and July 2006, the number of dental laboratories registered under the medical devices directive in the United Kingdom increased from 3,090 to 3,104. We do not have any more detailed information on numbers of laboratories, as dental laboratories are private enterprises with which the national health service has no contractual relationship.

Drug Addiction

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the relative *(a)* efficiency and *(b)* effectiveness of (i) naltraczone, (ii) Subutex and (iii) methadone in treating drug addiction; whether such drugs are to be made more widely available; and if she will make a statement. [86255]

Caroline Flint: The Department recognises the key role that effective pharmacotherapies, including substitute opiate prescribing and medications such as naltrexone to assist relapse prevention, may play in the management of opiate dependence. The Department published its evidence-based Clinical Guidelines, "Drug misuse and dependence—guidelines on clinical management", in 1999, on the advice of an independent expert group and in conjunction with relevant professional bodies. The 1999 Clinical Guidelines address the use of methadone, buprenorphine (more recently with a marketing authorisation for use as Subutex) and naltrexone. The guidelines discuss the relative effectiveness of buprenorphine and methadone, but as naltrexone is licensed only for use to support relapse prevention, no direct comparison is feasible with the opiate substitute methadone and buprenorphine. The guidelines do support the use of all these drugs as potentially effective opiate misuse treatments when used appropriately. The Department's clinical guidelines are due to be updated in 2006-07 and this will take into account planned guidance on the use of all these drugs due to be published in 2007 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

The Department of Health has asked NICE, within a package of work that they will be undertaking on drug treatment, to carry out a technology appraisal on oral methadone and sublingual buprenorphine as opiate substitute treatments. This appraisal will evaluate the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of these drugs as substitute opiates for the management of opiate misusers. The Department also asked at the same time for a similar technology appraisal for "naltrexone as a treatment for relapse prevention" for opiate misuse. This will include appraisal of its clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. Both these technology appraisals are scheduled for publication in March 2007.

All three of these drugs are currently prescribed for management of opiate dependence. Given that the NHS are obliged to implement guidance produced by NICE, the outcome of their work on drug treatment will be an important support in enhancing the effectiveness of drug treatment and in particular substitute prescribing.

Hospital-acquired Infections

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in combating the spread of MRSA in hospitals. [82249]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* Combating methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and other health care associated infections (HCAIs), continues to be a priority for Government. A target to reduce the number of MRSA bloodstream infections by half by April 2008 is in place and each trust has its own target. The total number of these infections in 2004-05 was 7,212, compared with 7,684 in 2003-04. Figures for 2005-06 will be published later this month.

All acute trusts have signed up to a "Saving Lives" package of best practice measures. The Department continues to engage those trusts facing the most significant challenges and it will seek to work with trusts most likely to benefit from support tailored to their organisational needs. Additionally, the Health Act, which received Royal Assent on 19 July, intends through the new code of practice, to give a statutory footing to what is already accepted as best practice—thus driving up standards of hygiene and infection control.

Leg Ulcers

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has to introduce a preventative programme to reduce the prevalence of leg ulcers; and if she will make a statement; [86505]

(2) what the cost to the NHS was of the treatment of leg ulcers in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement; [86506]

(3) how many people were treated for leg ulcers in England in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement; [86507]

(4) what the location is of each specialist leg ulcer clinic in England; and if she will make a statement. [86508]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The most common cause of leg ulcers is poor circulation triggered by high blood pressure, diabetes, and coronary heart disease. Obesity and smoking are also known to increase the risk of leg ulcers.

The Department's preventive programme is aimed at the effective management of these underlying medical conditions through the quality and outcomes framework component of the new general medical services contract for general practices introduced in April 2004, as well as public health campaigns to raise awareness of the health risks associated with smoking and clinical obesity.

Local health bodies have the responsibility to provide services for the treatment of leg ulcers. The Department does not collect information on the location of specialist leg ulcer clinics.

Information on the number of people treated for leg ulcers, and the cost of providing this treatment, is not collected.

ME Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to ensure that primary care trusts continue to provide specialist myalgic encephalomyelitis and encephalopathy services after their reconfiguration in October 2006; and if she will make a statement. [85773]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no plans to address specifically the provision of services for those living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) during the forthcoming reconfiguration of primary care trusts (PCTs).

The reconfigured PCTs will be expected to provide the same level of health and social care provision as existing trusts. PCTs have the freedom to decide how best to provide health and social care for those with CFS/ME, either in existing services or in a specialist centre.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health service facilities in the geographical area covered by the new strategic health authority for the South West *(a)* she and *(b)* her Ministers plan to visit; and when. [84856]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health plans to visit the geographical area covered by the new strategic health authority for the South West on 25 July 2006. She will visit a number of health facilities (yet to be confirmed) in Shepton Mallet, Cirencester and Bath. The Minister with responsibility for care services will also visit the area in September although specific details are yet to be arranged.

National Programme for Information Technology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1558W, on the National Programme for Information Technology, what the total level of savings are which have been achieved by NHS organisations where national programme systems and services have been delivered ahead of time; and in which NHS organisations these savings were achieved. [80307]

Caroline Flint: Comprehensive information of the kind requested is not collected centrally. However, the most obvious example of savings of the kind described is when new systems, paid for under the programme, have replaced systems that local national health service bodies have previously been paying for. Across the whole of the NHS, and over the 10-year life of the national programme, these savings will be very substantial. In the case of the local service provider contracts, local savings are expected to offset nearly half the local costs over the lives of the contracts; a saving of some £2.5 billion.

In the case of picture archiving and communications (PACS) systems, local savings are expected fully to offset the local costs of £684 million. Smaller savings are also expected in other areas, for example, where local NHS bodies use N3 or NHSmail to replace services for which they are currently paying. The business case for NHSmail estimated such savings at £185 million.

Further savings as a consequence of safety and organisational improvements will also be cash-releasing, and are highlighted in the recent National Audit Office report into the national programme.

NHS Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome was of capital spending against budget for *(a)* Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire strategic health authority and *(b)* the Cotswold and Vale primary care trust for each of the last five years. [85078]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table for the years that the organisations have been in existence. The latest year for which information is available is 2004-05.

			£ thousand
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire strategic health authority (SNA)			
Net capital resource outturn	815	174	201
Capital resource limit	943	186	270
Underspend against capital resource limit	128	12	69
Cotswold and Vale primary care trust (PCT)			
Charge against the capital resource limit	772	909	417

			£ thousand
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Capital resource limit	788	1,803	1,272
Underspend against capital resource limit	16	894	855

Sources:
1. Audited summarisation forms of the Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire SHA.
2. Audited summarisation schedules of Cotswold and Vale PCT

NHS IT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the efficiency of the roll-out of the NHS IT programme to genito-urinary medicine clinics; what representations she has received on this matter; and what response she has given. [80982]

Caroline Flint: National and local systems and services continue to be rolled out across the country in ever-increasing numbers, and every national health service location has already benefited under the national programme from delivery of software, hardware or the broadband connections that enable these to be accessed. We are on track to complete the national programme, as planned, by 2010.

In parallel with the deployment of national systems, thousands of local systems have now been delivered and serve more than 240,000 users. This includes many acute sector departmental systems supporting clinical specialties, though no systems designed specifically to support genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics, or other sexual health services, have yet gone live. We are not aware of any representations specifically on this matter. However, the programme's national "Do Once and Share" project, under the directorship of Professor Muir Gray, has engaged GUM and other sexual health clinicians, and consulted them on their future information management and technology needs. The results are being shared nationally with the support of the IM and T group of the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV.

We recognise that it is of enormous importance that systems and services delivered through the national programme should guarantee the very particular information security and confidentiality requirements of patients accessing GUM and sexual health services. Stringent security controls and safeguards have been incorporated to prevent unrestricted or uncontrolled access to personal information. Access is controlled via a unique user identity, involving a pass code and smart card, which can only be obtained on verification of identity and through a formal user registration process.

Osteoporosis

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of *(a)* hospital trusts, *(b)* primary care trusts, *(c)* general practitioner services and *(d)* intermediate care services have undertaken medicine utilisation reviews or other medicine review initiatives to ensure patients suffering from osteoporosis are prescribed the most appropriate medicine type and dosage; [85578]

(2) what consideration her Department has given to the inclusion of osteoporosis in the development of the "Life Check" scheme; [85579]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the merits of nurse-led fracture liaison services to support patients suffering from osteoporosis. [85580]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not assessed the merits of nurse-led fracture services to support people living with osteoporosis.

Information is not held centrally on medicine reviews for patients with specific conditions, including osteoporosis.

The content of the "Life Check" assessments at each life stage is yet to be determined and agreed, but will include the major lifestyle risk factors relevant to each life stage, such as smoking, physical activity and diet.

Overview and Scutiny Committees

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2106W, on overview and scrutiny committees, why hon. Members cannot be co-opted onto OSCs. [81316]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As stated in my previous reply, overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) have powers set out in the Local Government Act 2000 to co-opt non-voting members onto OSCs. These co-opted members can be:

a member of a committee of the county council or another local authority, for the purposes of relevant functions of the committee in relation to the county council; or

a member of a committee of the county council, for the purposes of relevant functions of the committee in relation to another local authority.

Therefore, hon. Members cannot be co-opted onto an OSC.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many parliamentary questions tabled to her Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85206]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The available information is as follows.

As at 17 July, 13,280 parliamentary questions have been tabled this session on Department of Health matters. Some 573 were awaiting answer, of which 21 were outstanding for more than two weeks but less than three weeks, and 68 for more than three weeks. We aim to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day and endeavour to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. Unfortunately, this is not always possible, but this Department makes every effort to achieve these time scales.

Pre-CSR Report

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if she will make a statement. [82840]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health has had and will continue to have wide-ranging and regular discussions with the Chief Secretary about preparations for the "2007 Comprehensive Spending Review", as a matter of key importance to the Department's medium and long-term planning.

Smoking

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of fine will be imposed on individual licensees in England and Wales for not enforcing the smoking ban in their public houses; and what research her Department has undertaken on the level of fines in other jurisdictions. [80921]

Caroline Flint: Penalties for offences within chapter 1, part 1 of the Health Bill, on smoke-free premises, places and vehicles, will be set out in regulations.

Through the passage of the Health Bill, Ministers have clearly set out the Government's intentions for fine levels for offences under smoke-free legislation, and propose that a person who is found guilty of an offence under clause 8 of the Health Bill (offence of failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place) will be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level four on the standard scale.

The levels of penalties for offences under chapter 1, part 1 of the Health Bill were the subject of public consultation in 2005, as part of the Consultation on the smoke-free elements of the Health Improvement and Protection Bill published by the Department.

Proposals for levels of penalties reflect the feedback from this consultation process, as well as advice received from other bodies including the Home Office.

Proposed penalties for the offence of failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place are consistent with those in Scotland's smoke-free legislation, with the exception that a penalty notice for this offence can be issued by an authorised officer of an enforcement authority in Scotland.

Speech Therapy

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on speech and language therapy services in the London borough of Bexley; and if she will make a statement. [84876]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No representations have been received by my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health on speech and language therapy services in the London borough of Bexley.

TREASURY

Demographics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population of Peterborough was in each year between 1997 and 2005; what the population is estimated to be in 2006; and what estimate has been made of future population trends. [85994]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the population of Peterborough was in each year between 1997 and 2005; what the population is estimated to be in 2006; and what estimate has been made of the future population trends. (85994)

Mid-2005 population estimates for England and Wales are due to be published on 24 August 2006. The attached table therefore provides the requested data for the years 1997 to 2004 and 2003-based projections for 2005 and 2006. In addition, projections for 2007 to 2028 are also shown to indicate the future projected trend.

Mid-year population estimates and projections for Peterborough

	Number
Population Estimates	
1997	156,400
1998	155,900
1999	156,500
2000	156,600
2001	157,400
2002	157,600
2003	158,800
2004	159,100
Population Projections[1]	
2005	160,300
2006	161,000
2007	161,800
2008	162,600
2009	163,400
2010	164,300
2011	165,100
2012	166,000
2013	167,000
2014	167,900
2015	168,800
2016	169,800
2017	170,700
2018	171,600
2019	172,600
2020	173,500
2021	174,400
2022	175,300
2023	176,100
2024	176,900
2025	177,700
2026	178,500
2027	179,300
2028	180,000

[1] The population projections data shown are taken from the 2003-based subnational population projections, the latest set of projections currently available. Therefore they may not be consistent with the 2004 mid-year estimate.

Note:
Data are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Electronic Auctions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* procedure and *(b)* criteria were used to add suppliers to the list of electronic auction

framework agreements by the Office of Government Commerce; and what recent assessment his Department has made of the developing market in intellectual copyright related to electronic auctions. [86020]

John Healey: The electronic reverse auctions framework agreements were awarded in accordance with the restricted procedure as set out in the EC procurement directives, using the "most economically advantageous tender" criterion.

No suppliers have been added to the list of those awarded electronic auction framework agreements. No recent assessments have been made of the market for intellectual property rights in the functionality of software that enables reverse auction services.

FSA Fines

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the money collected by the Financial Services Authority in fines is allocated. [86561]

Ed Balls: The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) provides that penalties levied on firms are allocated to the fee-block or blocks to which the activities relate—fee blocks group fee payers conducting similar activities. This ensures that the costs of undertaking enforcement actions are matched, as far as possible, with any penalties they might generate.

FSMA sets out that the Financial Services Authority (FSA) must not take account of any sums it has received, or may receive, by way of penalties when fixing the level of its fees. This means that the FSA does not take financial penalties into account when calculating the level of its annual funding requirement and the fee rates resulting from the AFR. Neither does the FSA treat financial penalties as income—rather, they are a liability owed to fee payers.

The FSA's rules in this area were set out in a policy statement in May (see annex 4 in particular): http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/policy/ps06_03.pdf

Household Incomes

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean gross household income was in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [85778]

(2) what the lower limit of the top decile for gross household earnings was in the last year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [85779]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking what the (a) median and (b) mean gross household income was in the latest year available and what the lower limit of the top decile is for gross household earnings for the latest year (85778, 85779).

These estimates are based on the ONS analyses "The effects of taxes and benefits on household income" which is published annually. The latest analysis for 2004/05 was published on the National Statistics website on 12th May 2006 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. It is based on the Expenditure and Food Survey, which has a sample covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK. The analysis for 2005/06 is due to be published on the National Statistics website in May 2007.

Gross incomes include income from employment, self-employment, pensions, investment income, and cash benefits. The median gross household income in 2004/05 was £24,700 per year. The mean household gross income (which appears in table 14, appendix 1) was £31,884 per year.

Analyses of the distribution of household income are based on equivalised household incomes. These equivalised incomes are standardised to take into account the different size and composition of households. The lower limit of the top decile for equivalised household gross income in 2004/05 was £53,239 per year.

Separate figures are published on the earnings of employees although they are not directly comparable with these figures on household income, which cover all sources of income (not just income from employment) and all households in the population.

Life Expectancy

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average life expectancy was in *(a)* 1994 and *(b)* 2004 in each country in the UK, broken down by (i) local authority and (ii) health board area; and what projections for average life expectancy are in each area in (A) 2024, (B) 2034 and (C) 2044. [86586]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

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Figures on life expectancy at birth for males and females at national and sub-national level are published annually by ONS based on three-year rolling averages. Results from 1991-93 to 2002-04, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Period and cohort life expectancies at birth and five-yearly age intervals for the years 1981 to 2054 for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries, calculated using historic mortality rates and projected mortality rates from 2004-based national population projections, can be accessed from the GAD website at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Life_Tables/Period_and_cohort_eol.htm

An explanation of period and cohort expectations of life is also available on the GAD website. Sub-national life expectancy projections are not available.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average life expectancy was in *(a)* 1994 and *(b)* 2004 in each country in the UK, broken down by (i) local authority and (ii) health board area; and what projections for average life expectancy are in each area in (A) 2024, (B) 2034 and (C) 2044. [86587]

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Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer why the Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team has been disbanded; and what its replacement is. [86562]

Dawn Primarolo: The intelligence arm of HM Revenue and Customs was re-organised in early 2006 to create a national structure focused on key risk areas. This involved the re-forming of teams, including the Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team. The staff and their expertise have been retained, in teams that focus on risks posed by different types of transport, and in teams that deal with intelligence gathered from local sources of information.

Oil Prices

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effects his Department's econometric model predicts of a sustained $10 per barrel rise in the world oil price in each of the five subsequent years compared with a base forecast on *(a)* gross domestic products (GDP), *(b)* GDP growth, *(c)* consumer price inflation, *(d)* the unemployment rate, *(e)* the employment rate, *(f)* Government borrowing as a percentage of GDP, *(g)* policy interest rates, *(h)* balance of trade as a percentage of GDP, *(i)* the current account of the balance of payments as a percentage of GDP, *(j)* public debt at end year as a percentage of GDP, *(k)* the effective exchange rate and *(l)* the real effective exchange rate; and what other economic assumptions are made in each case. [86640]

John Healey: The effects on the UK economy of a sustained $10 rise in oil prices would depend on the factors driving oil prices—for example, the extent to which prices increased due to demand pressures or supply constraints.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget that, because of continuing oil market volatility, the annual inflation-only increase in main fuel duties would be deferred until 1 September 2006.

Oil has been trading in recent weeks in a range of $66-$78 per barrel. The risk of oil price volatility remains high, and the Government will not therefore go ahead with the planned inflation-only increase in main road fuel duties on 1 September—and related increases for rebated oils, biofuels and road fuel gases—and will review the position again at the time of the pre-Budget report.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will provide a substantive answer to question 82306 on visits to Malawi tabled for named day answer on 4 July by the hon. Member for Mid Sussex. [86448]

John Healey: I answered the hon. Gentleman's question on 17 July 2006.

Red Diesel (Marine Vehicles)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made with negotiations on the derogation from the EU directive on the use of red diesel by marine vehicles. [86393]

John Healey: As required under the energy products directive, the European Commission issued a communication on 4 July stating its position on derogations due to expire at the end of this year, and noting that member states may apply under the normal procedures for renewal of derogations. As announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer at the Budget, the UK will be submitting an application for renewal of the derogation enabling pleasure boats to use red diesel. This application will be informed by the case that the Government set out in the partial RIA published at the Budget and is continuing to build with the cooperation of the boating industry.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit award notices have been issued in each month since July 2005; and if he will make a statement. [75783]

Dawn Primarolo: Award notices are issued at the following points in the tax credits cycle:

An initial award notice, following a successful claim.

An amended award notice when a claimant notifies HMRC of a change of circumstances or income during a year.

A finalised award notice following the completion of the renewal process.

Where payments are continuing following a finalised award for one year, an award notice is issued to advise of the provisional payments HMRC will be making for the subsequent year.

Award notices issued each month since July 2005 are as follows:

	Award notices issued
2005	
July	3,388,000
August	3,698,000
September	4,340,1600
October	3,423,000
November	2,007,000
December	2,467,000
2006	
January	2,276,000
February	2,923,000
March	1,697,000
April	1,118,000
May	4,515,000

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the overpayment of tax credits in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06 was due to software and other computer problems; and if he will make a statement. [76432]

Dawn Primarolo: For 2003-04 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him and the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West (John Barrett) on 27 October 2005, *Official Report,* columns 496-497W.

For 2004-05 I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Inland Revenue 2004-05 Accounts published on 10 October 2005 which are available on the internet at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/ir-report2005.pdf

Information for 2005-06 is not yet available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many interviews at home about tax credit fraud have been carried out by claimant compliance officers in each quarter since April 2002; [78376]

(2) how many face-to-face interviews for Living Together as Husband and Wife tax credit claims have been held in each quarter by claimant compliance officers since April 2002. [78377]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave on 31 January 2006, *Official Report,* column 413W to the hon. Member for Newport, West (Paul Flynn).

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the pre-payment automated risk rules in the tax credits system. [81150]

Dawn Primarolo: All tax credit claims are subject to an automated risk assessment process which looks at the features of a claim against known risks. These risk rules work in combination to identify those claims that are high risk and require further consideration, with the highest risk cases looked at by a compliance team who may undertake a full compliance examination before an award is made.

It would be inappropriate to give specific details as this could aid those seeking to gain through fraud.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list in date order the written ministerial statements on tax credits which have been made since 1997. [86510]

Dawn Primarolo: Written ministerial statements made by Treasury Ministers, and indeed oral statements and other announcements made in the House of Commons, are a matter of public record.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent press officers the Valuation Office Agency employed in 2005-06. [86841]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2005-06 the Valuation Office Agency employed the equivalent of one full-time press officer to deal with media inquiries

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Prize Money

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will introduce legislation making it illegal for sporting bodies in the UK to award prize moneys that are different for men and women. [84890]

Meg Munn: The Government are committed to promoting equality between women and men, but there are no plans to introduce legislation on this specific issue. A review of Great Britain's discrimination law is currently under way, covering the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act. We will publish our findings around the turn of the year.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

British Democracy

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what form her response to "Power to the People: An Independent Inquiry into Britain's Democracy" will take. [86057]

Bridget Prentice: The response to this report took the form of Baroness Ashton's speech at the House of Lords debate on the Power Inquiry on 15 June 2006.

Deportation Appeals

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many appeals against deportation orders to Asylum and Immigration Tribunals have been made in each year since their creation; in how many appeals the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal allowed the appeal; and in how many cases where the appeal was allowed the Home Office appealed that decision. [86060]

Bridget Prentice: The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) does not currently collate information on the volume of appeals it receives from notices of intent to deport, the number of these appeals allowed nor the number of allowed appeals where the Home Office applies for the Tribunal to reconsider its decision.

Checks made with the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) of the Home Office confirm that this type of information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) in how many cases before Asylum and Immigration Tribunals applications for bail pending termination of the appeal were made in each of the last five years; and in how many cases where a bail application had been made pending a deportation order the Home Office opposed the application for bail in each of the last five years; [86061]

(2) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in how many cases before asylum and immigration tribunals applications were made for bail pending termination of the appeal in each of the last five years [86062]

Bridget Prentice: Information shows that in each of the last five financial years the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) and its predecessor the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) received the following volume of bail applications:

	Number of applications
2005-06	4,144
2004-05	2,711
2003-04	2,135
2002-03	2,236
2001-02	3,093

The AIT does not collate information on the volume of bail applications arising from particular appeal types nor the number of applications opposed by the Home Office. Such information could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Electoral Review

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what opportunities there will be for public consultation and involvement following the publication of her Department's Review of Electoral Systems; [86056]

(2) what the next stage of the Government's electoral reform policy will be following the publication of the review of electoral systems; [86071]

(3) whether her Department's review of electoral systems will be placed in the public domain. [86074]

Bridget Prentice: The DCA internal review of voting systems introduced for the devolved administrations, the European Parliament and London Assembly elections being conducted by officials within my Department is under way. The review is desk based and is examining a range of existing publications and materials. Any decisions on next steps including publication and consultation will be taken in due course.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) when her Department's review of electoral systems is expected to report; [86067]

(2) what progress has been made with her Department's Review of Electoral Systems. [86073]

Bridget Prentice: Work is ongoing on the Department's internal review of voting systems of the new electoral systems introduced for the devolved Administrations (the Northern Ireland Assembly, the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Parliament), the European Parliament and Greater London Assembly. Decisions on any next steps will be taken in due course.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what form her review of electoral systems took; and what evidence was submitted by interested organisations. [86365]

Bridget Prentice: The Department for Constitutional Affairs internal review of voting systems is desk based and is examining a range of existing publications and materials. No submissions have been sought.

Youth Court

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many 10 to 17 year olds have appeared at the youth court in Lancashire in each year since 1997. [81761]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of 10 to 17 year olds prosecuted for all offences at youth courts in Lancashire from 1997 to 2004 are provided in the table.

Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of people aged 10 to 17 prosecuted for all offences in the Lancashire youth courts, from 1997 to 2004[1]

	Proceeded against
1997	3,808
1998	4,037
1999	4,061
2000	4,635
2001	4,743
2002	5,156
2003	4,805
2004	4,080

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

IT Projects

8. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress the Government are making in reducing cost overruns and delays in its IT projects; and if she will make a statement. [86196]

Mr. McFadden: Like Governments in all major economies, the Government are investing in IT on a large scale to improve services to the public and to ensure they are more focused on the needs of service users.

The Transformational Government Strategy published last November included a number of changes to improve performance management of IT projects.

These include:

strengthened scrutiny of the most important programmes, including the appointment of Non Executive Directors to their Boards;

the establishment of the Government IT profession; and

closer work with the IT industry association to improve supplier performance in Government IT contracts.

Voluntary Workers

10. **Ms Diana R. Johnson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment she has made of the proportion of people who do voluntary work; and if she will make a statement. [86198]

Edward Miliband: The recently published Citizenship survey confirms that there are increased numbers of adults volunteering regularly, 20.4 million in 2005 compared to 18.4 million in 2001. There is also increased Government investment in the volunteering infrastructure—£68 million in 2007-08 compared to £17 million in 1997-08.

Disadvantaged People

11. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps she is taking to combat pockets of disadvantage. [86199]

Hilary Armstrong: The Government have made substantial progress on tackling social exclusion. This has, however, made the most excluded stand out even more starkly.

I am, therefore, spearheading a renewed drive across Government to address the most socially excluded in our society and will be publishing an action plan in the autumn setting out how we plan to address some of the remaining, deep-seated, exclusion.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the floor space is of the new Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 26 Whitehall. [85669]

Edward Miliband: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister occupies 389 m^2 of office space in 26 Whitehall.

Official Residence

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Office contract for the maintenance of the official residences in Admiralty House. [85666]

Edward Miliband: The contract is a legal document and is covered by a commercial confidentiality clause, which prevents its publication.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on the Old Admiralty Building on *(a)* security, *(b)* utilities, *(c)* facilities management and *(d)* general maintenance in the most recent year for which figures are available. [85670]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent £465,106 on utilities, £241,875 on facilities management and £646,185 on general maintenance for the Old Admiralty Building in financial year 2005-06. The security measures in force at the Old Admiralty Building are reviewed regularly to ensure they are commensurate with the threat; the costs are kept under review.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Travel

9. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he last used the London Underground in connection with his official duties. [86197]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My duties frequently involve travel around the country and for this purpose I use public transport on a regular, weekly basis. I last used the London Underground in connection with official duties towards the end of last year.

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his office has chartered aircraft in connection with his official duties since 5 May 2006. [84925]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* All my overseas travel costing over £500 will be accounted for in the annual list, which will be disclosed to Parliament in the usual way.

Gambling

12. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role he has in relation to Government policy on gambling and planning. [86200]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) today at column 302.

Defence

13. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to oversee the efficient development of defence policy. [86201]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I play a full and active part in discussions on these matters in Cabinet and the relevant Cabinet Committees.

Post Office

14. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he is taking to secure the future of the Post Office network. [86202]

The Deputy Prime Minister: As the hon. Member may be aware, I chair the Cabinet Committee on the future of the Post Office network.

The Government remain committed to a viable Post Office network, and to ensuring that communities have access to the services they need, including Post Office services. That is why we have committed £300 million over the period 2006-08 to support the rural network, on top of £450 million in 2003-05.

Equal Pay

15. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he has taken to co-ordinate Government policy on equal pay across the public sector; and if he will make a statement. [86203]

The Deputy Prime Minister: This important issue has been considered recently by a Cabinet Committee, which I chair. I am working to ensure the necessary action is taken across Departments, to add to the action we have already taken since 1997 to combat all forms of discrimination.

Departmental Budget

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 787W, on the departmental budget, in which Department's annual report his office will be included. [84864]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* My own.

Ministerial Office and Staff

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 788-89W, on his ministerial office and staff, what percentage of the staff in his private office is *(a)* female and *(b)* from ethnic minorities. [85061]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* Where the information requested results in figures of less than five this is not released in order to protect the privacy of individuals.

Websites

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry) of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2131W, on websites, what the budget is for the creation of his new website; and whether the website is being constructed using *(a)* civil service staff and *(b)* external contractors. [83226]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Expenditure will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts, in the usual way. The website is being constructed by civil servants.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Competent Persons Scheme

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 754W, on the competent persons scheme, what delays have been caused to the competent persons scheme by the absence of officials; and if she will make a statement. [83713]

Angela E. Smith: Seventeen new competent person schemes came into operation following the publication of the Building and Approved Inspectors (Amendment) Regulations 2006 on 6 April 2006.

There has been a delay in issuing authorisations for these schemes. Officials met the Competent Persons Forum on 11 July to discuss authorisations and will meet with those directly affected to seek to resolve the issues on Monday 17 July.

Council Tax

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of properties in *(a)* Northumberland county council, *(b)* Cornwall county council, *(c)* Shropshire county council and *(d)* Cumbria county council are in each council tax band. [86349]

Mr. Woolas: The numbers of dwellings liable for council tax in Cornwall, Cumbria, Northumberland, and Shropshire county councils as at 19 September 2005 and in each council tax band are shown in the following table:

	Council tax band									
	A-	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*Total*
Cornwall										
Caradon	16	6,801	10,496	8,020	6,012	3,990	1,235	474	23	37,067
Carrick	14	6,863	9,275	9,463	6,708	4,640	2,090	1,126	110	40,289
Kerrier	14	11,503	10,537	9,132	5,722	2,775	964	426	28	41,101
North Cornwall	23	8,885	8,158	7,234	7,272	4,680	1,504	748	36	38,540
Penwith	3	7,182	8,801	6,246	5,111	2,503	962	285	8	31,101
Restormel	23	10,871	11,245	9,220	6,476	3,050	1,062	459	15	42,421
Total for Cornwall	93	52,105	58,512	49,315	37,301	21,638	7,817	3,518	220	230,519

	Council tax band									
	A-	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*Total*
Cumbria										
Allerdale	29	21,236	6,720	6,446	4,756	2,570	1,008	457	18	43,240
Barrow-in-Furness	44	18,687	5,373	4,384	2,112	858	223	71	3	31,755
Carlisle	42	20,915	10,233	6,408	4,640	2,330	905	308	23	45,804
Copeland	75	18,544	4,138	3,710	2,804	1,510	379	85	10	31,255
Eden	7	3,749	6,400	4,878	4,324	2,949	955	382	34	23,678
South Lakeland	7	4,098	10,032	11,495	9,441	6,868	4,508	2,843	256	49,548
Total for Cumbria	204	87,229	42,896	37,321	28,077	17,085	7,978	4,146	344	225,280
Northumberland										
Alnwick	15	5,289	2,801	2,175	1,985	1,526	864	384	43	15,082
Berwick-upon-Tweed	13	6,709	2,265	1,779	1,291	823	461	240	26	13,607
Blyth Valley	65	21,798	6,267	3,784	2,346	955	126	42	9	35,392
Castle Morpeth	15	5,952	2,465	3,151	2,934	2,491	2,390	1,463	147	21,008
Tynedale	15	7,877	4,273	4,165	3,485	2,750	1,850	1,382	129	25,926
Wansbeck	98	19,051	3,566	2,306	1,762	501	112	70	4	27,470
Total for Northumberland	221	66,676	21,637	17,360	13,803	9,046	5,803	3,581	358	138,485
Shropshire										
Bridgnorth	17	3,220	4,604	5,238	2,849	2,245	2,089	1,327	118	21,707
North Shropshire	13	4,480	6,181	4,431	3,753	3,184	1,643	737	38	24,460
Oswestry	15	4,935	4,311	2,743	2,498	1,464	321	122	11	16,420
Shrewsbury and Atcham	24	7,094	13,023	9,660	5,551	3,490	1,613	1,193	61	41,709
South Shropshire	12	3,190	3,871	3,756	3,424	2,787	1,367	581	38	19,026
Total for Shropshire	81	22,919	31,990	25,828	18,075	13,170	7,033	3,960	266	123,322

The data are as reported by local authorities on the annual CTB1 return. Dwellings that are subject to the Council Tax (Reductions for Disabilities) Regulations 1992, as amended, are charged council tax at the rate of one band lower than that on the Valuation Office valuation list. Council tax for a Band A dwelling is charged at 5/9 of the council tax of a Band D dwelling; Band A dwellings are charged at 6/9 of the council tax of a Band D dwelling.

Departmental Premises (Security Guards)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly employed illegal immigrants as security guards. [80810]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not employed illegal immigrants either directly or indirectly as security guards.

Environmental Regulations

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard; and if she will make a statement. [81064]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs launched new sustainable operations targets for the Government estate on 12 June.

The new targets included a commitment that all Government Departments should have an environmental management system (EMS) in place, based, or modelled upon, a recognised system, such as ISO 14001, or the European regulation EMAS.

Previous target for EMSs for the Government estate, published in September 2002, had the same wording as the recently announced commitment.

Some 82 per cent. of the Department of Communities and Local Government staff, including executive agencies, work in three properties that are covered by an environmental management system (EMS) that have certified accreditation to ISO 14001:2004. Our other four significant buildings have an EMS in place and are working towards ISO 14001 accreditation.

In the small properties—in Barton, Glossop, Garston and Bootle—where it is considered that an EMS is not economically viable, the Department has worked with their local authority to minimise their environmental impact.

This answer does not include properties occupied by Government offices, which carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

House Prices

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average house price was in each London borough in each of the last five years. [86837]

Angela E. Smith: Estimates of average house prices at local authority level, including each London borough, are available back to 1996 and are on Land Registry data. The figures for 1996 to 2005 are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website as Table 585.

The web link for the information is:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/159/Table585_id1156159.xls

Housing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public funds are available to improve energy efficiency standards for new housing built under the sustainable communities programme. [85883]

Angela E. Smith: The Government are committed to improving energy efficiency in all housing. The new Buildings Regulations Part L, taken with changes to strengthen the building regulations in 2002 and 2005, will improve energy efficiency standards by 40 per cent. from April 2002 levels. The new draft code for sustainable homes will also raise the environmental standard of housing further and will signal the future direction of building regulations.

To achieve the higher levels of housing growth set out in the sustainable communities plan new homes must be built in a sustainable way to reduce their environmental impact and carbon footprint. We have already committed around £400 million to the development of the three growth areas and £850 million for the Thames Gateway up to March 2008. This is to deliver on all aspects of a sustainable community, including environmental performance.

Identity Cards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Government has given to *(a)* local education authorities and *(b)* local authorities on the collection and the use of biometric identification for the provision of local authority services. [85698]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have given no guidance to *(a)* local education authorities or *(b)* local authorities on the collection and use of biometric identification for the provision of local services.

Council Targets

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to reduce the number of targets set for councils by central Government. [86029]

Angela E. Smith: The forthcoming comprehensive spending review will set public service agreements for delivery of public services. We are currently considering arrangements for the development of a new performance framework local government including the role of targets. We intend that further details of this will be reflected in the local government White Paper to be published after recess.

In the meantime, we are setting up a Lifting Burdens Task Force, which will identify and agree removal of the most burdensome and least value indicators and information requirements imposed by central Government.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what analysis will be undertaken prior to the allocation of funding to local authorities in 2007-08 of the impact on services provision of the immigration to the UK of people from accession countries in the EU since May 2004; and if she will make a statement. [81851]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government uses population data provided by the Office for National Statistics. These are the best data available on a consistent basis for all authorities. The formula grant distribution system was changed for 2006-07 and 2007-08 to take into account population projections. The projections includes net migration in local authority areas.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what administrative functions for which her Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment she has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81551]

Angela E. Smith: No administrative functions for which the Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible have been outsourced overseas. No assessment has therefore been made of the merits of outsourcing such functions.

Post Office Contracts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which services *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81546]

Angela E. Smith: The information is as follows.

	Contracts
(a) DCLG Centre	No contracts
(b) DCLG Executive agencies	
Planning Inspectorate	[1]
Fire Service College	[1]
Queen Elizabeth 2 Conference Centre	[1]
Executive non-departmental public bodies	
Audit Commission	No contracts
Standards Board for England	No contracts

	Contracts
Leasehold Advisory Service	The Leasehold Advisory Service have two contracts with the Post Office; as follows:
	Mail Re-direction
	(i) Start 21 October 2005
	(ii) End 21 October 2006
	Mail Collection (from business premises)
	(i) Start January 2006
	(ii) Ongoing
Housing Action Trust—Castle Vale	[2]—
Housing Action Trust—Liverpool	[2]—
Housing Action Trust—Stonebridge	No contracts
Housing Corporation	No contracts
London Thames Gateway Development Corp.	No contracts
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corp.	No contracts
West Northamptonshire Development Corp.	No contracts
Firebuy	No contracts
English Partnerships	No contracts
Independent Housing Ombudsman	No contracts
Architects Registration Board	The board has one contract with the Post Office to collect mail.
	(i) Start 2003
	(ii) Ongoing
Non-departmental public bodies—tribunals	
Northern Rent Assesment Panel	[3]—
Midland Rent Assessment Panel	[3]—
Eastern Rent Assessment Panel	[3]—
Southern Rent Assesment Panel	[3]—
London Rent Assessment Panel	[3]—

[1] DCLG's Executive agencies report no contracts.
[2] Castle Vale and Liverpool Housing Action Trusts have been wound up so provision of data are disproportionate.
[3] The Rent Assessment Panels report no contracts.

Business Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of documents relating to the attendance of the head of the rating policy team at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation conference on post revaluation and current issues on maintaining the business rates system in Blackpool on 11 to 12 May 2006. [78262]

Mr. Woolas: A copy of the slides for the presentation entitled business rates—post revaluation and current issues, given to this conference by the head of the business rates team in my Department are on the internet at:-

http://www.inr.tv/conference/enforcement/qwertyuiop/Speakers_Slides_CollEnf06_v1.pdf

and copies have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Fire Control Centres

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what is the timetable for the opening of regional fire control centres in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* each of the other areas due to have such centres. [86043]

Angela E. Smith: It is currently forecast that the East Midlands Regional Control Centre will open in financial year 2008-09. A two-three year phased rollout will then follow for the remaining Centres. The roll out schedule will be finalised with the IT supplier, once appointed.

Sheltered Housing

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the Supporting People initiative for older people living in sheltered housing; and if she will make a statement. [86091]

Mr. Woolas: Supporting People is a programme that enables the local funding and provision of housing-related support services that help people to continue or move towards living independently in their own home and in the community. Through the programme, support is provided to a broad range of vulnerable groups and through a variety of service types.

Assessments to date of Supporting People, as carried out by the Audit Commission, have looked at either the programme as a whole or at the operation of the programme in specific local authorities. As such, there has been no specific assessment to date that looks only at the effectiveness of Supporting People for older people in sheltered housing. However, the Audit Commission's national report on Supporting People, issued in October 2005, concluded that the introduction of the programme has resulted in improved services for many vulnerable people.

Water Shortages

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made by the *(a)* Valuation Office Agency and *(b)* Valuation Tribunal Service of whether a water shortage or drought may represent a physical change in infrastructure to a business that is dependent on water for its business and thereby affects its valuation and liability for business rates; and what guidance has been published. [85716]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(a) the Valuation Office Agency provided written guidance in June to its valuation officers on whether the present water shortage and measures that have or may be introduced can affect rateable values. The Valuation Office Agency's advice is that the imposition of drought orders is a legal change that may restrict the

ability to use a property and this should be regarded as a matter affecting the physical enjoyment of the property. Whether this will affect the valuation will depend on the individual circumstances of any particular property. It is unlikely that the drought itself constitutes a physical change to a property's locality or infrastructure.

(b) the Valuation Tribunal Service has made no assessment on the impact of water restrictions on liability or valuations. Valuation tribunals are charged with determining rateable values on appeal when ratepayers and valuation officers disagree. Whether water restrictions impact on valuations is a matter for individual valuation tribunals to consider on the evidence presented in any particular case.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol-related Crime

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol-related crimes have *(a)* been reported and *(b)* resulted in convictions in Leicester, broken down by local government ward area in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [86371]

Mr. McNulty: From the information collected centrally, it is not possible to identify those offences which are alcohol-related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in either the recorded crime or court proceedings data series.

Animal Welfare

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many White Papers were published by his Department in 2005; how many included an animal health or welfare component; and if he will make a statement. [68258]

Joan Ryan: My Department published 11 White Papers in the Command papers series during the calendar year 2005 and was lead author on two other jointly produced White Papers. A complete list of these has been provided to the Library .

Of these 13 White Papers one, Statistics of scientific procedures on living animals : Great Britain 2004, related to animal health or welfare.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in each local authority area in each year since their introduction. [85406]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A table giving the number of Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued annually, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, where prohibitions have been imposed in each local Government authority area, up to 30 September 2005 (latest available), can be found on the Crime Reduction website at: www.crimereduction.gov.uk.

ASBO breach data are available at criminal justice system area level only.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people issued with antisocial behaviour orders have broken the terms of their conditions in each constituency in England since the scheme was introduced. [85514]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available in the form requested.

Bail Applications/Bail Hostels

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases before Asylum and Immigration Tribunals applications were made for bail pending termination of the appeal in each of the last five years. [86062]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Information shows that in each of the last five financial years the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) and its predecessor the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) received the following volume of bail applications:

	Number of applications
2005-06	4,144
2004-05	2,711
2003-04	2,135
2002-03	2,236
2001-02	3,093

The AIT does not collate information on the volume of bail applications arising from particular appeal types nor the number of applications opposed by the Home Office. Such information could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1324W, on bail hostels, if he will take steps to ensure that the type of offences committed by offenders residing at an approved premises on a given date is collected centrally. [85345]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Consideration has been given on a number of occasions to the case for collecting centrally data on the type of offences committed by offenders residing at approved premises. Certain offenders are placed in approved premises, where they can be closely monitored by offender managers and by staff in approved premises. Since offenders are managed locally, it is appropriate that local offender managers should have comprehensive information on offenders, including the type of offence they have committed, it remains my view, therefore, that it is neither necessary, nor a prudent use of resources, for us to collect centrally data on the type of offence committed by residents in approved premises.

Chief Inspector of Prisons

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will *(a)* review his decision to abolish the post of Chief Inspector of Prisons and *(b)* retain the present incumbent in post. [85302]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Part 4 of the Police and Justice Bill, currently before Parliament, will replace the existing five Chief Inspectors for the justice sector (police, Crown Prosecution Service, courts administration, prisons and probation) with a single Chief Inspector for Justice, Community Safety and Custody. We consider this reform essential to reflect recent reforms in the services inspected and to provide an inspection regime that is able to look more effectively at the system as a whole, especially at the joins where activities of agencies interface.

We recognise the special nature and importance of prisons inspection in safeguarding human rights. We have therefore placed a special and separate duty on the new Chief Inspector to inspect prisons and other similar forms of custody and report to the responsible Ministers on the treatment of prisoners and the conditions in prisons. This duty continues and enhances the present statutory role of the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Transitional arrangements will ensure that the new Chief Inspector will not take over the prisons inspection duty from the Chief Inspector of Prisons until Ministers are quite satisfied that he or she is ready to do so effectively. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has recently extended the appointment of the present Chief Inspector of Prisons until April 2008.

We have, however, acknowledged concerns raised by the Joint Committee on Human Rights and expect to table some amendments to the Bill to address them.

Commercial Vehicle Drivers

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions there were of and *(b)* fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers of commercial vehicles in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [85791]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* Information collected centrally by the Home Department on motoring offences does not distinguish between the characteristics of the vehicles involved.

Community Police Officers

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to extend the initiative of distributing in areas of high crime key fobs bearing the name, photograph and contact details of community police officers; and if he will make a statement. [85959]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* The Home Office is committed to having neighbourhood policing teams embedded in every area in England and Wales by April 2008. As part of this, every member of the community will know how to contact their local neighbourhood policing team—whether officer, PCSO or other staff—by phone or by e-mail.

How this commitment is delivered is an operational matter for chief constables; the Home Office does not therefore intend to prescribe how police forces should publicise the contact details of local neighbourhood policing officers. The important thing is that people know how to contact their local officers and that they can do it quickly and easily.

Community Support Officers

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of police community support officers in assisting regular police officers; and if he will make a statement. [86311]

Mr. McNulty: The effectiveness of police community support officers (PCSOs) is evaluated in "An Evaluation of the Impact of the National Reassurance Policing Programme" and "A National Evaluation of Community Support Officers" which were published on 26 January 2006. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

PCSOs are deployed with police officers in a team-based approach to deliver neighbourhood policing. They assist police officers and exercise their own role through regular patrolling, community engagement and tackling low-level crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB). This allows police officers to tackle more serious criminal behaviour. The evaluation shows that PCSOs have been well received by the public.

Consultants

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service on consultants working on (i) identity cards, (ii) e-passports and (iii) identity management in each of the last four years; and how much has been spent on each category in 2006-07. [85339]

Joan Ryan: Expenditure on consultancies by the Home Office and the United Kingdom Passport Service (up to 31 March 2006) and the Identity and Passport Service (from 1 April 2006) was as follows:

£000

	Identity cards (includes identity management)	*e-passports*
2003-04	232	467
2004-05	9,207	1,752
2005-06	21,148	2,319
2006-07 (April to June)	4,764	371

Convictions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been convicted of *(a)* rape and *(b)* sexual assault under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each constituency in England since the introduction of the Act; [85509]

(2) how many people have been convicted of common assault under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in each constituency in England since the introduction of the Act; [85510]

(3) how many people have been convicted of inflicting bodily injury under section 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 in each constituency in England in the last 10 years; [85511]

(4) how many people have been convicted of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 in each constituency in England in the last four years; [85515]

(5) how many people have been convicted of being drunk and disorderly in each constituency in England in each month of the last two years for which figures are available. [85517]

Mr. McNulty: It is not possible to identify the number of convictions for the offences specified, broken down by constituency area as the data are not centrally collected at that level of detail.

The offence of being drunk and disorderly can attract a Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND), however PND data are also not available at constituency level.

Criminal Records Bureau

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases the Criminal Records Bureau has wrongly reported that a person has a criminal record in each year since its inception; on how many occasions in each year such cases related to offences involving children, broken down by offence; and if he will make a statement. [81418]

Joan Ryan: I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 507W.

Information is not available to provide the number of occasions in each year such cases involved children, broken down by offence. Such information could be provided only by conducting an individual case search against the Police National Computer (PNC) and at disproportionate cost.

Custody

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are taken to liaise with the families of children and young adults in custody in order to better assess their vulnerability and risk of self-harm or suicide. [86221]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Youth Justice Board's National Standards, youth offending teams have a duty to involve parents in the completion of the ASSET assessment form and pre-sentence report that must be compiled on a young person under 18 who appears in court. If the young person is sentenced to custody, there is a requirement under the national standards for parents to be invited to participate in the training planning process. Establishments are also required to consult and inform parents during the young person's stay is custody.

The Prison Service requires that local suicide and self-harm prevention strategies should set out procedures relating to receiving, recording and passing information coming into the establishment from families, agencies and other parties outside the establishment who have a concern for a person in custody who may be at risk of suicide or self-harm. Prison Service staff are encouraged to involve families in the care planning of at-risk prisoners.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the approved methods of restraint are for children and young adults in custody; what safety instructions are issued to prison officers; how many incidents of harm resulting from unauthorised restraint have been recorded in the past five years; how many officers have been subject to disciplinary action arising from restraint incidents; and if he will review current practice. [86251]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The method of restraint authorised for use in young offender institutions is known as "Control and Restraint". All prison officers receive initial training and annual refresher training in the use of Control and Restraint. The method of restraint approved for use in secure training centres is known as "Physical Control in Care". Custody officers in secure training centres receive initial training and at least annual refresher training in these techniques. Secure children's homes are responsible for commissioning their own physical restraint training; these methods are not subject to approval by the Secretary of State. Full information on the number of incidents of harm resulting from unauthorised restraint, and on officers subject to disciplinary action arising from restraint incidents, is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Youth Justice Board has undertaken a wide-ranging review of behaviour management and the use of physical restraint. In February 2006, the board issued a Code of Practice on Managing Children and Young People's Behaviour in the Secure Estate. All establishments have been assessed for performance against the code and have drawn up improvement plans. The board is closely monitoring compliance with the code. As part of its review, the board also reassessed the techniques approved for use in secure training centres and is piloting a modified system of Control and Restraint for use in young offender institutions for under 18-year-olds. The overall review is still in progress; the Youth Justice Board is currently working to improve the quality and range of data relating to behaviour management across the estate for children and young people.

Departmental Meetings

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings have been held between officials in his Department and *(a)* members of the National Assembly for Wales, *(b)* officials of the National Assembly for Wales, *(c)* members of the police authorities in Wales and *(d)* members of the police forces in Wales since 1 September 2005. [86164]

Mr. McNulty: Officials in the Home Office have held a number of discussions with representatives of Welsh police force, Welsh police authorities and the Welsh Assembly. The Head of Local Government Finance at the Welsh Assembly Government represented the Welsh Assembly Government on the Police Restructuring Finance Working Group.

Domestic Violence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths resulting from incidents of domestic violence have occurred in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* constituency in each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement. [82985]

Mr. McNulty: The following data from the Metropolitan Police Service (MRS) gives the total number of victims of homicide which were identified as domestic violence related in all London boroughs from 2001-02 to 2005-06. I will write to the hon. Member with the data broken down by London borough when we receive it from MRS. MRS do not collect data at constituency level.

	Number
2001-02	35
2002-03	24
2003-04	42
2004-05	34
2005-06	34

MRS have attributed the increase in domestic violence related homicides from 2003-04 to the change in the force's definition of domestic violence to the Association of Chief Police Officer's definition which now includes family members (over 18) as well as partners and ex-partners.

Drink-driving

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that people charged of drink driving are tried soon after their arrest. [85898]

Mr. Coaker: A charge of drink driving will be made on the basis of results from an evidential breath test or from laboratory analysis of a specimen of blood or urine. We have taken steps to speed up this process by empowering the police to carry out evidential tests at the roadside rather than at a police station. Work is currently under way to enable suitable evidential equipment to be type approved for use by the police. Decisions as to prosecution and the subsequent timetabling of cases are matters for the Crown Prosecution Service and HM Courts Service.

Drug Intervention Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases in the five pilot areas of the Drugs Intervention programme *(a)* handling stolen goods *(b)* attenuated acquisitive crime and *(c)* begging was the trigger for a drugs test in 2004-05. [26658]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 1 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 811W.

Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug-related offences were committed by 16 to 24 year olds in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997; what proportion each figure represents of all offences committed by 16 to 24 year olds in each year; and if he will make a statement. [85939]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally. The recorded crime statistics do not contain any information on the offender.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has conducted into the relationship between street prices of heroin and cocaine and the level of acquisitive crime; and if he will make a statement. [85417]

Mr. Coaker: In 2002 it was estimated that 50 per cent. of acquisitive crime was drug related. There has been no equivalent estimate subsequently.

Extradition

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for extradition from the US to the UK have been made in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* were successful, *(b)* were unsuccessful and (c) remain outstanding. [85408]

Joan Ryan: Figures are given in the following table. Rather than use terms like "successful" with reference to extradition requests, we show the number of cases which have resulted in surrenders and the number which have closed for other reasons. The figure does not include requests to Ministers in Scotland and Northern Ireland, who have devolved powers to make or grant requests.

US requests to England and Wales 2001-05

	Total	*Surrenders*	*Closed without surrender*	*Outstanding from the year*
2001	16	12	4	—
2002	9	3	5	1
2003	14	4	5	5
2004	34	20	2	12
2005	8	2	—	6

Firearms

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* seizures and *(b)* disposals of firearms there were in each police authority area in England and Wales in each of the last three years for which records are available. [85313]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 July 2006]*: The requested data are not collected centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many operations firearms were issued to police officers in England and Wales in each year since 1983; in how many of these operations shots were fired by police officers; and how many police officers were qualified to carry firearms in each of the last nine years. [85355]

Mr. McNulty: The number of operations in which firearms were authorised since 1983, the number of incidents when shots were fired using conventional firearms, and the number of Authorised Firearms Officers in police forces in England and Wales since 1996-97 are shown in the following tables. Statistics for 2005-06 are likely to be announced in October.

Number of operations in which firearms were authorised

	Number of operations
1983	3,180
1984	2,667
1985	2,488
1986	2,453
1987	2,185
1988	2,227
1989	2,583
1990	2,874
1991	3,722
1992	4,479
1993	5,625
1994-95	6,141
1995-96	8,726
1996-97	12,379
1997-98	11,842
1998-99	10,928
1999-2000	10,915
2000-01	11,109
2001-02	13,991
2002-03	14,827
2003-04	16,657
2004-05	15,981

Note

Figures for operations in which firearms were issued to officers are not available for the first three months of 1994

Number of incidents where conventional firearms were used

	Incidents
1996-97	5
1997-98	3
1998-99	5
1999-2000	7
2000-01	9
2001-02	11
2002-03	10
2003-04	4
2004-05	5

Number of authorised firearms officers (AFOs)

	Total
1996-97	6,738
1997-98	6,585
1998-99	6,308
1999-2000	6,262
2000-01	6,064
2001-02	5,776
2002-03	5,763
2003-04	6,096
2004-05	6,243

Football-related Violence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for football-related violence in each police authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82920]

Mr. McNulty: The following table has been compiled from information provided by the Football Banning Orders Authority. It gives information on the number of football-related convictions for the seasons 2003-04 and 2004-05 in respect of each police authority area. Prior to 2003 information was only held centrally in respect of football-related arrests and the number of football banning orders imposed during each season.

Football-related convictions by police authority area

	Season	
Police authority area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Avon and Somerset	39	6
Bedfordshire	2	5
Cambridgeshire	10	6
Cheshire	52	24
Cleveland	28	28
Cumbria	7	1
Derbyshire	53	32
Devon and Cornwall	34	29
Dorset	10	36
Durham	6	2
Dyfed-Powys	0	0
Essex	21	11
Gloucestershire	0	3
Greater Manchester	186	130
Gwent	0	0
Hampshire	173	44
Hertfordshire	5	0
Humberside	22	4
Kent	4	0
Lancashire	40	54
Leicestershire	6	13
Lincolnshire	32	28
Merseyside	32	40
Metropoljtan	223	124

Football-related convictions by police authority area

Police authority area	Season 2003-04	2004-05
Norfolk	21	38
Northamptonshire	6	5
Northumbria	63	14
North Wales	25	26
North Yorkshire	2	4
Nottinghamshire	71	49
South Wales	31	17
South Yorkshire	43	44
Staffordshire	43	17
Suffolk	33	8
Surrey	0	0
Sussex	0	11
Thames Valley	26	15
Warwickshire	0	0
West Mercia	0	5
West Midlands	187	148
West Yorkshire	105	165
Wiltshire	5	8
Total	1,646	1,194

Source:
Football Banning Orders Authority.

Foreign Prisoners

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* non-British EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals are held in prisons in England and Wales, broken down by their country of origin. [79775]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the nationality of foreign nationals held in prison establishments in England and Wales is given in the population in custody detailed table 2.14 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics Quarterly Brief October to December 2005, available at the following web address: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the foreign nationals detained at *(a)* Highdown and *(b)* Downview prisons on 1 July 2005 had been released by 1 April 2006; and how many of those released have subsequently been deported. [84102]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* Information on discharges is not available in the detail the hon. Gentleman requests.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of tests by the Forensic Science Service in each region were completed within *(a)* four weeks, *(b)* six weeks, *(c)* two months and *(d)* three months in the last period for which figures are available; how many took more than three months; and if he will make a statement. [85354]

Joan Ryan: The percentage of cases completed by The Forensic Science Service (FSS) in each region within the timeframes specified is displayed in the attached tables, which distinguish between performance for the analysis of DNA suspect samples for inclusion on The National DNA Database, and scientific examinations conducted for forensic casework in respect of the range of offences investigated by police forces. The data is shown for 2005-06 and quarter one of 2006-07 (April to June 2006).

Table 1: 2005-06 percentage of tests completed by the FSS for forensic casework (exclusive of Road Traffic Alcohol cases)

Region	28 days	42 days	60 days	90 days	>90 days
London and South Region	70.2	82.2	89.9	95.8	4.2
comprising of:					
Metropolitan Police Service; City of London; Norfolk; Suffolk; Lincoln; Cambridgeshire; Hertfordshire; Essex; Bedfordshire; Kent; Surrey and Sussex.					
Midlands and Wales Region	85.9	94.3	97.5	99.2	0.8
comprising of:					
West Midlands; Warwick; West Mercia; Northamptonshire; Derbyshire; Leicestershire; Devon and Cornwall; Avon and Somerset; Dorset; Wiltshire; Gloucestershire; Hampshire; Thames Valley Police; Gwent; South Wales Police; Dyfed Powys Police.					
North and North West Region	78.8	91	96.7	99.3	0.7
comprising of:					
Lancashire; Greater Manchester Police; Merseyside; Cheshire; Cumbria; North Wales Police; Stafford; Nottinghamshire; North Yorkshire Police; West Yorkshire Police; South Wales Police; Northumbria; Humberside; Cleveland; Durham.					

Table 2: Quarter one 2006-07 (April to June 2006) Percentage of tests completed by the FSS for forensic casework (exclusive of Road Traffic Alcohol cases)

Region	28 days	42 days	60 days	90 days	>90 days
London and South Region	72.2	84.8	91.9	96.2	3.8
Midlands and Wales Region	88.7	95.2	98.1	99.4	0.6
North and North West Region	79.1	90.9	96.6	99.2	0.8

Table 3: 2005-06 Percentage of tests completed by the FSS for DNA suspect samples uploaded onto The National DNA Database

Region	28 days	42 days	60 days	90 days	>90 days
London and South Region	97.2	98.5	99.6	99.8	0.02
Midlands and Wales Region	98.8	98.9	99.5	99.6	0.04
North and North West Region	99.4	99.8	99.9	99.9	0.01

Table 4: Quarter one 2006-07 (April to June 2006) Percentage of tests completed by the FSS for DNA suspect samples uploaded onto The National DNA Database

Region	28 days	42 days	60 days	90 days	>90 days
London and South Region	97.9	99.9	100	100	0
Midlands and Wales Region	99.9	99.9	100	100	0
North and North West Region	99.9	100	100	100	0

GCHQ

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the conditions of service are of staff employed at GCHQ; and if he will make a statement. [85571]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) is an autonomous Department under the ministerial responsibility of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Staff at GCHQ are members of the Home Civil Service.

Terms of employment and conditions of service for GCHQ are laid out in the GCHQ Staff Handbook and are based upon the Civil Service Management Code produced by the Cabinet Office.

Highdown/Downview Prisons

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prisoners were detained at *(a)* Highdown and *(b)* Downview prisons on 1 July 2005; how many of these were foreign nationals; and how many had not had their nationalities determined; [68060]

(2) how many foreign nationals are detained at *(a)* Highdown and *(b)* Downview prisons; when these detainees are due to be released; and how many will be considered for deportation. [84101]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the prison population at Highdown and Downview as at 30 June 2005 is given in the following table.

There were approximately 190 foreign national prisoners in Highdown, and 130 foreign national prisoners in Downview, at the end of May 2006.

The figures have been drawn from the prisons administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Information on release dates of individual prisoners is not issued publicly.

As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made clear in his written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 79WS, all non-EEA nationals who are given a custodial sentence should face deportation; and deportation should happen as early as possible in that sentence. He set out the eight priority areas in this area to achieve this objective which he has asked management to address.

	Highdown	Downview
Total population	740	240
Foreign nationals	220	n/a
Unrecorded nationality on prison IT system	n/a	n/a

HM Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is available to commissioning authorities of investigations within HM Prison Service to ensure that investigating officers do not have personal interests in the outcome of the investigations they are commissioned to conduct. [85478]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Guidance to commissioning authorities on the appointment of investigating officers is contained in Section 3.B of Prison Service Order (PSO) 1300—Investigations.

In particular it states that

"Investigators must have no significant conflicts of interest with the matter or persons under investigation. Should such conflicts arise within the course of an investigation the matter must be immediately referred to the commissioning authority".

This is a mandatory requirement and commissioning authorities must ensure that this requirement is met.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will expand specialised training to include screening and referral of potential trafficking victims for all front-line responders within the law enforcement, immigration, medical, educational and social services; and if he will make a statement. [80350]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently in the process of considering the responses to the consultation paper with the aim of producing a final UK action plan later in the year which will provide an end-to-end approach of tackling the problem of trafficking in human beings.

One of the areas being looked into is how to ensure an effective multi agency strategy including a review of the training requirements of all involved staff.

This will build on the work undertaken so far within the Immigration Nationality Directorate (IND) which is in the process of providing specialised training to 600 immigration officers at ports; the production of an online toolkit for all immigration officers; the establishment of the Airline Liaison Officer Network; the establishment of social work teams at five ports and asylum screening units principally to identify the particular needs of unaccompanied asylum seeking children and to safeguard their welfare.

Additionally, IND recently ran a seminar on tackling human trafficking for senior and specialist IND staff, plus representatives from the National Crime Squad, the Metropolitan police and other key stakeholders which identified the challenges we face in this area and recommendations for taking forward work to deal with these challenges.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many human trafficking incidents have been *(a)* reported and *(b)* successfully prosecuted in each London borough in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82981]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics for trafficking are not broken down for each of the London boroughs but are provided for London as a whole.

There are currently two pieces of legislation which criminalise trafficking. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force in May 2004 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004 which came into force on 1 December 2004.

Prior to the introduction of this legislation there was only one conviction for a trafficking offence under the Immigration Act 1971 and this was in London.

Following the commencement of the dedicated trafficking offences in 2004, the convictions in London are as follows:

	Number
2004	1
2005	9
2006 (to date)	[1]—

[1] No convictions.

To date there have been no convictions for trafficking for labour exploitation.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 877W, on human trafficking, how many people were convicted for offences related to human trafficking in each of the last five years, broken down by category of offence. [84928]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* Dedicated trafficking offences came into force in 2004 under the Sexual Offences Act and then the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004. Prosecutions were made under offences in the Immigration Act 1971. There was one conviction in 2003 under that piece of legislation.

In 2004 three people were convicted of related trafficking offences; these offences included:

Trafficking into and within the UK
Controlling a child prostitute
Living off immoral earnings
Possession of a false instrument
Causing to become a prostitute
Rape
False imprisonment

In 2005 32 people were convicted of related trafficking offences; these offences included:

Trafficking into and within the UK
Conspiracy to traffic in prostitution
Exercising control over prostitution
Living on prostitution
Rape
Conspiracy to kidnap
Money laundering
False imprisonment
Causing or inciting prostitution for gain
Keeping a brothel
Theft of passport
Conspiracy to facilitate unlawful immigration
Conspiracy to forge

2006 12 people were convicted of related trafficking offences these offences included:

Inciting prostitution
Trafficking into and within the UK
Controlling prostitution
Trafficking within the UK
Manslaughter
Perverting the course of justice
Facilitation managing a brothel
Forged and counterfeit documents

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set up a national police taskforce to tackle trafficking of *(a)* women for the sex trade and *(b)* children used for (i) begging, (ii) child labour and (iii) as prostitutes. [80659]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* We fully recognise the need for a coherent nationwide strategy to combat the trafficking of human beings.

To this end we launched the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) on 21 June. The establishment of UKHTC came as a result of the success of Operation Pentameter, a national police led

multi-agency operation which aimed to tackle trafficking for sexual exploitation and which led to 234 people being arrested. Of these, 132 people have been charged, to date, with offences connected to trafficking.

Following on from the success of Operation Pentameter the UKHTC will support the overarching aim of moving the United Kingdom to a leading position in relation to the prevention and investigation of trafficking in human beings. It will also become a central point for the development of police expertise and operational co-ordination.

Identity Cards

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made in introducing identity cards; and if he will make a statement. [85527]

Joan Ryan: The Identity Cards Act 2006 provides the statutory basis for a national identity cards scheme and received Royal Assent on 30 March 2006. The Government are committed to the rapid introduction of identity cards but, as we have always made clear, this is an incremental process. Identity cards will be implemented in a phased way, starting with biometric residence permits for foreign nationals in 2008 and rolling out to United Kingdom nationals thereafter.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael), of 15 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2128W, on the cost of identity cards, how much has been spent in each financial year. [85645]

Joan Ryan: Total figures in each financial year for the costs of developing the identity cards scheme are as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	1.03
2004-05	12.38
2005-06	27.70
2006-07	[1]5.30

[1] Provisional expenditure in April and May 2006.

Identity Fraud

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were charged with identity fraud in each of the last 10 years; and how many were convicted. [86262]

Joan Ryan: The Government takes the problem of identity fraud very seriously. There is no single offence of identity fraud. On 7 June 2006 we brought into force sections 25 and 26 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 which created new criminal offences of being in possession or control of false identity documents. These offences relate to a wide range of identity documents, including passports, driving licences, ID cards and immigration documents. The maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment for an offence of possession with intent to use the document for establishing registrable facts about another person, such as name, address, date of birth and other personal details, and two years imprisonment for possession without reasonable excuse. Investigation of offences under these provisions are already underway and statistics on the number of prosecutions and convictions will be published in due course.

There is also a range of other criminal offences to combat identity fraud. These include, for example, the offences in the Theft Acts of 1968 and 1978 of obtaining property by deception (property includes money), obtaining services by deception and obtaining a money transfer by deception. The number of these offences that were committed using a false or stolen identity is not recorded centrally. However, identity theft and identity fraud questions were incorporated into the British Crime Survey in 2005 and the results should give us more information on the number of victims and the types of fraud that are being committed.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been allocated to tackle identity fraud *(a)* in 2006 and *(b)* over the next five years. [86352]

Joan Ryan: There is a wide range of activity within the Home Office, Identity and Passport Service, other government departments, law enforcement agencies and the private sector to tackle identity fraud. This includes our plans for identity cards and the improvements we continue to make to the security of the UK Passport which are now issued with a digital facial image.

The Home Office established the Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC) in 2003 to work with public and private sector organisations, to identify and implement cost-effective measures to counter identity fraud, and to co-ordinate the activity in this area.

In addition to all the above, in the current financial year, a budget of £200,000 has been specifically allocated within the Identity and Passport Service to fund identity fraud reduction activity, such as our campaign to raise awareness among the public of how they can protect themselves against identity fraud and what to do if they become a victim. Funding for future years has yet to be allocated.

Islamist Terrorism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to tackle Islamist terrorism; and if he will make a statement. [85477]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 July 2006]*: The United Kingdom faces a continuing threat from individuals who believe they can advance their aims by committing acts of terrorism here in the UK and against our citizens and interests abroad. The

Government's counter terrorism strategy—known as CONTEST—was published on 10 July and explains the framework we have implemented to tackle terrorism in the UK.

The key to preventing terrorism is not only improved security and legislative arrangements: these alone will not defeat terrorism. A key focus of Government are to engage in genuine and meaningful dialogue with the Muslim communities and to tackle difficult issues.

Mini Motorcycles

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* arrests were made for the illegal use of mini motorcycles in the London Borough of Enfield in each of the last three years; and how many such motorcycles were seized in the borough in each year. [85887]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not held centrally.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how often the police have used their powers to seize unlicensed mini-motors being misused on public land under the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Road Traffic Act 1988; [85908]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of encouraging greater use of antisocial behaviour orders to tackle misuse of unlicensed mini-motors on public land; [85907]

(3) whether he has estimated how many young people possess a mini-motor or off-road vehicle. [85909]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not collected centrally.

Muslim Brotherhood

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations with links to the Muslim Brotherhood received money from his Department in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how much each organisation received. [86269]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate costs.

Online Passport Applications

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for delays in processing online passport applications; and what average time a person applying online waited for the delivery of their new passport in the last 12 months. [84907]

Joan Ryan: On 16 May 2006, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) introduced the second trial phase of its online passport application system, EPA2, from its Newport office.

Soon after its introduction, the EPA2 system encountered technical problems, making the online application process less effective than desired. The IPS invoked contingency plans on 5 June and suspended the system, replacing it with EPA1, the earlier version of IPS's online application system, which is operating well. To ensure customers received the best possible service levels, IPS wrote to those customers who had applied through EPA2 and were still waiting, to recommend that they submit replacement applications and IPS has generally issued passports to these customers within a two days.

Approximately 18,000 applications were received via EPA2 and all are expected to have been processed by 14 July. The IPS has issued 6.6 million passports this year.

The EPA1 system advises applicants to allow four weeks to receive their passport. However, on-line applications are included in the IPS operating target to turn round 99.5 per cent. of straightforward applications for the standard service within 10 working days once we receive the completed and signed application (which for an EPA1 case will have been prepopulated and sent to the applicant for completion.) The IPS annual report and accounts, expected to be published later this month, will show that this target was met for the financial year ended 31 March 2006.

Operation Pentameter

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made as a result of Operation Pentameter; what the countries of origin are of those *(a)* arrested and *(b)* trafficked; and if he will make a statement. [80658]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* There have been a total of 232 arrests made as a result of Operation Pentameter which to date has resulted in 134 people being charged with trafficking related offences. The majority of those arrested for offences related to trafficking under this operation are British, Chinese, Asian, East European or from the Balkans. The majority of rescued victims come from Asia, the Far East and Eastern Europe.

Oxycondone

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1330W, on oxycodone, what estimate he has made of the effects on *(a)* the number of jobs and *(b)* the balance of payments if producers of oxycodone formulations moved the manufacture of these formulations to the Republic of Ireland from the UK. [86134]

Mr. Coaker: No such estimates have been made.

Paedophiles

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered paedophiles are resident in the Northumbria police force area; what steps are taken by *(a)* the police and *(b)* other agencies to protect the public from re-offending by those registered; and if he will make a statement. [85421]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Details of the number of registered sex offenders in the community are incorporated into the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Report for each police/probation area of England and Wales. The report for Northumbria shows that there were 851 registered sex offenders living in the in the area as at 31 March 2005. The data is not broken down by victim age.

The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) imposed a duty on each of the 42 police and probation areas in England and Wales to work together to protect the public from sexual and violent offenders. MAPPA brings together the police, probation and Prison Services into what is known as the MAPPA Responsible Authority. A number of other agencies are under a duty to co-operate with the Responsible Authority. These include local social care, health, education and housing services.

MAPPA provides for risk assessment which is more comprehensive, benefiting from a wide range of information; and better co-ordinated and more robust risk management planning, drawing upon interventions from the various agencies involved.

A sex offender who is required to register, must within three days of conviction or caution (or a relevant civil order being made), notify the police, in person and at a prescribed police station, of his name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. If the offender is in prison on the day that this requirement falls due then he must make his notification within three days of his release. If an offender fails to comply, they commit a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.

Passport Fraud

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to combat passport fraud; and if he will make a statement. [84849]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 17 July 2006]*: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) is engaged in a range of initiatives designed to enhance the security of the passport issuing process and the UK passport itself. Because of the nature of fraud and the way in which criminals operate in seeking to obtain passports illegally, IPS takes a holistic approach to enhancing security. The initiatives which are under way are therefore designed to ensure that each part of the passport operation contributes to the security of the whole system and ensures the integrity of the UK passport.

The IPS corporate and business plan for 2006-16 which was published on 21 April 2006 describes these initiatives and sets out its strategic objectives for fraud prevention. This programme of work includes:-

Introduction of more secure passports incorporating biometrics identifiers. The first UK e.Passport was issued on six March, and rollout to all customers should be completed by the end of August;

Introduction next year of mandatory interviews for first time adult passport applicants. Enhancement of management information, monitoring and sampling processes to enable the development of fraud reduction and identity authentication targets and objectives;

The application, from March of this year, of the social footprint approach to confirming an individuals identity through the personal identification process (PIP);

Using facial recognition technology to identify fraudulent duplicate applications;

Continuing to improve the arrangements for the reporting of lost, stolen and recovered passports, and the storage and the sharing of that data with UK Border Control, and Interpol, and other agencies;

Building on the 80 per cent. reduction in losses of passports in the post through the use of secure delivery, the implementation of measures including improved address management to further reduce losses;

Continued development of PIP to deliver a more comprehensive biographical footprint check including on line access to UK birth and death records, and naturalisation/registration records;

Further development of IT systems to build on the automatic checks of applications that already take place, to better link passport records to an individual; and

Planning for the introduction of fingerprints in passports by 2009 including use of this technology to detect fraudulent duplicate identities.

Data sharing and the positive validation of passport data is critical to the fight against fraud. The IPS has developed Omnibase which provides secure web access to passport information for FCO consular posts abroad, UK's Border Control authorities, The Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency, Criminal Records Bureau and other Government Departments. From July of this year, and building on successful pilots, IPS plan to extend this passport validation service (PVS) to financial institutions who receive passports as evidence of identity from customers opening bank accounts, seeking mortgages or undertaking other financial transactions. The pilots have already shown that PVS can support users in the identification of suspicious passports and prevent fraud.

Finally, supported by the powers in section 25 of the Identity Cards Act that target the misuse of identity documents, IPS is continuing to work closely with the police service, UK Border Control and other Government Departments in operations to tackle fraud.

Police

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will visit Monkmoor police station in Shrewsbury to meet local police officers. [58157]

Mr. McNulty: I will be very happy to consider such an invitation from any police force.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the running cost was of each police force in England and Wales in each of the last three financial years; and what the estimated running costs are of each of the new proposed police forces in the next three financial years. [73281]

Mr. McNulty: Estimated net expenditure by police authority in each of the last three years is set out in the table.

Budget management for each police authority area is a matter for the authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for prioritising local needs.

£000

Police authority	Net expenditure 2003-04	Net expenditure 2004-05	Estimated net expenditure 2005-06
Avon and Somerset	215,885	228,655	240,632
Bedfordshire	78,229	83,055	87,283
Cambridgeshire	99,149	105,303	112,674
Cheshire	135,182	142,258	148,604
Cleveland	103,727	109,579	114,811
Cumbria	79,741	85,600	89,115
Derbyshire	132,870	139,839	145,884
Devon and Cornwall	220,160	233,170	243,711
Dorset	95,565	101,678	106,977
Durham	95,729	100,664	105,403
Essex	212,756	222,081	232,229
Gloucestershire	86,850	92,024	95,928
Hampshire[1]	247,623	261,512	268,094
Hertfordshire	143,155	152,728	159,458
Humberside	141,993	150,592	156,909
Kent	233,060	245,810	256,520
Lancashire	216,769	228,935	240,365
Leicestershire	130,089	138,065	146,276
Lincolnshire	81,127	85,105	89,864
Norfolk	113,530	121,310	126,989
Northamptonshire	93,601	100,915	110,200
North Yorkshire	114,454	121,967	126,166
Nottinghamshire	158,152	165,744	173,367
Staffordshire	149,082	157,082	163,905
Suffolk	89,658	94,624	98,863
Surrey	159,159	168,401	165,407
Sussex	211,157	221,619	231,282
Thames Valley	292,370	311,518	325,214
Warwickshire	70,288	73,890	77,200
West Mercia	154,505	165,838	172,791
Wiltshire	83,784	88,292	92,612
Total Shires	4,439,399	4,697,853	4,904,733
Greater Manchester	450,871	468,880	493,914
Merseyside	282,861	294,835	307,130
Northumbria	241,230	249,810	262,015
South Yorkshire	207,210	216,571	225,363
West Midlands	441,200	460,600	490,960
West Yorkshire	345,577	363,701	382,975
Total Mets	1,968,949	2,054,397	2,162,357
Total England (exc London)	6,408348	6,752,250	7,067,090
Metropolitan	2,430,765	2,583,401	2,488,300
City of London	71,338	72,803	75,756
Total England (inc London)	8,910,451	9,408,454	9,631,146
Dyfed-Powys	72,002	77,007	80,277
Gwent	91,973	98,190	102,311
North Wales	104,640	115,243	120,479
South Wales	205,752	216,620	227,435
Total Wales	474,367	507,060	530,502
Total England and Wales	9,384,818	9,915,514	10,161,648

[1] Figure for Hampshire in 2005-06 was unavailable and has been based by CIPFA on previous trends.

Source:
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Police statistics—2003-04 and 2004-05 Actuals; 2005-06 Estimates)

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers per 100,000 residents there are in each police authority in England. [85513]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the following table.

Police Officer strength[1] in England as at 31 March 2005, by police force area and officers per 100,000 population[2]

Police force area	Total police ranks	Total officers per 100,000 population[2]
Avon and Somerset	3,398	225
Bedfordshire	1,232	215
Cambridgeshire	1,418	194
Cheshire	2,207	223
Cleveland	1,689	305
Cumbria	1,260	257
Derbyshire	2,082	213
Devon and Cornwall	3,399	212
Dorset	1,475	211
Durham	1,738	293
Essex	3,230	198
Gloucestershire	1,308	230
Greater Manchester	8,119	321
Hampshire	3,803	212
Hertfordshire	2,145	206
Humberside	2,252	255
Kent	3,630	227
Lancashire	3,585	251
Leicestershire	2,311	246
Lincolnshire	1,234	185
London, City of[2]	881	—
Merseyside	4,339	318
Metropolitan Police[2]	31,073	433
Norfolk	1,554	192
Northamptonshire	1,289	201
Northumbria	4,088	294
North Yorkshire	1,561	206
Nottinghamshire	2,522	245
South Yorkshire	3,307	260
Staffordshire	2,309	220
Suffolk	1,323	195
Surrey	1,959	184
Sussex	3,094	205
Thames Valley	4,189	198
Warwickshire	1,012	195
West Mercia	2,380	203
West Midlands	8,154	316

Police Officer strength[1] in England as at 31 March 2005, by police force area and officers per 100,000 population[2]

Police force area	Total police ranks	Total officers per 100,000 population[2]
West Yorkshire	5,671	271
Wiltshire	1,229	198

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.

Police Complaints Authority

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to Question 80515, how many days a year were expected from Sir Alistair Graham as a member of the Police Complaints Authority. [85989]

Mr. McNulty: Sir Alistair Graham was originally appointed as chair of the Police Complaints Authority in 2000 on a full time basis, but moved to a part time working pattern of three days a week in 2002, with the Home Office's agreement. That equates to 168 days per year before annual leave and public holidays had been taken.

Police DNA Database

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records are held on the police DNA database. [82549]

Joan Ryan: As at 30 June 2006, there were approximately 3,457,000 DNA profiles of individuals retained on the National DNA Database. This figure includes 18,056 persons who have provided a DNA profile voluntarily.

In addition, there were 285,292 DNA profiles retrieved from unsolved crime scenes.

Police Force Restructuring

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of *(a)* the compatibility of police computer systems and *(b)* the implications of computer system compatibility for force restructuring in the West Lancashire and Cumbria areas. [83655]

Mr. McNulty: Police forces and authorities in the North West region submitted a cost benefit analysis of the best options for police structures in the region, including estimated Information Communication and Technology (ICT) costs, to my right hon. Friend the then Home Secretary (Mr. Clarke) in December 2005. This analysis was reviewed by the Home Office and a statement given by the then Home Secretary on 3 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 44WS.

A joint Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Association of Police Authorities (APA) and Police Information and Technology Organisation (PITO) working group has been established to work in conjunction with police forces to ensure that all ICT requirements, and associated costs, are identified in the Reform Programme.

Police Houses

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of the re-introduction of police houses on housing estates. [83673]

Mr. McNulty: No such assessment has been made.

Police Mergers

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials have been working on the potential merger of the Wales police forces since 1 September 2005, broken down by grade; and how much time each spent on the project. [86165]

Mr. McNulty: Since September 2005 there has been a team of approximately 10 FTE civil servants and seconded police staff working in the Home Office on police force mergers. Precise numbers and grades have fluctuated.

It is not possible to quantify how much of their time has been devoted solely to the merger of Welsh police forces.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs have been incurred by each *(a)* police force and *(b)* police authority in connection with the police merger proposals in Wales. [86166]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the police forces and police authorities concerned and the information is not held centrally.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will meet the Chief Constable for West Mercia to discuss his concerns over the proposed merger of West Mercia Police Authority with others in the West Midlands. [74338]

Mr. McNulty: I met the Chief Constable of West Mercia Police Force and the Chair of West Mercia Police Authority on 5 June 2006.

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation his Department held with hon. Members from *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Cumbria before a decision was made not to assist with the harmonisation of council tax levels should the merger of Lancashire and Cumbria police take place. [86378]

Mr. McNulty: No discussions have been held with hon. Members on this specific question.

Policy on council tax is decided by the Government collectively.

Police National Computer

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what categories of information are contained on the police national computer; and who has access to the information. [85356]

Mr. McNulty: The following categories of information are held on Police National Computer (PNC):

Vehicles—Both DVLA information and those suspected of being involved in crime.

Property—Certain specific categories of identifiable property such as plant, marine craft, firearms.

Persons—Any person who has been arrested for a recordable offence, convicted, reprimanded, or cautioned for a recordable offence, or is wanted or sought by the police.

The police have access to PNC data and limited access to certain data items is available to certain agencies who have a 'policing' responsibility. Any non police agency who has access to PNC data has had to apply for the access through an Association of Chief Police Officers group, which applies the guidelines agreed with the Information Commissioner.

Primates (Experiments)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons his Department does not grant project licences for experiments on wild-caught primates; for what reasons exceptions are granted; and if he will make a statement. [85885]

Joan Ryan: In addition to the stringent requirements in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 regarding the use of non-human primates, the use of wild-caught non-human primates in scientific experiments is subject to supplementary additional considerations.

We announced in 1997 that we cannot foresee any circumstances under which we would be prepared to issue licences under the 1986 Act for programmes of work involving the use of Great Apes (chimpanzees, pygmy chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans), and that exceptional justification would be required for the licensed use of other types of non-human primates taken from the wild.

The 1986 Act provides that non-human primates, whether captive bred or wild-caught, can only be used when no other species are suitable for the purposes of the programme to be specified in the licence, or that it is not practicable to obtain animals of any other species that are suitable for those purposes. For the use of wild-caught primates to be exceptionally authorised, there must be no appropriate alternative, no suitable captive-bred animals available and the likely benefits of the programme of work would have to fully justify their use.

In respect of applications to use wild-caught non-human primates, the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate and the Animal Procedures Committee provide advice on a case by case basis on whether and on what terms such use should be licensed. Application of these stringent criteria has meant that first time use of wild-caught non-human primates in scientific procedures has not been licensed in the UK for some years.

Prisons

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nurses, doctors and other specialists in psychiatric and mental health care for vulnerable and at risk children and young adults have been employed by the Prison Service in each of the past 20 years. [86244]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of staff employed by the Prison Service in the psychiatric and mental health care of vulnerable and at risk children is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact on family contact for female prisoners of the re-roling of HMP Bulwood Hall as a male prison. [81200]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have examined the impact of the change on the 100 women prisoners still in custody who were relocated from Bullwood Hall and their average distance from home is now in fact slightly less. It therefore seems unlikely that there will be a significant adverse impact on family contact. All women's prisons aim to maintain and promote family contact.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money was paid in bonus payments to *(a)* governor grade staff and *(b)* operational staff at each prison establishment for each of the last 36 months; who authorised the payments; and if he will make a statement. [85481]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Accurate information as to the amount of money paid to *(a)* governor grade staff and *(b)* operational staff in bonus payments is not held centrally and could only be obtained by reference to paper records held at individual prison establishments, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes have occurred to the service level agreement developed as part of the performance testing exercise at HM Prison Wandsworth since its acceptance in December 2004; and if he will make a statement. [85482]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Wandsworth prison was awarded a Service Level Agreement (SLA) from April 2005, following the successful performance test.

The SLA is a living document and has been reviewed to reflect priorities for 2006-07 and maintain the drive for improved performance. As a result, more demanding targets have been set in some key performance areas.

The area manager and the regional offender manager continuously monitor delivery of the SLA ensuring that performance levels are sustained.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of prisoners currently detained were drug dependent on entering prison, broken down by age group. [85567]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures showing the percentage of prisoners who are drug dependent on entering custody are not held centrally. However, several research studies conclude that around 55 per cent. of those received into prison are problematic drug-users (PDUs) with 80 per cent. reporting some misuse. In certain prisons, up to 80 per cent. test positive for opiates on reception. A further study shows the breakdown of percentage drug misuse by age, in the 12 months prior to prison. It has also been reported that 76 per cent. of young men (18-21) were assessed as dependent on at least one drug.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* treatments and *(b)* support are provided in prisons for drug misuse problems. [85590]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For drug misusers in custody, a comprehensive range of treatment and support is available. These address low, moderate and severe drug dependency and consist of:

Clinical services (detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing programmes), available in all local and remand prisons;

CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare services), available in all adult prisons;

Juvenile Substance Misuse Service available across the Juvenile estate

Drug Rehabilitation Programmes -116 drug rehabilitation programmes, 40 of which are the Short Duration Programme, running in 103 establishments.

Wider resettlement needs are addressed through the Drug Interventions Programme and for those released on licence by the Probation Service.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison officers have been subjected to disciplinary action as a result of allegations of racism in each of the last three years; how many prison officers have been convicted as a result of a criminal prosecution; and how many officers have been *(a)* fined and *(b)* dismissed as a result of disciplinary proceedings. [86208]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Central records on disciplinary cases involving public sector prison staff are currently being revalidated by reference to records held in individual prisons. I will write to my hon. Friend once this exercise has been completed.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* remand and *(b)* sentenced prisoners with psychiatric disorders, broken down by severity of disorder. [85405]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of prisoners with psychiatric disorders is not held centrally.

Private Security Companies

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of private security companies in England and Wales have been granted approved contractor status; and how many and what proportion of these have been granted a licence dispensation notice. [79265]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* The Security Industry Authority (SIA) estimate that around 2,500 security firms in England and Wales are eligible to apply for Approved Contractor Status (ACS). Of these just over 200, or 8 per cent. have been granted Approved Contractor status since the scheme came into force on 20 March 2006. This means that at 3 July approximately 15,450 operatives may be legally deployed under licence dispensation. All firms approved to date have been authorised to use licence dispensation within specified limits and subject to ACS terms and conditions.

Private Security Industry Act

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people requested a licence under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 in each month since April 2005, broken down by type of licence. [76846]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* Valid applications that could be processed in each month since April 2005 are represented in the following table. The Security Industry Act do not produce specific reports for each month broken down by sector. A number of applications that were not valid (for example because key documents were not enclosed) have also been received.

	Number of valid applications received by the SIA
2005	
April	3,938
May	3,801
June	4,045
July	5,083
August	6,270
September	5,610
October	7,386
November	7,975
December	8,785
2006	
January	11,402
February	15,745
March	18,452
April	12,908
May	14,715
Total	126,115

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have requested an application for a licence under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 but have not yet received the application form, broken down by type of application. [77001]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* This information is not available. However, the Security Industry Authority's (SIA's) despatch policy is that upon receipt of a telephone request the SIA sends out an application form within two days by first class post. There are two other methods for ordering application forms—companies can request via a bulk process and individuals via the website. These systems currently distribute applications within three to four days with delivery by data post and first class post respectively.

Probation Service

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account he has taken of rurality in the consultation process on proposed reform of the probation service. [86396]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The consultation for the proposed reform of the probation service ran from October to December 2005, during which a number of respondents raised concerns about how locally specific arrangements would work. The new process for commissioning probation services will take account of the differing needs of differing areas. Through regional structures NOMS commissioners will engage stakeholders to inform their commissioning decisions on the range and volume of services that are needed and commissioned.

Racial Hatred

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will investigate allegations of incitement to racial hatred at the *(a)* Hawza Ilmiyya College and *(b)* the Islamic College of Advanced Studies, Willesden, London; and if he will make a statement. [65775]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 April 2006]:* The decision to investigate allegations that individuals and organisations are using inflammatory language or messages is one for the chief officer of the police force concerned.

Sheriffs

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has considered proposals for *(a)* elected and *(b)* appointed sheriffs to be established as part of measures to combat crime and antisocial behaviour. [84298]

Mr. McNulty: We have considered a wide range of options for making services more responsive and accountable to local priorities on issues of crime and antisocial behaviour. The review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 committed to strengthening the effectiveness of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) by setting national standards. These will require, among other things:

Elected local authority members responsible for community safety issues to play a full part in setting community safety priorities;

Subjecting CDRPs to periodic scrutiny by local authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees;

Requiring Basic Command Unit Commanders and senior representatives of other responsible authorities to hold regular Face the People sessions to respond to issues raised by local communities; and

The introduction of the Community Call for action to enable local communities to trigger intervention by the local authority scrutiny committee if community safety issues have not been adequately addresses by the police or their partners.

Setting out requirements on CDRPs/Community Safety Partnerships to consult, communicate and engage with their communities.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85189]

Mr. McNulty: Between the beginning of October 2005 and 5 July 2006, the only occasion when the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (JCSI) raised a question about the content of a Home Office SI was in relation to the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I.2005/1521). This followed a decision by the divisional court that certain provisions in the Order were ultra vires. There has subsequently been a successful appeal against that decision in the Court of Appeal.

Reports from the JCSI contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported. SI 2005/1521 is considered in the Sixth Report of the JCSI for Session 2005-06.

Violent Crime (Licensed Premises)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent offences in connection with licensed premises there have been in *(a)* non-rural and *(b)* rural areas in relation to (i) adults and (ii) under age people in (A) absolute terms and (B) per 1,000 population in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [84630]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available centrally.

World Cup

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much additional funding has been made available to police forces during the period of the World Cup to help maintain law and order in town centres and other areas with high numbers of licensed premises. [78327]

Mr. McNulty: None. The Police Service in England and Wales has had a huge increase in funding in recent years. The use of these resources is a matter for each chief constable and police authority to determine in the light of local and competing priorities.

Young Offenders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, Column 122W, on young offenders, how much of the additional £45 million funding allocated to youth offending teams has been received by Sefton council; how many additional members of staff will be recruited; where they will be located; what their primary duties are; and how their performance will be assessed. [85978]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sefton Youth Offending Team (YOT) is receiving a total Youth Justice Board (YJB) prevention grant of £347,222 between November 2005 and March 2008, which it is using to fund its existing Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) and a new Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP). £177,222 of this comes from the additional 45 million funding and £170,000 is part of ongoing YIP funding.

Two additional YISP staff will be recruited. These will be in addition to the existing YIP staff. Both new posts are located in the Sefton Centre for Restorative Practice in Stanley Road, Bootle.

The primary duty of the YISP co-ordinator is to be responsible for the development and implementation of the work of the YISP, in order to ensure that the YISP delivers effective services to address the needs of children referred to the panel, within a restorative practice framework.

The YISP key worker will be responsible for the management of a caseload and overseeing the delivery of intervention designed to address the needs of those children.

The YOT has an effective workforce strategy to manage the performance of individual members of staff that is integrated with the council's performance management framework. The YIP and YISP programmes in Sefton will be monitored and supported through the YJB's performance management framework which ensures YOTs provide quarterly data returns to the YJB to gauge outputs and outcomes, includes monitoring by YJB staff, and provides for mechanisms for supporting individual YOTs should there be poor performance issues.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 20 July 2006

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Office Accommodation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what office accommodation in the parliamentary estate in terms of *(a)* square metres and *(b)* number of rooms is allocated to the Leader of the Opposition; what was allocated in each of the previous five years; and if he will make a statement. [86150]

Nick Harvey: Evidence on office space allocation and occupancy was submitted to the Administration Committee's inquiry into House of Commons Accommodation earlier this year. This evidence is published with that Committee's Third Report of the Session, HC 1279.

From 2001 to November 2003 the Shadow Cabinet accommodation was seven rooms totalling 216m^2. This included the Shadow Cabinet Meeting Room of 46m^2. In December 2003 the Official Opposition chose to move the Leader and his staff to eight rooms in Norman Shaw South, totalling 311m^2. On 30 June 2006 one of the Leader's rooms (24m^2) was re-allocated to an Opposition Member's staff. Other changes over the period in question have been minimal. The Leader of the Opposition and his staff currently occupy 287m^2. The Shadow Cabinet Room remains available for Shadow Cabinet Meetings.

All allocations are made by the Opposition Accommodation Whip out of the rooms available to him for his Members and their staff. The overall distribution of rooms for Members is agreed between the parties after the General Election.

Parliamentary Passes

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many parliamentary passes are allocated to the Leader of the Opposition's staff; how many were allocated in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [86151]

Nick Harvey: Leaders of the Opposition are allocated 18 parliamentary passes. In the last four years Leaders of the Opposition have taken full advantage of this facility. Currently 17 passes are issued and one is pending issue.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Deputy Prime Minister

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Leader of the House if he will estimate the value of the Exchequer contribution to the Deputy Prime Minister's pension in each year since 1997. [85663]

Mr. Straw: The pensions of Ministers and office-holders are derived from the Supplementary Scheme of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF). The Government Actuary conducts a triennial review of the fund to determine the Exchequer contribution required to meet the balance of the cost of future pension benefits. The Exchequer contribution for the Supplementary Scheme has been in the range of 6.8 per cent. to 24 per cent. between 1997 and March 2006.

The value of the Exchequer contribution to the Fund based on a Commons Cabinet Minister's salary, excluding that in respect of service as an MP, in each year since 1997 was as follows:

	Exchequer contribution (£)
1997-98 (part)	4,072
1998-99	4,192
1999-2000	4,823
2000-01	4,962
2001-02	5,111
2002-03	5,519
2003-04	17,143
2004-05	17,486
2005-06	17,976

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Leader of the House how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87645]

Mr. Straw: As required by the terms of the lease conditions, set by Crown Estate, my office has been decorated once in the last five years. This took place in 2002. It still looks okay.

Sitting Dates

Paul Rowen: To ask the Leader of the House when he expects to publish the dates of sittings for the next Session. [85746]

Mr. Straw: I hope to publish the dates of the sittings for the next Session after the House returns in the autumn, and it has made a decision on the future of September sittings.

SCOTLAND

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87057]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1086W, which sets out all the information on advertising costs incurred by this office for the period in question.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his practice is regarding meeting, discussions with and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81649]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process—both informal and formal.

Since it was established in 1999, the only primary legislation which the Department has taken forward has been the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004. This was preceded by a public consultation which was issued in December 2001.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79066]

David Cairns: For the period 1 January-31 December 2005, there were two websites for which the Scotland Office was responsible:

Website	*Overall costs (£)*
www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk	4,640
www.arbuthnottcommission.gov.uk	176

The overall costs are based on the fees for hosting the site, and where appropriate include any additional fees for updates and design revisions.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83161]

David Cairns: Details of the public appointments to bodies sponsored by the Scotland Office can be found in "Public Bodies", copies of which are in the Library. "Public Bodies" has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. The only public body currently sponsored by this office is the Boundary Commission for Scotland. Information before 1999 will relate to the responsibilities of the former Scottish Office.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arms Trade

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what transit and trans-shipment licences have been issued since 2003 for the movement of military goods from Bosnia via the UK to other destinations; what type of goods was covered within each licence; and what the final destination of the goods was in each case. [84993]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 129-130W.

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the costs of the restructuring proposals for the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. [86548]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) is wholly owned by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Following consultation with stakeholders, NERC announced in March that it will implement plans to ensure that CEH can contribute to UK environmental science on a sustainable basis in the future. NERC has estimated that the costs involved will be £43 million over four years, including a £7 million investment in new facilities at the retained sites. Details of the NERC announcement are set out at http://www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/latestpressrelease/2006-13ceh.asp.

Droit de Suite

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact of Droit de Suite on *(a)* the London and *(b)* the British art market; and if he will make a statement. [85363]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A study of the potential impact on the British art market was carried out prior to the implementation of the directive introducing Droit de Suite. The report of its findings and the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was prepared during the implementation are available on the Patent Office website. This study did not consider the London art market separately.

A further study is being commissioned to assess the actual impact following our implementation of the directive. This will be undertaken during 2006-07.

Energy Policy

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library copies of the presentation made to him on energy policy options by the Department of Trade and Industry energy team on 15 May; which departmental officials were present at the presentation; and what reasons underlay the choice of graphs and bar charts posted on his Department's website on energy usage following the presentation. [78093]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy Review reported on 11 July. Information relating to the review, including the review document "The Energy Challenge", is available on the DTI website at: www. dti.gov.uk/energy/review

Publishing details of the departmental officials present at the meeting on 15 May would risk exposing individual civil servants unfairly to public scrutiny, when they are unable to answer potential criticism.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library *(a)* copies of the presentation made to him on energy policy options by the Department of Trade and Industry

energy team on 15 May and *(b)* details of the departmental officials present at the presentation; and what reasons underlay the choice of the graphs and bar charts on energy usage posted on his departmental website following the presentation. [75370]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy Review reported on 11 July. Information relating to the review, including the review document "The Energy Challenge", is available on the DTI website at: www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review.

Publishing details of the departmental officials present at the meeting on 15 May would risk exposing individual civil servants unfairly to public scrutiny, when they are unable to answer potential criticism.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on progress in implementing the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [86609]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As a result of the review my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced in December 2005 progress has been made in engaging with stakeholder to identify the issues of concern and to develop practical solutions.

Conclusions for the dialogue are currently being drawn together into a consultation document, which we aim to publish in the near future.

The Department is anticipating that transposition of the WEEE Directive into the UK law will take place early in 2007.

Wind Turbines

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the long-term visual impact of wind turbines on local communities; and if he will make a statement. [86608]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All section 36 wind farm applications that fall to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to consider will be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment which will cover the impact during both construction and operation of the station. Visual impact is obviously one of the impacts considered.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what procedures are in place for preventing waste and embezzlement of UK funds for reconstruction in Afghanistan. [81735]

Mr. Thomas: DFID as a whole has robust accounting and financial management procedures, governed primarily by HM Treasury's Government Accounting Manual and developed over 40 years of ODA/DFID experience. As a member of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, DFID also complies with good international practice on aid management. We are applying both these systems and good practice in Afghanistan, and are also working closely with other Government Departments to ensure good practice and financial compliance in managing funds.

DFID currently channels around 75 per cent. of its £102 million programme to Afghanistan through the Government's budget. This helps the Government of Afghanistan to deliver essential public services and to strengthen its public financial management systems. Most of this goes through the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). DFID has committed £165 million to the ARTF over the next three years (2006-07 to 2008-09). The ARTF is administered by the World Bank. It reimburses the Government of Afghanistan for expenditures that meet strict eligibility criteria in order to reduce the risk of waste and corruption. The World Bank considers both the type of expenditures and the process by which the money was spent. An independent monitoring agent (currently PricewaterhouseCoopers) monitors and reports on this to ensure it is effective.

Africa (UK Assistance)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the UK provides for organic cotton production in Africa. [86023]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* DFID has funded organisations such as Pesticide Action Network UK in support of organic cotton production in Africa. A study financed by DFID in 1998 highlighted positive developments in the organic cotton sector in Uganda. The UK also provides indirect support for organic cotton production in Africa through, for example, the European Union and its EU-Africa Partnership on Cotton.

DFID is supporting broader African agriculture in a number of ways, which include support for organic cotton production. Much of this support for individual countries is targeted at country their own priorities and plans. DFID is also assisting the Africa Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU/NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme to boost agricultural growth.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the UK aid programme offers to the development of links between rural and urban markets in Africa. [86024]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* Links between rural and urban markets are important for economic growth and for allowing the poor to participate in that growth. One of the key constraints is the poor state of infrastructure linking rural and urban areas.

DFID is helping a number of countries in Africa to improve their road networks to link rural and urban markets. This includes specific projects to improve roads and transport services in countries such as Nigeria and Ghana in addition to budget support for implementation of countries' own infrastructure plans.

DFID support for information and communications technology (ICT) is also helping to build effective links between rural and urban markets. For example, the DFID-supported Business Linkage Challenge Fund is helping to boost the outreach of mobile banking in Kenya.

The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa was launched in London as a multi-donor initiative in October 2005. This is addressing regional infrastructure constraints to connecting markets across Africa, which will impact on rural-urban links. The UK has committed US $20 million for the work of the consortium.

Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in establishing the Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit; and what its *(a)* composition, *(b)* budget and *(c)* line of accountability will be. [85474]

Hilary Benn: The Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit (PCRU) was established at the end of 2004 to help improve the United Kingdom's capacity to contribute to achieving a stable environment in countries emerging from conflict. It seeks to do so by working closely with Government Departments and the military to help (a) facilitate joint military-civilian assessments of the immediate challenges and opportunities in such countries; (b) facilitate joint military and civilian planning; (c) share lessons to further improve the effectiveness of UK activities in helping to stabilise countries and (d) enhance Her Majesty's Government's capability to deploy civilians overseas to develop and oversee implementation of these plans during their initial stages.

In the year since it became operational, the PCRU's achievements include:

Facilitating an assessment and plan for the UK's engagement in Helmand Province in Afghanistan. It has provided seven staff and consultants over the last six months to support implementation of this plan in areas such as security, justice and governance, prior to the establishment of longer-term staffing by DFID and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO);

Providing the majority of the staff of the strategic delivery unit in the British embassy in Kabul which helps ensure the overall coherence of UK assistance in Afghanistan;

Providing the team leader and support staff for the UK-led provincial reconstruction team in Basra which co-ordinates and helps deliver UK, US and Danish capacity building assistance to the Iraqi Government in the south, focusing on Basra Province;

Providing advice in other areas such as UK security and justice sector work in Yemen and assisting the AU/AMIS in the development of an initial six month communications strategy for the Darfur Peace Agreement; and

working with the Permanent Joint Headquarters in military exercises to demonstrate the value of integrated civilian/military planning.

Currently, the PCRU has 28 personnel drawn from five Government Departments and agencies including DFID, FCO, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and HM Treasury. In responding to requests for deployment this is supplemented by drawing on its database of 400 experts. The unit's £10 million budget for 2006-07 finances core staff, deployment of these staff and consultant experts, and associated vehicles and communications.

The unit's work is overseen by the Defence and Overseas Policy (Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction) Committee (DOP (CPR)). The DFID permanent secretary is accountable for staffing and finance.

Water

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* foreign-owned and *(b)* British-owned businesses and consultancies have worked with his Department on water provision for the urban poor in the developing world since 1997. [85800]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* DFID does not maintain records of the ownership of businesses and consultancies that have worked with us in the urban water sector since 1997. Our investments are developed through close working with a range of stakeholders, such as national and local Governments overseas, other donors, civil society organisations and private sector companies.

We provided a total of £221 million of development assistance in 2003-04 for water and sanitation. £131 million Of that was bilateral expenditure, of which approximately one-fifth was spent on urban water supply, one-quarter on rural water supply and one-fifth on humanitarian assistance.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Drinking Water (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate)

9. **Mike Penning:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of perfluorooctane sulfonate is allowed in drinking water. [86604]

Ian Pearson: In the light of current advice from the Health Protection Agency, the Drinking Water Inspectorate's view is that to safeguard human health, perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) should not be present in drinking water supplies above three microgrammes per litre (micro).

Wildlife Habitats

15. **Greg Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government monitor the loss of wildlife habitats in urban areas. [86613]

Barry Gardiner: The Government do not specifically monitor the loss of wildlife habitats in urban areas. However, the recently published report on progress under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan suggests that the last three years have seen more positive signs of progress. The list of priority species and habitats is also being reviewed to ensure that the UK Biodiversity Action Plan remains responsive both to new information and to conservation needs.

Market Towns

16. **Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many market towns have participated in his Department's market town initiative. [86615]

Barry Gardiner: More than 230 towns have benefited from support through this initiative.

Recycling

17. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the local government association on the setting of targets for recycling. [86616]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have had regular discussions with representatives of local government and others to discuss recycling and other waste matters. The LGA have also submitted a formal response to our current waste review.

Growth-promoting Hormones

18. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with non-EU countries on the use of growth-promoting hormones in raising livestock. [86617]

Mr. Bradshaw: None.

Warm Front Initiative

19. **Kitty Ussher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many properties in Burnley have received funding from the Department's Warm Front initiative. [86618]

Ian Pearson: Some 5,530 households in Burnley have benefited from a range of financial support and help from the Government since the Warm Front programme began.

British Sugar Plant (Shropshire)

20. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will visit Shrewsbury to discuss with local sugar beet farmers the closure of the main British Sugar plant in Shropshire. [86619]

Barry Gardiner: My noble Friend Lord Rooker has already met growers' representatives at both national and local level to discuss the planned factory closures.

Biodiversity

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support his Department gives farmers to manage land in ways that promote greater biodiversity. [86614]

Ian Pearson: The Government provide over £300 million a year for farmers through agri-environment schemes such as Environmental Stewardship to promote greater biodiversity.

Correspondence

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reply to the letters from the Assistant Director for Planning of Bridgend county borough council (BCBC) dated 9 August 2005, 26 August 2005 and 19 October 2005, and from the Chief Executive of BCBC dated 7 December 2005, 11 January 2006 and 4 April 2006. [81145]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs replied to Kerrie Lewis, the Chief Executive of BCBC, on 27 June 2006.

This letter has been copied to both the hon. Member and the Assistant Director for Planning of BCBC.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

2012 Olympics

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the level of capital funding that local authorities intend to spend on sports facilities in the period leading up to the 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [86347]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

It is estimated that local authorities in England plan to spend £621 million on sports and recreation services in 2006-07. No estimates of planned local authority spending on sports facilities are available for later years.

Analogue Radio Spectrum

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are to switch off the analogue radio spectrum. [86941]

Mr. Woodward: There are no current plans for a switchover to digital radio. However, section 67 of the Broadcasting Act 1996 requires the Secretary of State to keep under review the development of digital radio for the purposes of considering how long it would be appropriate for sound broadcasting services to be provided in analogue form. The first review in 2004 found that both the BBC and Ofcom agreed that it was premature to set a switchover date. We are, however, working with Ofcom and the industry to overcome the remaining potential barriers to digital radio.

Commonwealth Institute

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she last visited the Commonwealth Institute building. [86218]

Tessa Jowell: I last visited the Commonwealth Institute building on 5 December 2002.

Departmental Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate she has made of the carbon emissions of her Department; what commitment she has made to reducing such emissions; and if she will make a statement. [81327]

Mr. Woodward: The most recent estimate for carbon emissions produced by my Department's office estate is 799,616.74 kg in the year 2004-05.

We are fully committed to the cross-Government targets to reduce carbon emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010 and by 30 per cent. by 2020 (relative to 1999-2000 levels).

Food Advertising (Children)

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps Ofcom took to elicit responses to its consultation on television advertising for food products targeting children from those *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* opposed to restrictions. [87011]

Mr. Woodward: The matters raised are the responsibility of the Office of Communications as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to respond directly to my hon. Friend. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what administrative functions for which her Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment she has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81549]

Mr. Lammy: None of the Department's administrative functions has been outsourced overseas, nor are there any plans to do so.

Sports Funding

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the percentage of local authority *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding that will be spent on sport in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [86356]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The percentage of local authority *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue net current expenditure that will be spent on sport in the current financial year is tabled as follows. The figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Financial year	*Capital*	*Percentage Revenue*
2006-07	3.6	0.7

The capital figures are based on forecast data from Capital Estimate Returns (CER) for 2006-07.

The revenue data are as reported by local authorities and are taken from Revenue Account budget (RA) returns for 2006-07.

The definition of council revenue net current expenditure used here is expenditure on employees and running expenses net of sales, fees and charges, internal recharges and other non-grant income (such as receipts from other authorities), but gross of expenditure funded by specific grants and interest receipts.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and method of reporting the information. In particular, budget data for 2006-07 have been calculated on an FRS 17 basis. Hence, figures for different years may not be directly comparable.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the percentage of local authority *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding that was spent on sport in each of the last five financial years; and if she will make a statement. [86357]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The percentage of local authority *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue net current expenditure that was spent on sport and recreation in each of the last five financial years is tabled as follows:

Financial year	*Capital*	*Percentage Revenue*
2001-02	3.2	0.9
2002-03	2.7	0.9
2003-04	2.1	0.7
2004-05	2.1	0.7
2005-06	2.8	0.7

The capital figures are based on final outturn data from Capital Outturn Returns (COR) for 2001-02 to 2004-05 and on provisional outturn data from Capital Payments Returns (CPR4) for 2005-06.

The revenue data are as reported by local authorities and are taken from Revenue Outturn (RO) and Revenue Summary (RS) returns for 2001-02 to 2004-05, and Revenue Account budget (RA) returns for 2005-06.

The definition of council revenue net current expenditure used here is expenditure on employees and running expenses net of sales, fees and charges, internal recharges and other non-grant income (such as receipts from other authorities), but gross of expenditure funded by specific grants and interest receipts.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and method of reporting the information. In particular, the revenue outturn data for 2001-02 to 2002-03 have been calculated on a non-FRS (Financial Reporting Standard) 17 basis while the outturn data for 2003-04 to 2004-05 have been calculated on an FRS 17 basis. The budget data for 2005-06 are a mix of FRS 17 and non-FRS 17. This is because for their 2005-06 budget forms local authorities, after consultation, were given the option to complete their forms either on a non-FRS 17 basis or on an FRS 17 basis. Hence, figures for different years may not be directly comparable.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL
Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71778]

The Solicitor-General: I am answering this question on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Serious Fraud Office, the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

For the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the figures available are as follows (all figures include VAT):

The COMPASS programme

The COMPASS programme is a 10-year public finance initiative partnership between the CPS and LogicaCMG to modernise information technology within the CPS.

(a) When the COMPASS contract was awarded (December 2001 to begin April 2002) the value was estimated at approximately £240 million over the period of the contract, based on the parameters at the time such as the number of sites and users and the legislative environment.

(b) The estimated outturn cost to the end of the contract is £408 million.

(c) The outturn cost as at 31 March 2006 is £122 million.

The difference between the original estimate and the most recent estimate of the cost of the contract reflects: higher staff numbers, a larger number of locations where COMPASS is available, improvements in service levels and the development of a new system to support witness care units, none of which could have been anticipated when the contract was let.

Finance and accounting record management system (FARMS)

FARMS is the CPS's finance and accounting record management system.

(a) Original estimate for full life costs based on "best and final offer" September 2003: £9.723 million.

(b) Revised estimate for full life costs based as at March 2005: £10.195 million.

(c) Outturn to 31 March 2006: £6.103 million.

Managed service and support costs are indexed at 3 per cent. pa. The five-year managed service contract commenced in August 2004 and finishes in July 2009.

Other, smaller contracts (for example the payroll and HR systems and the corporate information system) began over five years ago and have subsequently been incorporated into the wider COMPASS programme.

For the Treasury Solicitor's Department the following table shows the originally estimated, most recently estimated and outturn cost of the five largest IT contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years.

Table 1

	£000			
Contract	*Original estimate (a)*	*Most recent estimate (b)*	*Outturn cost (c)*	*Comments*
1. Practice and Case Management System Development	2,061	2,061	2,346	Contract for development of system concluded December 2004.
2. Lexis Nexis Legal Information Subscription Services	1,548	1,548	1,012	3-year index-linked subscription service contract, currently in 3rd year, hence reduced outturn cost. TSol recharges 77.5 per cent. of total cost.
3. Lawtel Legal Information Subscription Services	623	623	405	3-year index-linked subscription service contract, currently in 3rd year, hence reduced outturn cost. TSol recharges 77.5 per cent. of total cost.
4. OKS Accommodation Move Desktop Refresh	566	566	414	Includes cost of purchase of workstation equipment minus £20,000 buy-back on existing workstations.
5. Hardware Contract for Practice and Case Management System	547	401	384	Storage Area Network costs for implementation

The following table shows the five companies that the Serious Fraud Office has made the largest payments to from financial year 2001-02 to 2005-06 inclusive.

Total expenditure 2001-05

Company	£
Legal Inc	870,256
Computacentre	2,086,249
IBM UK	6,954,409
Logica	2,743,972
RWM Data	1,672,439

These contracts are all for ongoing IT or technology related services and not for discrete projects. Expenditure is controlled by purchase orders and annual budgets, so the question of estimated and outturn expenditure does not arise.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office was established as a new Department on 18 April 2005. Since its creation RCPO has procured the majority of its information technology services from HM Revenue and Customs. The outturn cost of these services during 2005-06 was £1.9 million. In addition to these services RCPO has used IT consultants in relation to specific

projects. Their total cost during 2005-06 was £0.13 million. The Department has recently created a new post, Head of Information Services, and this was filled on 3 May 2006 initially on a six-month contract by an IT professional with 18 years experience in the IT industry and with technical, project management and service delivery expertise. He also has considerable experience in working with UK central Government. As well as receiving a considerable amount of technical and professional training from a previous employee, IBM, he has a Diploma in Business Studies.

The information technology requirements of HM Crown Prosecution Services Inspectorate are provided through the services of CPS service desk and their provider Logica.

The only IT investment undertaken through our own budget relates to the design/development and improvement/updating of the HMCPSI website. Over the last four years a total of £22,264 (incl. VAT) has been spent on this work.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Concessionary Travel

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Government have given to local authorities on the treatment of money allocated to councils for the concessionary travel scheme but not spent; and whether such under-spending should be returned to central Government. [86938]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have issued no guidance to local authorities on the treatment of money for concessionary fares.

Local authorities' responsibilities for concessionary fares are funded through general grant from Government (consisting mainly of Revenue Support Grant and re-distributed National Non-Domestic Rates) and through income generated by authorities, including council tax. General grant is not hypothecated to a particular service and councils are free to use the funding in line with the wishes of their electorate, taking into account their statutory responsibilities.

Council Tax

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1800W to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), on council tax, how many copies of council tax bills were received by *(a)* registered and *(b)* recorded post at (i) Eland House and (ii) 26 Whitehall; and how many of the written representations about council tax included copies of council tax bills. [87451]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to identify reliably which documents received by registered or recorded post by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister were copies of council tax bills. Approximately 1,700 of the copies of council tax bills received came with a separate written representation enclosed.

Departmental Estate

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times her ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87654]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006. Since that time the ministerial office of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not been decorated.

There is no redecoration programme in the DCLG HQ buildings, with all such work being carried out on an ad-hoc basis following routine inspections by the Facilities Management team. The dates of redecoration of any particular area during the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Draft Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations, when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [81269]

Angela E. Smith: The Department always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process; both informal and formal. The Department holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultations which abide by the Code of Conduct on Consultation. Known stakeholders are generally alerted when a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

For example the 'Greater London Authority: Proposals for Additional Powers' consultation ran from 30 November 2005 to 22 February 2006. Copies of the consultation paper were circulated to over 400 organisations and individuals with an interest in London's governance, and to all main public libraries in London. The proposals were also made publicly available on the DCLG and GLA websites. In addition the Minister for London hosted two seminars as part of the overall review, attended by a range of stakeholders. DCLG received 337 consultation responses and a summary of responses was published on 13 July 2006 alongside our conclusions on what new powers the GLA should be given. Most of these will be enacted by primary or secondary legislation and we intend to undertake further consultation as part of the implementation process.

Hostels

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of the judicial decision in Beasley *v.* National Council of YMCA's QBD (2000)

RA 429; and whether she plans to bring forward measures in response to the situation on the treatment of self-contained living quarters within hostels for council tax purposes. [86130]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government has made no assessment of the impact of the decision in Beasley *v.* National Council of YMCAs. The Valuation Office Agency takes account of all relevant case law when determining whether to band a dwelling separately for council tax purposes. The Government have no plans to amend the current legislation governing when a single property should be treated as more than one dwelling for council tax purposes.

Litter Collection (Swindon)

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to Swindon borough council for litter collection in 2006-07. [86630]

Mr. Woolas: Waste collection is one of the district-level services included in the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) block. The EPCS block is one of seven service blocks supported via Formula Grant. Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed Business Rates and principal formula Police Grant. Formula Grant is an unhypothecated block grant: authorities are able to use the money for any service. This, together with the way in which Formula Grant is calculated, particularly the application of floor damping, means that it is not possible to say how much grant was provided for environmental, protective and cultural services.

Local Government

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of newspaper advertising as a means of communicating information about proposals under the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. [86292]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

A working group of representatives from national and local authorities has recently considered whether the procedures for advertising Traffic Regulation Orders should be streamlined. The group made several recommendations concerning the advertising of different types of order. We are considering the recommendations and will consult publicly on formal proposals arising.

Minimum Dig Working

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps she is taking to encourage local authorities *(a)* to join and *(b)* to participate in the activities of societies and other bodies associated with minimum dig working; [85029]

(2) what steps she has taken to ensure that local authorities inform their staff of the availability of trenchless technology for underground works on council services. [85054]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Decisions on highways maintenance are a matter for the individual highway authority.

The Department welcomes local authority participation in professional bodies which promote the adoption of best practice in highway maintenance. Through the UK Roads Board, my officials have regular contact with the County Surveyors Society and the local authority Technical Advisors Group, which represent engineers from a wide range of local authorities. Last year, the Board published 'Well-maintained Highways' (TSO, July 2005), a code of practice for highway maintenance management, which encourages both a focus on the needs of road users and continuous improvement in delivery (which includes effective staff training).

Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements councils are under to publish *(a)* their parking accounts and *(b)* a statement of their parking enforcement activities. [85673]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Councils are currently under no obligation to publish their parking accounts or a statement of their parking enforcement activities. The current public consultation "Better Parking—Keeping Traffic Moving", launched on 12 July 2006, proposes that English councils with decriminalised parking enforcement powers should publish annual reports containing financial and statistical data about their parking activities.

The consultation document is available in the Libraries of the House and on the Department for Transport website at

www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_roads/documents/divisionhomepage/612002.hcsp.

Population Estimates

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact on local authorities of the mid-year population estimates; and if she will make a statement. [81982]

Mr. Woolas: Population data supplied by the Office for National Statistics are used throughout the formula grant distribution system. Both population projections and mid-year estimates are used in relative needs formula indicators. Population projections are also used to determine the relative needs amount, relative resource amount and central allocation as these are calculated on a per head basis. The distribution of formula grant is also affected by the social and economic characteristics of an area, a council's relative ability to raise council tax, and floor damping.

Department for Communities and Local Government officials have met a number of local authorities, including Slough, to discuss their concerns on their mid-year population estimates. However, the ONS population figures remain the best data available on a consistent basis for all authorities.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public appointments are within her patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83192]

Angela E. Smith: Details of public appointments to public bodies sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government can be found in 'Public Bodies', copies of which are in the Library. 'Public Bodies' has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of 'Public Bodies' contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. The Department for Communities and Local Government was created in May 2006 as a result of Machinery of Government changes; its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, was formed in May 2002. Therefore comparable figures are not available.

Current details held centrally on the remuneration attached to each Chair and Board Member, correct at 31 March 2006, are set out in the following table. The information covers bodies that fall within the remit of the Commissioner for Pubic Appointments.

Advisory NDPBs

Public Body	*Chair (£)*	*Members (£)*	*Time Input*
Advisory Panel on Beacon Councils	213 pd	163 pd	25 dpy 15 dpy
Advisory Panel on Standards in the Planning Inspectorate	213 pd	163 pd	2 dpm 2 dpm
Building Regulations Advisory Committee	Unpaid	Unpaid	35 dpy varies
Community Forum	Unpaid	163 pd	4 dpy 12 dpy
Women's National Commission (recently transferred to DCLG)	10,000 pa	Unpaid	5 dpm 2 dpm (maximum attendance)

Executive NDPBs

Public Body	*Chair/Deputy Chair (£)*	*Members/Members with additional duties (£)*	*Time Input*
Audit Commission	57,896 pa	13,508 pa/18,011 pa	2 dpw 3 dpm/4 dpm
Commission for Racial Equality (recently transferred to DCLG)	128,625 pa	160 pd	5 dpw 20-30 dpy
English Partnerships	82,390 pa/35,864 pa	11,743 pa	3 dpw/2 dpw 3 dpm
Equal Opportunities Commission (recently transferred to DCLG)	96,600 pa/80,360 pa	160 pd	161 dpy/40 dpy 30 dpy
FireBuy	6,000 pa/4,000 pa	4,000 pa	3 dpm/2 dpm 2 dpm
Housing Action Trust Stonebridge	35,913 pa/12,184 pa	7,130 pa	2 dpw/1 dpw 0.5 dpw
Housing Corporation	47,399 pa/27,109 pa	12,362 pa/14,993 pa	2 dpw/4 dpm 2 dpm/2 dpm
Leasehold Advisory Service	Unpaid	Unpaid	1 dpm 1 dpm
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	45,775 pa/34,450 pa	11,574 pa	2 dpw/2 dpw 3 dpm
Standards Board for England	40,000 pa/10,480 pa	7,130 pa	2 dpw/2.5 dpm 2 dpm
Thurrock Urban Development Corporation	46,690 pa/35,074 pa	11,805 pa	2 dpw/2 dpw 3 dpm
Valuation Tribunal Service	54,000 pa/262 pd	262 pd	3 dpw/20 dpy 15 dpy
West Northants Development Corporation	44,528 pa/33,450 pa	11,259 pa	2 dpw/2 dpw 3 dpm

Public Corporations

Public Body	*Chair/Deputy Chair (£)*	*Members (£)*	*Time Input*
Architects Registration Board	250 pd	250 pd	20 dpy

Key pa = per annum pd = per day dpw = days per week dpm = days per month dpy = days per year

Roads and Pavements

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of each local authority for road and pavement maintenance was in each of the last two years; and what the overspend or underspend of each was in each year. [85777]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Information on local authorities' highway maintenance budgets is not held centrally.

The Department provides capital maintenance funding for English local highways authorities outside London for investment in their highway network, including its structures and street lighting. It is for each local authority to determine how its allocations are spent, in line with its priorities.

Supporting People Strategy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to publish the Supporting People National Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [86092]

Mr. Woolas: I published an initial strategy paper for consultation, "Creating Sustainable Communities", in November of last year. Following extensive consultation, I published "Supporting Independence: Next Steps in our Supporting People Strategy" on the 11 July this year, which outlined a number of potential areas for development of the programme. A final strategy is currently being developed, and is planned for publication in the autumn.

Training Courses

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on training courses in the most recent year for which figures are available. [86832]

Angela E. Smith: DCLG central spent £3.92million on learning and development activities for the financial year 2005-06

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representatives from the Valuation Office Agency attended the IRRV conference in Blackpool in May; and to what extent they participated. [83094]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers are responsible for Government policy. The actions of and the naming of individual civil servants are not matters for public discussion.

Valuebill Database

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Government have made of whether the planned valuebill database will hold sensitive personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998. [86833]

Mr. Woolas: Valuebill aims to improve the electronic exchange of property information between local authorities and the Valuation Office Agency and to better link existing property databases through the provision of a unique property reference number. The information exchanges that Valuebill seeks to facilitate do not relate to sensitive personal information within the definition of the Data Protection Act.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart regarding the draw down of US troops from Afghanistan and the security plans thereafter; and if he will make a statement. [85109]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1138, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral statement of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1131-48, on Afghanistan (troop levels), how many extra *(a)* medical and *(b)* logistical support personnel will be deployed as part of the additional deployment to Helmand Province; and when they will arrive. [85114]

Des Browne: On current plans, the enhancements to the Helmand Taskforce announced on 10 July will include around 15 additional medical support personnel and 150 logistics support personnel, all of whom will deploy around September.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and *(b)* Secretary of State for International Development regarding the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan. [85756]

Des Browne: I have regular discussions with my colleagues, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for International Development, on a wide range of issues.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme tariff is being applied in the same way in relation to mental ill health and physical injury; and if he will make a statement. [85310]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme is a tariff based scheme designed to provide compensation for service personnel injured, made ill or killed through service since 6 April 2005. The tariffs cover the full range of injuries, physical and mental, likely to affect service personnel. The Scheme is administered by the Veterans Agency which applies the same determination process to all conditions whether physical or mental. An evaluation of all aspects of the first year of operation of the Scheme is currently being carried out involving interested parties, one of which is Combat Stress. The evaluation will be in the light of experience and evidence of cases arising so far, including those who have suffered from mental health issues.

Colombia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 703W, on Colombia, whether he has made an assessment of the extent to which the training given for the disposal of explosive devices is within the de-mining framework of the Human Rights Programme of the Colombian Vice-Presidency and the anti personnel mines observatory; and if he will make a statement. [85299]

Mr. Ingram: The explosive device disposal assistance provided to the Colombian armed forces by the MOD through its humanitarian de-mining training sits very well within the de-mining framework of the Human Rights Programme of the Colombian Vice-Presidency. The work of the latter is done through the Anti-Personnel Mines Observatory, as the Colombian Government's vehicle for the application of the Ottawa Convention.

The Observatory aims to achieve its goals by following an action plan that includes: the generation of knowledge and information on landmine issues, prevention, assistance to victims and removal of mines; promoting the solidarity of the international community for developing national actions in applying the Ottawa convention; education work to help prevention; promoting humanitarian de-mining; and regulating, disseminating, promoting, applying and monitoring various aspects of the De-mining National Plan, including the Regime of Collection and Destruction of anti-personnel mines.

MOD personnel providing de-mining training enter into consultation with personnel from the Anti-Personnel Mines Observatory to ensure the training we give ties in with their action plan. MOD humanitarian de-mining training affects the removal of mines, and promotes public education and awareness of landmine issues. Thus it is well positioned to meet a number of the Vice President's priorities.

The humanitarian de-mining training provided by the MOD in 2006 conformed to the International Mines Action Standards (IMAS) 2005. This is the acknowledged international standard approved by the UN and is used worldwide. We have an aspiration that for future courses Colombian students will gain IMAS accreditation through such training.

FEPOW Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written statement of 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on Far East Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees (FEPOW Scheme), when he expects to announce the findings of Mr. Watkins' report; and if he will make a statement. [87006]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement that I made on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 26-27 WS.

International Security Assistance Force

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with NATO allies on the provision of additional troops and resources to the International Security Assistance Force. [84898]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1143, to my hon. Friend the Member for Ilford, South (Mike Gapes).

Iraq

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an evaluation of the experience of dealing with the TMRP-6 mine in Bosnia has been carried out in the context of the emergence of explosively formed projectile mines in Iraq. [82572]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has an established process to review operational experiences, which provides the primary mechanism whereby we can translate lessons and best practice into enhanced capability. Lessons learned from our experience of the TMRP-6 have been evaluated and where appropriate implemented. However, we must be careful not to generalise conclusions drawn from one specific threat as the improvised threats we currently face on operations are not easily characterised.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer by the Solicitor-General of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1111W, on Iraq, what investigations he has undertaken into the practice of wetting; how far up the chain of command knowledge of the practice extended; and what steps he has taken to ensure that the practice is not continued. [84361]

Mr. Watson: Wetting is not an official military procedure although the military chain of command is aware that this practice is alleged to have taken place in specific cases which have been individually investigated.

All officers and soldiers receive training in ethics throughout their careers. Training is first provided during Initial Training, when a soldier or officer joins the Army, with further training linked to rank and responsibility, usually when an officer or soldier is promoted. In addition, every officer and soldier receives refresher training on an annual basis through the Military Annual Training Tests which maintain Common Military Skills. This routine training is reinforced during Pre-Deployment Training where all soldiers and officers receive refresher training on the Values and Standards of the British Army, Equality and Diversity and the Law of Armed Conflict.

Where there are any allegations that soldiers have failed to act within the law or their rules of engagement, those allegations will be investigated and where appropriate, action will be taken against individuals.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has carried out an assessment of the design of the Force Protection MUV-R Joint Light Tactical Vehicle prototype for suitability as a tactical patrol vehicle for the British Army. [82494]

Mr. Ingram: We continually review new developments across the defence industry. We are aware of the Force Protection Inc. MUV-R and as the Secretary of State announced on 26 June we are conducting a review of the options for protected patrol vehicles to determine what can be done as soon as possible and in the longer term.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the official designation is of the Snatch Land Rover; when it was first produced for the British Army; how many versions have been produced; how many of each version have been produced; what levels of ballistic protection each version offers; and what the approximate cost per vehicle is of the current version. [82508]

Mr. Ingram: The original SNATCH Land Rover was produced in 1992 and a total of 991 were procured. There have been four different upgrades producing five variants as follows:

Version	*Official designation*	*Number*
1	Truck utility medium (TUM) hardtop with vehicle protection kit (VPK) Land Rover 1 10 V8 Petrol.	30
1.5	TUM hardtop with VPK Land Rover 1 10 V8 petrol (desertised).	[1]278
2	TUM high specification (TUM HS) hardtop with VPK left hand drive 12Volt with air conditioning unit refurbished 2005.	[2]77
2A	TUM HS hardtop with VPK 24Volt with air conditioning unit refurbished 2005.	[3]351
2B	TUM HS hardtop with VPK 24Volt refurbished 2005.	[4]225

[1] Refurbished from SNATCH 1
[2] Modified from SNATCH 1 and 1.5
[3] Programme to refurbish from SNATCH 1 and 1.5 currently ongoing
[4] Refurbished from SNATCH land 1.5

30 SNATCH have been removed from service leaving a current total of 961. The approximate cost of a SNATCH 2A is around £60,000. We do not comment on protection levels, as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security of our armed forces.

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he was first informed of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's public commitment to retention of the nuclear deterrent in the long term. [87096]

Des Browne: I have nothing further to add to the reply I gave the hon. Member on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1107W.

Review Board for Government Contracts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written statement of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 99WS, on the report by the Review Board for Government Contracts, when he will place a copy of the report in the Library. [86493]

Mr. Ingram: Hard copies of the Review Board's 2006 Annual Review, published by The Stationery Office (TSO), will be placed in the Library this week. An electronic copy of the report is available on the main MOD website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/Reports/ReportsForBusiness/ReviewBoardGovContracts/.

Submarines

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the decommissioning of the Vanguard Class submarines. [86874]

Des Browne: Decommissioning of the Vanguard Class submarines is still some way off. Officials are investigating decommissioning costs as part of the work to prepare for decisions, which will be taken later this year, on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Astute Class submarines have been considered as the launch platform for the next generation of Trident missiles. [86942]

Des Browne: Work is now under way to prepare for decisions on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent, which will be taken later this year. Ministers have been briefed by officials on some of the relevant issues and have requested that further work be undertaken. It is too early to rule in or out any particular option.

Trident

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the annual maintenance cost of the Trident weapons system is expected to be in 2006-07; and what the cost was in each of the last five years. [86875]

Des Browne: The annual expenditure for capital and running costs of the Trident nuclear deterrent, including costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, is expected to be between 5 and 5.5 per cent. of the Defence budget in 2006-07. For the costs in the last five years, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone) on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 713W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter dated 27 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. M. Wood, transferred from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [79487]

John Reid: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 5 May 2006. I will arrange for a copy of the reply to be sent to you.

Crime Statistics

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of carrying a knife in a public place in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [82108]

Mr. Coaker: Data for the number of people convicted for offences relating to carrying a knife in a public place in Suffolk police force area, from 2000 to 2004, can be found in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2005 will be available in autumn of 2006.

Number of people convicted at all courts for offences relating to carrying a knife in a public place, in Suffolk police force area[1] 2000-04

Statute	Offence description	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3	Having an article with blade or point in public place.	30	30	61	52	68
Criminal Justice Act 1998 S.319A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)	Having an article with blade or point on school premises	0	1	0	0	0

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under-18 year olds were convicted of illegally carrying *(a)* knives and *(b)* other weapons in each year since 1990. [74186]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 May 2006]*: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of under 18-year-olds found guilty for selected offences related to the illegal possession and carrying of knives and other weapons in England and Wales from 1990-2004, are provided in the following tables.

Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn.

Number of offenders aged under 18 found guilty at all courts for selected offences related to the illegal carrying of knives, guns and other weapons, England and Wales, 1990-2004[1]

Offence description	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life	—	2	1	—	—	8	4	12
Using firearms or imitation firearms to resist arrest	2	1	1	—	2	4	4	2
Possessing firearms or imitation firearm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Firearms Act	9	6	4	10	7	5	8	10
Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest	10	14	16	11	9	13	13	8
Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence	—	—	—	—	—	13	27	36
Other firearms offences[2]	31	45	35	29	52	84	61	76
Having an article with blade or point in public place	—	—	—	—	—	—	114	476
Having an article with blade or point on school premises[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6

Number of offenders aged under 18 found guilty at all courts for selected offences related to the illegal carrying of knives, guns and other weapons, England and Wales, 1990-2004[1]

Offence description	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	586	494	439	377	408	482	613	648
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

Offence description	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life	5	9	6	6	4	11	7
Using firearms or imitation firearms to resist arrest	—	2	—	1	1	—	1
Possessing firearms or imitation firearm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Firearms Act	22	13	12	19	27	33	17
Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest	20	17	26	15	20	18	19
Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence	55	64	55	88	89	82	81
Other firearms offences[2]	73	76	74	103	99	108	171
Having an article with blade or point in public place	552	541	680	939	948	910	992
Having an article with blade or point on school premises[3]	9	5	12	8	16	15	27
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	699	675	858	1,116	1,071	971	1,181
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises	8	9	6	12	15	10	18

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes offences related to trespass with firearms, selling, supplying, illegal modification and the possession of loaded firearms in public.
[3] Excludes data provided by West Mercia police force area

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of carrying a knife in a public place in the Humberside police authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [82531]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, showing convictions for people carrying a knife in Humberside police authority from 1997 to 2004, are in the following table.

Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for carrying a knife in a public place, within the Humberside police force area, 1997 to 2004[1]

Offence	*Statute*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Having an article with blade or point in public place.	Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3	43	45	65	53	46	69	63	105
Having an article with blade or point on school premises.	Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996S.4(1)	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
Source:
ROS-Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of carrying *(a)* a knife, or other bladed weapon and *(b)* a gun in a public place in the Humberside police authority area in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [84572]

Mr. Coaker: Data for the number of people convicted for offences relating to *(a)* carrying a knife, or other bladed weapon and *(b)* a gun in a public place in Humberside police force area, 1996 to 2004 can be found in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of persons convicted for offences relating to carrying a knife, or other bladed weapon, in Humberside police force area,[1] 2000-04

Statute	Offence description	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Prevention of Crime Act 1953 Sec. 1(1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.2(1)	Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	53	64	92	82	71	65	77	112	106
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3.	Having an article with blade or point in public place.	4	43	45	65	53	46	69	63	105
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1).	Having an article with blade or point on school premises.	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1
Total		57	107	137	147	126	111	146	177	212

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Number of persons convicted for offences relating to carrying a gun in a public place, in Humberside police force area[1,2], 2000-04

Statute	Offence description	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 16 (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).	Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life	6	6	2	2	4	1	—	1	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 16 (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).	Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 16 (Group III) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).	Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 17(1) (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).	Using firearms or imitation firearms to resist arrest.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 17(1) (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).	Using firearms or imitation firearms to resist arrest.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 17(1) (Group III) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(2).	Using firearms or imitation firearms to resist arrest.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 17(2) (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).	Possessing firearms or imitation fire arm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Act.	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	5	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 17(2) (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Act.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 17(2) (Group III) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence specified in schedule 1 of the Act.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 18(1) (Group I) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest.	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Firearms Act. 1068 Sec. 18(1) (Group II) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S25(3).	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 18(1) (Group III) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1972 S28(3).	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist arrest.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994)Group I.	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.	3	2	5	7	3	9	6	5	13
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) (Group II).	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of persons convicted for offences relating to carrying a gun in a public place, in Humberside police force area[1,2], 2000-04

Statute	*Offence description*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 16A (as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1994) (Group III).	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.	—	3	4	4	1	—	—	1	1
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 1(2) as amended by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 S.12 and Sch.2 (13).	Non-compliance with condition of firearm certificate-aggravated form (small-calibre pistols).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 (Group I) Sec. 1(1),as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157, Sch.8 part III.	Possessing etc firearm or ammunition without firearm certificate.	9	7	4	5	—	4	3	5	8
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec. 5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.	2	4	5	5	7	8	9	9	10
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 19 (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	3
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 19 (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 19A as added by Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 S.11.	Having small-calibre pistol outside promises of licensed pistol club.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 20(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Trespassing with firearm or imitation firearm in a building.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 20(1) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Trespassing with firearm or imitation firearm in a building.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 21(4) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	3	3	2	3	3	1	4	1	2
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec. 21(4) (Group II) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec. 21(4) (Group III) as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec.157 Sch.8 part III.	Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.	2	1	2	2	—	—	2	2	2
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 5(1A)(a) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288	Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec.19 (Group III).	Carrying loaded firearm in public place etc.	5	6	9	2	7	3	3	5	3
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec.20(1) (Group III).	Trespassing with firearm in a building	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec.20(2) (Group I).	Trespassing with firearm on land.	1	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	—
Firearms Act 1968 Sec. 20(2) (Group II).	Trespassing with firearm on land.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Firearms Act, 1968 Sec. 20(2) (Group III).	Trespassing with firearm on land.	4	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		40	44	41	33	28	28	31	34	47

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under 18-year-olds were convicted of illegally carrying *(a)* knives and *(b)* other weapons in each year since 1990, broken down by police authority; and if he will make a statement. [77481]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of under 18-year-olds found guilty for selected offences relating to the illegal possession and carrying of knives and other weapons are provided in the following table (which will be placed in the Library).

Data for offence code 827 for West Mercia police force area include some coding errors between the years 2000 and 2004 and have been excluded from the table.

Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences related to the illegal carrying of knives, guns and other weapons, by police force area, England and Wales, 2004

Police force area	Offences 514-516	517-519	813-815	816-818	823-825	81	826	827	811	828
Avon and Somerset	—	—	1	1	—	4	28	—	14	1
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	1	15	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	—	22	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	1	—	11	1	16	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	5	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	1	10	17	—	13	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	3	6	17	—	13	1
Dorset	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	6	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	1	3	19	—	16	—
Essex	—	—	—	1	—	4	44	1	41	2
Gloucestershire	—	—	1	—	—	2	8	—	7	—
Greater Manchester	1	—	3	—	16	14	68	—	72	2
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	5	4	42	2	30	2
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	2	20	—	17	—
Humberside	—	—	—	3	2	2	13	1	22	—
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	26	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	2	2	35	4	32	2
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	3	17	1	21	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	2	—	6	1	14	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	—	3	5	7	29	1	39	—
Metropolitan police	—	—	5	4	7	48	234	5	304	3
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	11	—
Northampton	—	—	—	—	—	1	13	—	8	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	2	—	4	5	54	3	57	4
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	1	4	4	20	—	27	—
South Yorkshire	1	—	1	—	6	4	17	1	27	—
Staffordshire	—	—	1	—	—	3	10	1	23	1
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	1	3	13	—	4	—
Surrey	2	—	—	—	—	1	10	—	9	—
Sussex	—	—	—	1	2	2	23	—	24	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	2	17	1	13	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	8	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	—	11	—
West Midlands	—	1	1	4	4	5	66	1	73	—
West Yorkshire	2	—	2	1	3	10	44	—	55	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	—	7	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	6	—
Gwent	1	—	—	—	1	1	10	1	16	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	—	13	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	6	3	15	—	34	—
England and Wales	7	1	17	19	81	171	992	27	1,181	18

DNA Database

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 281W, on the National DNA Database, (1) if he will break down by country the number of requests made; [80870]

(2) how many of the requests were complied with; [80871]

(3) on what basis such information is provided; and if he will make a statement; [80872]

(4) for what reasons such requests have been *(a)* made and *(b)* granted; and what criteria are used to decide whether to grant such a request. [84088]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 28 June 2006]*: The majority of requests for the exchange of DNA information between the United Kingdom and other countries are routed

through the United Kingdom National Central Bureau for Interpol (UK NCB) based at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Other channels may include bi-lateral direct liaison between law enforcement authorities and formal mutual legal assistance channels. Exchanges of DNA information via these channels will almost always be a response to the needs of a specific criminal investigation.

Requests from international law enforcement agencies for a search of the National DNA Database are only processed where it is clear that the request is in the interest of prevention and detection of crime, national security or the data subject. They are also subject to a risk assessment, taking into account the justification for and proportionality of disclosure of the information in line with human rights. If cleared for processing, a one-off speculative search of the Database is made by the Custodian and information fed back to UK NCB.

The UK NCB is not currently able to provide data on the number of requests received from other countries but only on the number of requests processed and dealt with by the Database Custodian. As indicated in the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 281W, 519 search requests have been dealt with by the Database Custodian since 2004 and responses provided back to UK NCB in each case (this includes searches of the UK DNA Database at the request of other countries as well as preparing profiles in order for UK law enforcement agencies to request searches overseas).

Data on the countries to which DNA profiles have been sent and on the number of profiles sent to other countries in pursuit of specific criminal investigations could only be provided at disproportionate cost as the majority of the data are not currently held electronically. This information will be available later this year following the introduction of a new data collection system (this will not apply to retrospective data). However, it is estimated that international DNA searches are requested on two to three occasions each week (this includes requests received from abroad and requests made by the UK for searches in other countries).

Data are not collected on the number of exchanges of DNA information which occur through direct liaison between law enforcement authorities or formal mutual legal assistance channels.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have had their DNA records removed from the police DNA database in each year since 2000. [82550]

Joan Ryan: The number of profiles relating to individuals removed from the National DNA Database in each year since 2000 is:

	Number of profiles relating to individuals removed
2000	66,149
2001	44,664
2002	14,589
2003	24,173
2004	19,194
2005	21,661
2006 (To 1 July)	8,868

Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the take-out quantities of class A drugs for the Concerted Inter-Agency Drug Action Group were in each year since collection began. [67893]

Mr. Coaker: CIDA agencies have been involved in the seizure of the following quantities of class A drugs:

	Cocaine (kg)	*Heroin (kg)*	*Ecstasy (tablets)*
2000-01	13,775	4,513	8,191,908
2001-02	10,931	3,379	8,682,768
2002-03	9,293	3,074	5,208,591
2003-04	23,000	2,828	9,968,098
2004-05	10,625	3,067	10,533,778

Foreign Criminal Releases

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of police hours taken to trace foreign criminals released without consideration for deportation since the issue was identified. [77123]

John Reid: The level of detail requested by the hon. Gentleman is not required under the annual data return that must be submitted to the Department by police forces in England and Wales. We would not wish to impose additional burdens on police forces by asking them to carry out such ad hoc surveys. The police continue to play a key role in working with all other relevant agencies to pursue those cases where foreign national prisoners were released without due consideration.

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place a copy of the report produced by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, entitled 'Mind the (level 2) gap', in the Library. [54055]

Mr. McNulty: This is a confidential report to Ministers only and, therefore, a copy will not be placed in the Library.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set up a nationwide adoption of standardised protocols aimed at increasing human trafficking victims identification and protection in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [80351]

Mr. Coaker: The question of a national referral mechanism is one which is under consideration as part of the current discussions as a result of the responses received to our consultation paper "Tackling Human Trafficking". We recognise that prompt and accurate identification of victims of trafficking is essential to the provision of appropriate care and support services to the victims of human trafficking.

To this end we have both developed, in consultation with non-government organisations, a best practice toolkit for front line immigration and police officers and other professionals who may come into contact with potential victims, and continue to work in partnership with the voluntary and community sector to establish a framework of support for victims who have been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Additionally we launched on 21 June, the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). The establishment of UKHTC came as a result of the success of operation Pentameter, a national police led multi-agency operation which aimed to tackle trafficking for sexual exploitation and which led to 234 people being arrested. Of these 132 people have been charged, to date, with offences connected to trafficking.

Following on from the success of Operation Pentameter the UKHTC will support the overarching aim of moving the United Kingdom to a leading position in relation to the prevention and investigation of trafficking in human beings. It will also become a central point for the development of police expertise and operational co-ordination.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is available for policemen to help them identify and detect victims of trafficking. [87078]

Mr. Coaker: We have developed an online people trafficking tool-kit to enable front line police among other relevant personnel to work appropriately and effectively with victims of trafficking.

Improvements in training for police in the identification and detection of victims of trafficking is currently under consideration as part of the discussions on the UK Action Plan against trafficking which is due to be published later in the year.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that each police force has an officer *(a)* trained and *(b)* designated to deal with trafficked children and women. [87081]

Mr. Coaker: The proposal that each force should have a trained and designated officer is one that is currently under consideration for inclusion in the UK Action Plan which is due to be published later in the year.

We recognise that there is a need for a more corporate response within the police service to tackling human trafficking. To this end we recently announced the establishment of the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) which will become operational from 2 October 2006. It will be overseen by an ACPO/multi-agency group which will include representatives from non-governmental organisations.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will provide a substantive answer to question 85722, tabled on 11 July 2006 for answer on 14 July 2006, on Operation Pentameter; and if he will provide before the summer adjournment a substantive answer to that part of question 85722 which relates to the country of origin of trafficked minors. [86881]

Mr. Coaker: From the 12 minors rescued from Operation Pentameter three minors were repatriated to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The other minors originated from Burundi, Cameroon, Sudan, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Kenya. The minors will receive support from social services for as long as is necessary.

Identity Register

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for the procurement of the National Identity Register by the Identity and Passport Service; and if he will make a statement. [85340]

Joan Ryan: The Government are committed to the rapid introduction of identity cards and the establishment of the National Identity Register but, as we have always made clear, this is an incremental process and will be implemented in a phased way. Royal Assent to the Identity Cards Act 2006 and creation of the Identity and Passport Service have enabled the Government to begin firming up plans for the delivery of the identity cards scheme including plans for procurement of the National Identity Register.

We have actively engaged the industry in dialogue about our procurement approach/options and industry feedback has been valuable in informing our emerging thinking. We will be publishing the National Identity Scheme Procurement Strategy Market Soundings Feedback Report in August 2006 and will update the market further as our plans develop.

Parliament (Protests)

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for protesting within a mile of Parliament since 1 August 2005. [84110]

John Reid: The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police has informed me that there have been 37 arrests for taking part in or organising an unauthorised demonstration in the designated area since 1 August 2005 and four arrests for failing to comply with conditions imposed by the Commissioner on a demonstration.

Passports

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 536-7W on passports, what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* lost, *(b)* stolen and *(c)* unavailable passports in circulation in the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [81690]

Joan Ryan: IPS processed the following reports of *(a)* loss, *(b)* theft and *(c)* other, of a passport for the calendar year of 2005:

2005	Number
Lost	230,011
Stolen	45,709
Other[1]	11,268

Current figures for 2006:

2006	Number
Lost	118,157
Stolen	19,108
Other[1]	5,707
Total	142,972

[1] "Other" includes passports reported as damaged or destroyed.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* suicides and *(b)* incidents of non-fatal self-harm have occurred in (i) adult prisons, (ii) young offender institutions and (iii) juvenile custody units in England and Wales in each of the last nine years for which figures are available. [83360]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested with respect to apparent self-inflicted deaths is shown in the following table.

Establishment type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Number 2005
Prison[1]	55	75	73	71	65	90	90	92	69
Young Offender Institution (YOI)	9	7	11	9	7	5	3	3	9
Juvenile custody[2]	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

[1] 'Prison' includes category B locals, male and female closed establishments, category C prisons, dispersal prisons, mixed locals, open prisons, semi-open prisons, remand centres and holding centres.
[2] Juvenile custody includes juvenile prisons, Secure Training Centres (STCs) and Secure Children's Homes (SCHs).
Note:
The table above shows the number of apparent self-inflicted deaths. This includes all deaths where it appears the individual acted specifically to take their own life, not only those that received a suicide or open verdict at inquest.

Prison type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Number 2005
Prison	1265	2719	3038	4182	6859	8912	14534	17346	19390
YOI	141	276	361	441	441	667	1118	1250	1434
Juvenile custody[1]	14	19	56	215	269	275	446	587	622

[1] Juvenile custody units run by the Prison Service use a wide definition of self-harm that includes all acts of self-injury, however serious (n.b. the same definition applies to the prison and YOI data). The data included from STCs and SCHs is mainly based on a definition of self-harm that includes self-harm incidents which represent significant events such that they are reportable under the Children's Homes Regulations. Two STCs and two SCHs, however, use a definition of self-harm similar to the Prison Service. Some STCs and SCHs were unable to provide this data for the earlier period covered by this Question because either the information was not collected, or only the total number of recorded incidents was collected (i.e. not only self-harm incidents; in which case it represented disproportionate cost to examine each incident report). In the future the YJB will provide clear definitions and recording requirements with respect to self-harm.
Note:
A new form specifically for reporting self-harm (the F213SH) was introduced in Prison Service establishments in December 2002 (i.e. in prisons, YOIs and juvenile prisons). The rise in reported self-harm from 2003 may therefore partly reflect improved reporting rather than an actual increase in self-harm incidents. Prior to December 2002. Self-harm was reported using the general incident reporting form (the F213), which resulted in significant under-reporting. The data from 2003 onwards cannot therefore be directly compared to earlier years.

Sentencing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what average length of custodial sentence was *(a)* handed out in each of the last nine years and *(b)* served by offenders released in each of the last nine years; [84400]

(2) what average length of custodial sentence was *(a)* handed out for and *(b)* served by those offenders convicted of (i) rape, (ii) murder, (iii) robbery, (iv) manslaughter, (v) sexual assault and (vi) non-fatal criminal assault with knives and bladed instruments who have been released in each of the last nine years; [84401]

(3) what average length of custodial sentence was *(a)* handed out and *(b)* served by those convicted of (i) possession with intent to supply Class (A) A, (B) B and (C) C drugs and (ii) simple possession of each category of drugs who were released in each of the last nine years; [84409]

(4) what average length of custodial sentence was *(a)* handed out and *(b)* served by those convicted of (i) grievous bodily harm with intent, (ii) grievous bodily harm, (iii) actual bodily harm and (iv) assault who were released in each of the last nine years. [84410]

Mr. Coaker: The tables set out the available information requested on average custodial sentence length imposed in England and Wales for the years 1996 to 2004, the latest year for which figures are currently available.

Figures on non-fatal criminal assault with knives and bladed instruments are not available centrally as details of the nature of the offence are not collected on the Home Office Court Proceedings database.

Average time served for life sentenced prisoners (mandatory and other lifers) released from prison on life licence between 1994 and 2004 is published in table 10.5 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004.

Information on the average time served and average sentence length of prisoners discharged from determinate sentences in 2004 is published in tables 10.1 and 10.2 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004. Statistics for the years 1997 to 2002 are given in tables 10.1 and 10.2 Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003, and tables 3.13 and 4.11 of Prison Statistics England and Wales 1997 to 2002. The data, which are obtained from the prison IT system, are not shown separately for specific offences as accuracy at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed.

Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile such figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

We have started a programme of work in the Home Office looking at the quality of existing data on court sentencing and prisoners and how this might be improved.

Average custodial sentence length in months[1] for possession and possession with intent to supply of Class A, Class B and Class C drugs, 1996-2004

	Possession			Possession with intent to supply		
	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class A	Class B	Class C
1996	8.0	5.2	2.8	34.9	13.3	10.1
1997	6.5	4.4	2.6	35.7	13.2	8
1998	5.9	4.2	1.6	34.6	12.8	7.4
1999	5.2	3.1	3.6	35.9	12.9	6.2
2000	5.3	3.2	2.7	34.5	12.7	12.1
2001	5.2	3.5	4.6	34.2	15.2	11
2002	5.2	3.4	2.5	35.4	15.1	10.1
2003	6.2	4.0	1.2	37.6	13.6	17.7
2004	7.3	3.7	2.8	39.8	15.9	11.9

Average custodial sentence length in months for grievous bodily harm with intent, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm and assault, 1996-2004

	Grievous bodily harm with intent	Grievous bodily harm without intent	Actual bodily harm	Assault[2]
1996	45.8	15.6	7.8	2.6
1997	44.1	15.3	7.8	2.6
1998	43.9	15.1	7.5	2.6
1999	45.8	15	7.8	2.6
2000	45.0	15.6	8.0	2.7
2001	48.0	16.0	8.5	2.8
2002	46.5	17.0	9.2	2.8
2003	50.3	17.6	9.2	2.8
2004	48.6	17.7	9.6	2.9

Average custodial sentence length in months[1] for rape, murder, robbery, manslaughter[3] and sexual assault[4] 1996-2004

	Rape	Murder	Robbery	Manslaughter	Sexual assault
1996	77.8	[5]	38.1	60.9	24.0
1997	78.7	[5]	39.1	62.5	24.5
1998	79.8	[5]	35.3	58.0	24.8
1999	79.8	[5]	35.7	59.2	24.1
200C	83.2	[5]	36.1	60.2	24.6
2001	81.1	[5]	35.4	58.9	25.4
2002	83.7	[5]	38.9	65.4	26.3
2003	86.4	[5]	39.3	62.8	26.3
2004	84.4	[5]	38.4	64.5	27.4

Average custodial sentence length in months, all offences 1996-2004

	All offences
1996	12.8
1997	12.7
1998	11.8
1999	11.5
2000	11.4
2001	11.8
2002	12.6
2003	12.6

Average custodial sentence length in months, all offences 1996-2004

	All offences
2004	12.9

[1] Excluding life sentences
[2] Common assault and assault on a police officer
[3] Common Law Manslaughter and Manslaughter due to diminished responsibility
[4] Indecent assault on males and females
[5] Murder carries a mandatory life sentence

Source:
RDS NOMS 11 July 2006

TREASURY

Aquaculture Projects (Orkney and Shetland)

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many aquaculture projects pay rent to the Crown Estate in Orkney and Shetland; and what total annual income has been generated from such rents in each of the last three years. [86047]

John Healey: The Crown Estate has issued 28 aquaculture leases for Orkney and 187 aquaculture leases for Shetland. Total annual income figure generated from fish farming over the past three years is as follows:

Fish farming

£

Financial year	Orkney	Shetland	Total
2003-04	50,900	598,000	648,900
2004-05	111,000	885,100	996,100
2005-06	[1]132,000	518,000	650,000

[1] The Orkney fish farming rental income for 2005-06 includes a post-audit payment of £34,000 in settlement of outstanding rent from production of fish in 2003.

Carers (Barnsley)

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many carers there are in *(a)* Barnsley East and Mexborough, *(b)* Barnsley and *(c)* Doncaster. [86382]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many carers there are in (a) Barnsley East and Mexborough (b) Barnsley and (c) Doncaster (86382).

The table below shows the number of people in (a) Barnsley East and Mexborough parliamentary constituency (b) Barnsley Local Authority District and (c) Doncaster Local Authority District on Census day (29 April 2001) who were providing unpaid care. The data for Barnsley East and Mexborough has been taken from table KS08 in the *2001 Census Report for Parliamentary Constituencies*. The data for both Barnsley and Doncaster has been taken from table KS08 in *Census 2001 Key Statistics for local authorities in England and Wales*. Both of these publications are available in the House of Commons Library.

Number of people in England and Wales

Area	Number of people	Number of people who provide unpaid care
Barnsley East and Mexborough PC	86,450	10,350
Barnsley LAD	218,063	26,109
Doncaster LAD	286,866	31,944

Source:
Table KS08 2001 Census Report for Parliamentary Constituencies and Table KS08 Census 2001 Key Statistics for local authorities in England and Wales

Carter Review

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has accepted the recommendations of the review by Lord Carter into HM Revenue Customs' Online Services; and if he will make a statement. [86873]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to paragraph 5.81 of this year's economic and fiscal strategy report (HC 968), and the written statement I made on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 11WS.

Civil Service Relocation

David Heyes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Civil Service posts have been transferred from London to the Greater Manchester area in the last 12 months; and how many posts are under consideration for such transfer. [85337]

Mr. Timms: In the 2005-06 financial year 96 posts were relocated to the Greater Manchester area bringing the total number of posts relocated to this area under the Lyons programme to over 300. Individual departments are responsible for deciding how best to meet their relocation target and full plans for the remaining 12,200 relocations are not yet finalised.

Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Leicester, East of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 761W, on consultants, which Ministers in his Department made use of West Wing Writers in 2005-06; and what the title was of each speech to which they contributed in that year. [85498]

John Healey: Research material was provided for Treasury Ministers on international development and global issues including debt relief and G8, G20 and IMF related matters.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Leicester, East of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 761W, on consultants, how much was paid to *(a)* West Wing Writers, *(b)* Opinion Leader Research and *(c)* International Survey Research in each year from 1997-98 to 2004-05. [85499]

John Healey: The following sums were paid to these organisations:

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
International Survey Research	—	56,786.102	2,445.44
Opinion Leader Research Ltd.	—	—	20,000.00
West Wing Writers	3,500.00	5,500.22	6,250.00

As a result of changes in the accounting system in 2002-03 the cost of identifying details of payments, if any, in the earlier years would be disproportionate.

Crown Estate

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Crown Estate has made of the value of the seabed in each of the last five years. [86063]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to page 15 of the Crown Estate annual report 2006 which was laid before Parliament on 13 July 2006.

Customs Officers

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers have left HM Revenue and Customs on the grounds of ill-health in each year since 1997. [86053]

Dawn Primarolo: The total number of customs officers retired on the grounds of ill health in each calendar year since 1997 are:

	Number of ill health retirements
1997	172
1998	164
1999	148
2000	85
2001	67
2002	68
2003	48
2004	45
2005	44
2006 to date	18

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their Ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83624]

John Healey: Details of Treasury Ministers' attendance at FIFA World Cup 2006 matches were set out in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's written answer of 20 June to my hon. Friend the Member for Alyn and Deeside (Mark Tami) on 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1899W.

The Chancellor travelled on 20 June to Brussels for a European meeting and then to Cologne where he met trilaterally with the German and Swedish Finance Ministers to discuss the European economy and a joint economic reform initiative.

As a guest of the German Government, which provided the ticket, the Chancellor also attended the England *vs.* Sweden FIFA World Cup 2006 match in Cologne on 20 June.

The Chancellor travelled by train from London to Brussels (cost of £174.50) and then by train to Cologne (£44.70). He returned by plane from Cologne (£282.30).

The Chancellor stayed overnight after attending the game and met his own accommodation costs.

Free ATMs

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the free cash machine network is preserved. [86974]

Ed Balls: The Government takes seriously the issue of free access to cash, especially for those on low-incomes. According to the latest figures from LINK, there are now more than 33,000 free ATMs in the UK, accounting for 96 per cent. of withdrawals made at ATMs. During the first quarter of 2006, there has been a net increase of over 100 free ATMs across the UK.

The working group on ATMs, chaired by John McFall MP, is expected to look at the evidence on the location and growth of free and surcharging ATMs, in order to reach a shared analysis on this issue.

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Government will take steps to ensure that clear signage indicating whether ATMs are free or fee charging is well placed for customers to see before they withdraw their cash. [86975]

Ed Balls: The Government believes that this is a matter for industry. LINK'S new transparency rules are a good step forward. It is expected that the ATM working group, chaired by John McFall, will consider issues related to the transparency of signage on ATMs.

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Government will press for a commitment from all banks to ensure that they do not sell off any of their free ATM network. [86976]

Ed Balls: How banks manage their ATM networks is a commercial matter. The Government welcomes the fact that all the major banks have made a public commitment to their free ATM networks.

Leukaemia/Multiple Myeloma

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the death rate from *(a)* leukaemia and *(b)* multiple myeloma were in each decade from 1976 to date. [86209]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the death rates from (a) leukaemia and (b) multiple myeloma were in each decade from 1976 to date. (86209)

Cancer death rates are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/CancerTrendsUpdates.pdf

Marine Estate

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the income from the marine estate is paid to his Department; how many *(a)* disposals and *(b)* acquisitions have been made in the marine estate in each of the last five years; and what the total value is of these transactions. [86107]

John Healey: The proportion of the income from The Crown Estate's Marine Estate paid to HM Treasury in 2005-06 was 92.4 per cent.

Summary of contribution for the Marine Estate

Gross contribution (i.e. direct receipts minus direct expenditure) from the marine estate for the last five years:

	£ million
2005-06	34.1
2004-05	33.5
2003-04	32.1
2002-03	31.9
2001-02	31.0

Summary of marine acquisitions for 2002-06

Value of acquisitions and disposals including professional fees and stamp duty land tax for the past five years:

	Acquisitions		*Disposals*	
	Number	£	*Number*	£
2002	—	—	18	1,537,315
2003	—	—	28	610,979
2004	1	-4,000	11	88,082
2005	—	—	20	334,816
2006	—	—	47	501,248

Markets in Financial Instruments Directive

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Government voted when the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive was adopted on 21 April 2004 by the European Council. [86471]

Ed Balls: On 7 April, the Council adopted, by written procedure, the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive. The UK supported the adopted text.

Ministers (Personal Tax)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to ensure that Ministers do not receive special treatment in respect of their personal tax affairs. [87587]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC is responsible for handling the personal tax affairs of Ministers and for ensuring that they pay tax in accordance with tax law, as for any other individual.

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the next generation of the nuclear deterrent will be *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partly financed by funding additional to the normal defence budget. [87095]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1842W.

Parliamentary Questions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he will reply to *(a)* Question 80066 and *(b)* Question 80067 on tax credits tabled on 20 June 2006 by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak; [86341]

(2) when he will reply to Question number 80066, on tax credits, tabled by the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak on 20 June 2006. [87598]

Dawn Primarolo: I answered question 80067 on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 364W, and hope to be in a position to answer question 80066 very shortly.

Scottish Salmon Farming (Crown Estate)

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Crown Estate has taken to support sustainable salmon farming in Scotland. [86048]

John Healey: The Crown Estate has a three year programme of measures to support the Scottish salmon industry with investment of £600,000. The Crown Estate is also supporting the aquaculture industry through its Marine Stewardship Programme with £100,000 annual contributions to the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum over the same period. In addition, the Crown Estate supports some individual research projects.

Smuggling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to improve coastline surveillance on the South West coast to tackle smuggling of illegal drugs and firearms. [86465]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) use risk assessment to deploy intelligence-led, flexible and mobile teams—including the HMRC Cutter fleet—to locations in the South West and throughout the UK where they will have the greatest impact on modern smugglers. HMRC also works in partnership with other agencies, including the UK immigration service and special branch, to provide a co-ordinated response to all frontier threats.

Subject Access Request

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the interim response of Mr. Michael Armstrong of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Data Protection Unit, of 17 May, (reference SAR 2090/06), to the hon. Member's constituent Mr. Gerard Churchhouse's Subject Access Request, when the further documents are expected to be supplied; why further documents already obtained by HMRC have not been supplied to date; when Mr. Churchhouse may inspect the original files on which a decision was made; and if he will make a statement. [86743]

Dawn Primarolo: The search process is now being urgently completed and the Department will write to Mr. Churchhouse within the next 14 days, together with an apology for the delay.

Tax Credits

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants were discovered to have given incorrect information *(a)* fraudulently and *(b)* by error in relation to a tax credit claim in each year for which figures are available, broken down by (i) type of tax credit and (ii) region; and what estimate he has made of the amounts incorrectly paid as a result. [43757]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. member to "Child and Working Tax Credits: Error and fraud statistics 2003-04" available on the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm Reliable estimates at regional level are not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1050W, on tax credits, what information is available on the level of tax credit manual payments in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [75751]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 188-89W. For the estimated value of manual payments made up to and including October 2005, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 343-44W.

The estimated value of manual payments (rounded to the nearest 100,000) made from November 2005 to March 2006 inclusive was:

	Estimated value of manual payments made (£000)
2005	
November	19,500
December	17,000
2006	
January	20,100
February	18,700
March	17,100

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claimants were receiving regular manual payments as at *(a)* 31 March and *(b)* 31 May; and if he will make a statement. [75752]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of tax credits claimants receiving manual payments were around:

(a) 17,300

and

(b) 15,000

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit decisions on overpayment have been appealed to *(a)* the Regional Director, (b) the Independent Adjudicator and (c) the Ombudsman in (i) Ceredigion, (ii) Wales and (iii) the UK in each of the last five years; [76296]

(2) in how many tax credit decisions on overpayment in *(a)* Ceredigion, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK the overpayment have been waived in each of the last five years. [76297]

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many tax credit decisions on overpayment have been appealed to *(a)* the Regional Director, *(b)* the Independent Adjudicator and *(c)* the Ombudsman in (i) Tamworth, (ii) England and (iii) the UK in each of the last five years; [80129]

(2) in how many tax credit decisions an overpayment in *(a)* Tamworth, *(b)* England and *(c)* the UK the overpayment has been waived in each year since the scheme began. [80130]

Dawn Primarolo: Tax credits claimants have a right of appeal against decisions about their tax credit entitlement but HM Revenue and Custom's (HMRC) code of practice 26 'What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit' gives the reasons why claimants might be able to dispute an overpayment and how they should do this.

The Department began recording the intake of disputed overpayment requests in May 2004.

For the numbers of disputed overpayment requests HMRC's Tax Credit Office received and the number written off for Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a whole, I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 360W.

The information requested is not available at constituency level, for Wales or at regional level.

For information about the Independent Adjudicator and the Ombudsman, I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 143W.

The information requested at *(a)* and *(b)* is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) by what date he estimates that Electronic Data Services will have made full payment of the £71.25 million owed in compensation to HM Revenue and Customs for tax credit system problems; and if he will make a statement; [76429]

(2) what payments have been made to date to his Department by Electronic Data Services in aggregate settlement of HM Revenue and Customs' claim in respect of tax credit IT; and if he will make a statement. [76431]

Dawn Primarolo: The terms of the agreement between HMRC and EDS to settle HMRC's claim for compensation are commercially sensitive and therefore confidential. Details were provided to the Public Accounts Committee in a closed session.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the net effect on households in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area of the introduction of tax credits since 1997. [87364]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the administration of tax credits in North Yorkshire. [87089]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05 of the numbers of in-work families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments and underpayments by region, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2003-04 Geographical Analysis" and the "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2004-05 Geographical Analysis". These publications and provisional estimates for the number of in-work families by region with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2005-06 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

David Heyes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Ashton-under-Lyne have been overpaid working tax credits since their introduction; [84850]

(2) how many overpayments of *(a)* working and *(b)* child tax credit have been made to claimants in Ashton-under-Lyne since the credits were introduced; what the value of those overpayments was; how many of the overpayments have not been recovered; and what the value was of unrecovered overpayments. [84852]

Dawn Primarolo: For numbers of tax credit overpayments I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1421W.

We do not produce statistics separately for child and working tax credits.

In answer to the number of overpayments to claimants from Ashton-under-Lyne that have not been recovered, and their value, the information is not available in the format requested.

David Heyes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department has taken to reduce poverty in Ashton-under-Lyne since 1997. [84851]

Ed Balls: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

Promoting macroeconomic stability

Supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the new deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit

Providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child benefit and the child tax for families, and the pension credit for pensioners.

Across the UK, these measures have helped lift more than a million people out of poverty since 1997. Tax credits are benefiting more than 550,000 families in the North West, and in Ashton-under-Lyne claimant unemployment has fallen by 42 per cent. youth unemployment has fallen by 68 per cent. and long-term unemployment has fallen by 88 per cent.

David Heyes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many payments have been made in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Ashton-under-Lyne under HM Customs and Revenue's code of practice for (i) causing worry and distress to claimants, (ii) delay in answering queries and (iii) costs incurred by the claimant in making contact in each year since tax credits were introduced; and what the annual cost was of payments in each category in each area. [84853]

Dawn Primarolo: The circumstances in which the former Inland Revenue and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's Code of Practice 1 'Putting things right' which is available at www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop1.pdf. The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of their mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused by those mistakes and delays.

Information about the number of payments made under each category is not available.

For the total number of payments made in 2003-04 and their value I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Hamilton, South (Mr. Tynan) on 20 July 2004, *Official Report*, columns 191-92W.

For the total number of payments made in 2004-05 and their value I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 4 July, 2005, *Official Report*, columns 95-96W

In 2005-06 around 15,000 compensation payments were made with a value of around £1.1 million.

Information is not available at constituency level.

World Bank/IMF

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the salaries are of *(a)* the President of the World Bank and *(b)* the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund; and if he will make a statement. [86835]

Ed Balls: The total annual remuneration of both the president of the World Bank and the managing director of the International Monetary Fund was $443,760 (£242,780)[1] in July 2004. The latest figures will be available in the 2006 annual reports of the World Bank and the IMF respectively.

[1] Dollar-Sterling spot market rate at close 18 July 2006

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Postal Voting

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many postal votes were issued by Tamworth borough council for the local elections in May; and what percentage were returned as valid votes. [86740]

Bridget Prentice: The total number of postal votes issued by the returning officer for Tamworth borough council local elections on 4 May 2006 was 5,323.

The percentage returned as valid postal votes was 66 per cent. (3,493).

Royal Commissions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what royal commissions there are; how many there were in *(a)* 1976, *(b)* 1986, *(c)* 1996 and *(d)* 2000; and what the expected duration of each existing commission is. [85239]

Vera Baird: There are currently no ad hoc royal commissions. In 1976, there were four. For the years 1986, 1996 and 2000, there were no ad hoc royal commissions. The average duration of an ad hoc royal commission is between two and four years. There are also a number of standing royal commissions, such as that on environmental pollution.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many members there are on each royal commission; how many members on each are paid; and what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average remuneration is. [85240]

Vera Baird: There are currently no ad hoc royal commissions. Membership of a royal commission is set by Government and dependant on the subject matter. The cost of an ad hoc royal commission is usually published in its report. This includes payments to members, expenses paid to witnesses and the cost of printing and publishing the report and evidence.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the position of women in Afghan politics, with particular reference to appointments to the Afghan Cabinet and Supreme Court. [86482]

Dr. Howells: Women are playing an increasingly important role in Afghan politics. Having been excluded from society by the Taliban, some 68 women (27 per cent. of the total number of MPs) were elected to the Lower House in September 2005, and 19 (19 per cent.) sit in the Upper House, 17 of them nominated to their seats by President Karzai. In March 2005, President Karzai appointed the first female Governor, Habiba Sorabi, to Bamiyan Province. He has also appointed a woman to be the head of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

President Karzai's previous Cabinet contained two women. The previous Supreme Court contained no female judges. The appointment processes for the new Cabinet and Supreme Court are not yet completed, but there are no women among the appointments so far confirmed.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to her Pakistani counterpart regarding cross-border terrorist activities in Afghanistan. [86699]

Dr. Howells: We take the issue of cross-border activities by terrorists, and cross-border co-operation between the authorities of Afghanistan and Pakistan, extremely seriously. This is discussed frequently with the Pakistani authorities by representatives of the Government. The issue was raised by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister during his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on 6 March and I followed up with Prime Minister Aziz on 7 March.

Anti-terrorism Capacity Building

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance programmes the Department has in place to support anti-terrorism capacity building in other countries; what funds are allocated to this task; and in which countries the programmes are located. [86702]

Dr. Howells: Through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Counter Terrorism (CT) Programme of the Global Opportunities Fund (GOF), the Department directly supports the Government's Counter Terrorism strategy as outlined in the Command Paper presented to the House on 10 July 2006. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the risk from international terrorism so that people can go about their daily lives freely and with confidence. The GOF CT programme focuses activity under four principal strands: prevent, pursue, protect and prepare.

Funding for financial year 2005-06 was £7.7 million and this financial year is £8.6 million. Since our programme contains classified elements, including the list of our priority assistance recipients, we are unable to give full information on all our assistance programmes. However, our work is focused in the following regions: the Middle East and North Africa; the East and Horn of Africa; South-East Asia and South Asia.

Typical projects include:

"operational CT assistance" primarily delivered bilaterally by UK counter terrorism experts in Government, the police and military; these are focused in areas such as CT law enforcement, forensic training, CT crisis management, aviation and maritime security training, hostage and crisis negotiation, VIP protection and bomb disposal;

"UN Security Council Resolution 1373 CT assistance" in support of the work of the UN CT Committee; assistance programmes are delivered to raise standards of CT capacity in the areas of CT legislation, combating the financing of terrorism, charity regulation, border control and counter proliferation.

EU Commission Budget

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is her Department's policy to support proposals from the Finnish EU presidency to reduce the EU Commission budget by €56 million over the next seven year budget period. [86741]

Mr. Hoon: The Government support the Council Draft EC Budget for 2007 established under the Finnish presidency, which aims to limit the growth of Commission administrative spending to 2.46 per cent. (€71 million), rather than the 5.08 per cent. (€158 million) proposed. This is in line with our belief that it is important to set EU institutions' administration budgets at a level which properly reflects the scope for economies of scale from enlargement and efficiency savings from investment in IT and buildings.

Iraq

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding has been allocated to the Iraqi Women's Ministry by the UK Government. [86484]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not allocate funding to Iraqi Government Ministries. We do maintain a regular dialogue with the Iraqi Women's Ministry and other Iraqi authorities about areas in which we can assist in the development of women's role in Iraqi society. For example, we have met the cost of visits by key Iraqi women, including Council of Representatives members, to the United Kingdom.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Iraqi Prime Minister on the budget for the Iraqi Women's Ministry. [86485]

Dr. Howells: We have not discussed the budget for the Iraqi Women's Ministry with the Iraqi Prime Minister. We do, however, maintain a dialogue with the Ministry about areas in which we can help them raise the awareness of the role of women in Iraqi society.

Kifle Tigneh Abate

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 687W, on Kifle Tigneh Abate, whether she has made further representations since 15 May; and when she expects to receive a report from Michael Ellman. [86155]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* We continue to make representations to the Government of Ethiopia about the trial of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) leadership, including Kifle Abate, at every suitable opportunity. Most recently, officials from our embassy in Addis Ababa made representations to the Ministry of Justice about the ongoing trial of the CUD leadership on 12 July 2006.

Michael Ellman has not given any indication of when he will complete his report or when we would receive a copy.

Libya

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance she is giving to British oil companies wishing to secure contracts in Libya. [86468]

Dr. Howells: Where oil companies have sought our assistance to secure contracts in Libya we have provided it and will continue to do so. Our embassy in Tripoli has for example, provided local advice and assistance with visiting delegations. Where appropriate, Ministers have and will lobby in support. United Kingdom Trade and Investment also provides a range of services to British companies seeking to export to Libya.

Non-proliferation (Norwegian Initiative)

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on progress in taking forward the aims of the Norwegian seven country initiative on non-proliferation; and in what form minutes or other records of the meetings of initiative members are made publicly available. [86929]

Dr. Howells: The UK continues to be engaged with this initiative and to further the seven-country agenda in accordance with the principles outlined in the July 2005 Ministerial Declaration made in New York.

There is only one official record, of a 9 June meeting held in the Norwegian embassy in London. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House. I will also arrange for a copy to be sent to my hon. Friend.

Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support her Department has given to Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi to attend functions funded by the Government; what assessment she has made of Sheikh Al-Qaradawi's views on *(a)* the use of force against UK forces in Iraq and *(b)* the use of suicide attacks elsewhere in the Middle East; and if she will make a statement. [86642]

Dr. Howells: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) facilitated and helped fund a "Muslims of Europe Conference" in Istanbul on 1-2 July which was organised and led by a steering group of European Muslim scholars and civil society representatives. The steering group set the agenda and chose the participants. A wide variety of international Muslim scholars attended, including Sheikh Al-Qaradawi. As with all other participants, the FCO paid for travel and accommodation costs.

Sheikh Al-Qaradawi has expressed views on the use of violence in the Middle East with which we certainly do not agree. Unless all leaders in society deliver a clear renunciation of violence as the solution to the problems in the Middle East, and a commitment to political processes to resolve conflicts, the cycle of hate will only continue. The FCO is working to bring influential leaders together to encourage the debate on the unacceptability of violence. The culminating Declaration of the Muslims of Europe Conference, which was agreed by all its participants, contained a strong renunciation of violence and terrorism. The full text is available on the following website: www.muslimsofeurope.com/topkapi.php.

PRIME MINISTER

Iraq

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Prime Minister on which occasions he has *(a)* met the bereaved families of British soldiers killed in Iraq and *(b)* visited British soldiers wounded in Iraq in hospital. [86932]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 36W.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what recent discussions he has had with Sir Ghulam Noon concerning matters connected with *(a)* party funding and *(b)* the award of honours; [86693]

(2) what communications he has had with *(a)* Dr. Chai Patel and *(b)* Mr. Barry Townsley since his recommendation that they should be elevated to the peerage was rejected. [86694]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1982W.

Missile Defence

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the US Administration on missile defence in each of the last three years. [86669]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 961W.

Premiership Anniversary

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what events are planned to mark the tenth anniversary of his premiership; and if he will make a statement. [86695]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 17 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2581W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Deputy Prime Minister

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Government Car Service has spent on providing a car and a driver to the Deputy Prime Minister in each year since 1997-98. [85717]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1329W given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Information Commissioner

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Cabinet Office has to appeal Information Commissioner ruling FS50086128. [85671]

Hilary Armstrong: The Information Commissioner has recently issued a decision in relation to Freedom of Information requests for this information. A copy of the Information Commissioner's decision notice and the Cabinet Office's disclosure in response to the decision is available on the Cabinet Office website at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/foi/pdf/murdoch.pdf and in the Library for the reference of Members.

Misc 33 Committee

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* purposes and *(b)* objectives are of the Misc 33 Committee. [86939]

Hilary Armstrong: The purpose of the Ministerial Committee on the Post Office Network (MISC33) is to allow collective consideration of, and decisions on, issues relating to the future of the Post Office network.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Casinos

Mr. Moss: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which casinos he has visited in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* South Africa, *(c)* the USA *(d)* the Far East and *(e)* Australia in an official capacity since January 2003; and what the (i) date and (ii) time was of each visit. [84192]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Eric Pickles) by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1243W.

Consultants

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many consultants are working for *(a)* him and *(b)* his office; and what the cost of the consultants has been since May 2006. [84921]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* Staffing and expenditure will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts in the usual way.

Departmental Budget

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what the total cost has been of providing new stationery for his private office since 5 May 2006; [84919]

(2) what the total cost of expenses for his private office was in each month since May 2006. [84920]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* Expenditure will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts, in the usual way as with other Government Departments.

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what has been the total cost has been of refurbishments to *(a)* his office and *(b)* the offices of his members of staff since 5 May. [85059]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* There has been no refurbishment.

Ministerial Anniversary

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report,* columns 1840-41W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on the Ministerial Anniversary, what public funding has been allocated to events commemorating his 10 year anniversary as Deputy Prime Minister; when the nature of these events will be announced; and if he will make a statement. [85995]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None.

Ministerial Travel

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he will have the use of the proposed Government official aeroplane in fulfilling his official duties. [84922]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* All travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidance "Travel by Ministers".

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will direct the Territorial Army to provide the information requested by the Child Support Agency relating to *(a)* earnings from regular army duties and *(b)* reimbursements from Territorial Army activity for Sergeant Gould, currently stationed in the Gulf; and what the reasons have been for the time taken in dealing with this matter by the Territorial Army. [83527]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 July 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will direct the Territorial Army to provide the information requested by the Child Support Agency relating to (a) earnings from regular army duties and (b) reimbursements from Territorial Army activity for Sergeant Gould currently stationed in the Gulf; and what the reasons have been for the time taken in dealing with this matter by the Territorial Army.

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what charge Liberata levies for the making of an emergency payment to a parent with care at the request of the Child Support Agency. [83836]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 July 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what charge Liberata levies for the making of an emergency payment to a parent with care at the request of the Child Support Agency.

The contract with Liberata is part of a wider DWP contract. The charge for making an emergency payment is commercially sensitive and cannot be divulged.

I am sorry I am unable to be more helpful.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absent parents under the Child Support Scheme have left the country to work abroad in each of the last five years. [84474]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not currently available.

Mesothelioma

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to extend *(a)* industrial injuries disablement benefit and *(b)* other relevant benefits to those who suffer from mesothelioma due to exposure to fibres brought home on the clothes of spouses, or other family members, exposed to asbestos at their workplace. [83757]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Scheme makes payments to people who have become disabled as a result of an accident at work or as a result of contracting an industrial disease in the workplace.

Spouses or other family members with mesothelioma can claim other state benefits such as incapacity benefit and disability living allowance or attendance allowance and can also seek redress through civil action in the courts.

The industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme is under review and we will publish a discussion document later this year, on which all interested parties, can comment.

New Deal Services

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what criteria are used in *(a)* assessing bids and *(b)* letting contracts to providers of New Deal services; [74095]

(2) what the total value was of New Deal services from contracts let in Gwent by Jobcentre Plus in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005; [74096]

(3) how many contracts to provide New Deal services were awarded to new providers in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005; [74097]

(4) what the total value is of contracts in Wales to providers of New Deal services in the *(a)* charitable, *(b)* public and *(c)* private sectors. [74098]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The criteria for the award of New Deal contracts in 2006 included performance, delivery, organisation, capacity, and quality of management, staff, services, premises and facilities. These criteria were published as part of the Jobcentre Plus advice to potential contractors. Contracts were let through a fair and open competitive tendering process and were awarded to those organisations whose bids were judged best able to satisfy those criteria.

Information on the value of New Deal services contracts let in Gwent is not available. The available information is that in 2005 a total of £4,442,143 was paid to providers of New Deal services in the Eastern area of Jobcentre Plus' South Wales Valleys District. Information for earlier years is not available.

No new contracts for New Deal services were awarded during 2003, 2004 or 2005.

The total value of contracts in Wales for the New Deals, Programme Centres, and Basic Skills assessments for the financial year 2005-06 is £12,382,703, of this £4,152,480 is in the charitable sector, £5,171,324 in the public sector, and £3,058,899 in the private sector.

Older People (Skills Training)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what *(a)* grants and *(b)* training schemes are available through his Department (i) for people over 55 years and (ii) for people in retirement to learn new job skills; [80753]

(2) what paid apprenticeship programmes are available through his Department *(a)* for people over 55 years and *(b)* for people in retirement; [80754]

(3) what assistance is available through his Department to people over 55 years who have *(a)* been made redundant and *(b)* been redundant for more than one year to assist them to find alternative employment; [80756]

(4) how many people in the UK over 50 years are economically inactive; and what measures he has put in place to tackle this; [80757]

(5) what plans he has to make *(a)* grants and *(b)* training schemes available for people (i) over 55 years and (ii) in retirement to learn new job skills; [80779]

(6) if he will take steps to make apprenticeship programmes available through his Department for people *(a)* aged over 55 years and *(b)* in retirement to receive on the job training. [80780]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are now more people in work in the United Kingdom (UK) than ever before, up 130,000 in the last quarter and by 272,000 in the year to June 2006. At 28.94 million this is just over 2.5 million higher than 1997. There are fewer people out of work than in the last quarter and economic inactivity has fallen sharply, down by 121,000. There are currently 2,477,000 people between 50 and state retirement age who are recorded as economically inactive in the UK. When people over state pension age are included, this figure rises to 12,176,000.

Between 1979 and the mid 1990s, the number of people on incapacity benefits in Great Britain (GB) trebled. Growth in the caseload has since slowed significantly, and in November 2005, there were 2.71 million people claiming incapacity benefits, a fall of 61,000 over the year. Although 46 per cent. of those claiming incapacity benefits are aged between 50 and state pension age, between 2000 and 2005 the number of people in this age group fell by 52,000. This has contributed to the overall reduction in the incapacity benefits caseload.

Like other age groups, people aged 50 and over will be able to benefit from the rollout of the successful "Pathways to Work" service across Great Britain which will be completed by 2008. Pathways offers new incapacity benefits customers early support from skilled personal advisers and direct access to a "Choices Package" of employment programmes and clear financial incentives to make work pay. Any incapacity benefits customer will be able to access the support and help available on a voluntary basis.

Also like all other customers, eligible people aged 50 and over, including those above state pension age, can benefit from the range of services provided by Jobcentre Plus, including access to jobs and help and support to find work. This can include programmes such as new deal 25 plus (ND25 plus) which is mandatory for younger participants but can be accessed on a voluntary basis by people above state pension age who are in receipt of pension credit.

Additional help is provided to older people who do not find work quickly. new deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme for people who have been in receipt of benefits, including pension credit, for at least six months. It provides people in GB with advice and guidance from personal advisers, and access to in-work financial help through the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. Since April 2000, the programme has been successful in helping more than 150,000 older workers into employment. Once in work, new deal 50 plus customers can claim a training grant of up to £1,500 for training of which up to £300 can be used for life-long learning.

People aged 50 and over can also be eligible for help from ND 25 plus. People who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for 18 months, who have not previously participated on ND 25 plus, are required to attend the gateway stage of the ND 25 plus programme. This is a period of up to four months of intensive job search and specialist help and support to improve job prospects. This is followed by the intensive activity period (IAP) which is currently voluntary for people aged 50 and over. The IAP provides further support and pre-work training to help people return to work.

Since April 2004, we have been piloting mandatory participation in the ND 25 plus IAP for people aged 50-59 who have been claiming JSA for 18 months. The pilot has offered people in this age group more extensive help back to work. Interim results are positive and, as announced in our Welfare Reform Green Paper, we intend to commence a phased national rollout.

In terms of people facing redundancy, we work with employer and partner organisations, to provide access to a range of services aimed at helping people find alternative employment. The help provided will vary depending upon particular needs, not the age group of individuals, or the period of unemployment following redundancy. Typically, this involves the provision of information, advice and guidance about jobs and how best to secure alternative employment. In the case of large-scale redundancies that have a significant impact on the labour market, additional help, for example skills training analysis and job focused training can be provided through the rapid response service. This help is not age related but it is time bound to 12 weeks before and 12 weeks following someone being made redundant. In the event that these redundant workers have not found alternative work within this period they then access all the other Jobcentre Plus services stated. The rapid response service is available in England, Scotland and Wales although different processes apply within each country.

Through our Age Positive Campaign, we are working with employers and others to promote the business benefits of an age diverse workforce and best practice on age in recruitment, training and promotion. In May 2005 we launched the "Be Ready" national information campaign to raise employer awareness of, and ability to adopt, flexible employment and retirement opportunities to support the recruitment and retention of older workers in advance of age legislation due in October 2006.

The Department for Education and Skills has responsibility for apprenticeships and training grants. The development and delivery of programmes to help unemployed people in Northern Ireland into work is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action he is taking to respond to the findings of his Department's research into the "Pathways to Work" pilots relating to the impact of the policy on those who report having one health problem of mental illness. [84387]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 12 July 2006]*: The Department is committed to providing appropriate support for people with mental health conditions, which is why the Condition Management programme within Pathways has been developed. It is clear that Pathways is helping large numbers of people with a mental health condition to move from Welfare to Work. In our qualitative research both personal advisers and Condition Management practitioners have provided individual examples of progression for people with mental health conditions.

The Department will continue to monitor and assess the effectiveness of Pathways for those with a mental health condition. Evaluation findings will be fed into future developments for Pathways.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the likely impact on pensioners of the discontinuation of the Post Office card account. [85574]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Post Office card account has allowed some customers, including pensioners, to get used to the basics of banking. In practice, there is no real difference in accessing money at the post office via a bank account compared to a Post Office card account. Customers can collect the same money, on the same day as they do now at the post office, by using a plastic card and a personal identification number.

Around 90 per cent. of pensioners already have access to a bank account suitable for direct payment. In making use of existing bank accounts, or opening new ones, pensioners will have a wider choice about where and when they collect their money. They will have the opportunity to make savings on their fuel bills by paying them through direct debit, the option to pay in cash as well as cheques, and to receive interest on balances.

Poverty (Gravesham)

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were living in poverty in Gravesham constituency in each year since 1997. [86681]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Child poverty information below regional level is not available.

Remploy and Interwork

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many directorships in respect of external organisations the chief operating officer of Remploy has sought leave *(a)* to retain and *(b)* to take up. [80451]

Mrs. McGuire: The chief operating officer of Remploy has sought leave from the Remploy Board to retain two existing directorships in respect of external organisations but has not sought leave to take up any further directorships.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost was to his Department of employing an employee in *(a)* Remploy and *(b)* Interwork in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [81844]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the table.

2005-06

	Average cost (£)
Employing a disabled person in Remploy	11,690
Employing a disabled person in a Remploy factory	19,472
Employing a disabled person in Remploy Interwork	3,120
Employing an employee, including non-disabled people, in Remploy	16,009
Employing an employee, including non-disabled people, in Interwork	2,950

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the per capita budget for adult community learning is of each local authority area in England, listed in descending order. [81770]

Phil Hope: The exact makeup and distribution of learning provision at local level are matters for local Learning and Skills Councils and their partners in colleges and other providers, according to their assessment of local needs and priorities. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with more detailed information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 14 July 2006:

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the per capita budget for adult community learning.

The relevant data is attached. In the data, per capita budget figures for the academic year August 2005/July 2006 Adult and Community Learning (ACL) have been derived using each local LSC's total budget for all of the following funding lines of which ACL was comprised:

Main ACL

Family Learning

Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (FLLN)

Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC)

Population statistics for people of 20 years and above have been used, as the category for 19 year olds includes 15-19 year olds.

Some local authorities do not receive ACL funding. Funds in some local authority areas are directly funded, by the LSC, to other types of organisation, such as further education colleges and voluntary and community providers. In some cases local authority area population statistics aren't easily connected to the range of organisations receiving the ACL funding in that area. Therefore the attached data shows each local authority area within its local LSC area. The per capita figures have then been derived from division of total budgets for each local LSC area, by aggregate population figures for local authorities within that local LSC area.

In providing this data we have tried to be as open as possible in providing you with useful information.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the reasons are for the change in levels of funding for adult education in Gravesend; and if he will make a statement. [85869]

Bill Rammell: Since 1997 we have increased investment in further education (FE) by £2.5 billion—around 48 per cent. in real terms. Overall we are broadly maintaining funding for adults programmes at £2.9 million although this will increasingly be focused on our priorities. I announced on 21 October 2005 our priorities for post-16 learning which are: raising participation and achievement of young people; driving down the skills deficit in adult workforce; and ensuring a wide range of learning opportunities at Level 3. I also reaffirmed our commitment to safeguard the funding for personal and community development in mainstream FE and local authority funded adult education with a budget of £210 million in 2006/07.

The 2006/07 funding allocations for providers in the Gravesend area would have taken into account these priorities as well as local circumstances and need. It is essential that funding is prioritised on these areas if we are to address skills weaknesses and improve productivity.

Providers also have the opportunity, if they succeed in meeting employer needs, to access additional funding through Train to Gain, our new national employer training programme. If successful a provider's net funding position could therefore increase.

After-school Clubs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of parents' willingness to pay for children's after-school clubs. [86878]

Beverley Hughes: All schools must consult with parents before setting charges for their extended services, including after-school clubs; and must agree and publish charging and remissions policies.

My Department published guidance for schools and local authorities on planning and funding extended services, including after-school clubs, on 5 June 2006. The guidance is intended to help extended schools plan and fund their activities in ways that reflect local needs and circumstances; and build on existing provision offered by the voluntary and private sectors.

Many schools already charge for some after-school activities, offered either as 'stand alone' opportunities or as part of childcare provision. Working parents paying for childcare are eligible to apply for the childcare element of the working tax credit, which can recoup up to 80 per cent. of the costs. Our guidance encourages local authorities and schools to help parents to access working tax credits and benefits to which they may be entitled.

Building Schools for the Future

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the criteria for involvement in the Building Schools for the Future pathfinder programme include whether the proposed school or schools admit pupils aged 11 to 16, 11 to 18 or 13 to 18 years. [86745]

Jim Knight: It is for the local authority to choose the secondary school to receive this investment, which must have high building need. The Department has not specified a particular secondary age range.

Bullying

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of reported *(a)* racist and *(b)* homophobic bullying there have been in schools in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [85945]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answers dated 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1120W and 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 466W, to the hon. Member of Brent, East (Sarah Teather)

Child Care Costs

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when his Department plans to publish the results of its research into numbers of nursery, playgroup and day-care providers whose actual costs of provision for three and four year olds exceed the sum received from Government. [86879]

Beverley Hughes: The Department carries out a nationally representative survey of all childcare providers annually to provide a range of data to help monitor progress towards meeting key government targets in the provision of childcare and early years services and to inform the strategic development of policy in this area. The nature of the data collection does not permit separate analysis of costs of provision for three and four year olds for each provider.

Fieldwork for the 2006 survey is currently under-way and will be completed in early September. Results from the survey will be published in spring 2007 and available on the DFES website at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research. Findings from previous years' surveys are also published on the DFES website.

Future work is under way in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review considering the impact on the cost of provision of extending the free entitlement to 15 hours per week and increasing flexibility by 2010. My Department has announced that it will be exploring how to extend the entitlement through pathfinders in a selection of local authorities from April 2007. The pathfinders will also consider the funding implications of extending the free entitlement. Evaluation of the pathfinders will be published in due course.

Child Support

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support services are available for children leaving care in West Lancashire constituency. [83458]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 167W.

Citizenship Education

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) whether his review of the citizenship curriculum will include a study of the ways in which *(a)* Parliament and *(b)* local government can contribute to the delivery of the curriculum; [81744]

(2) if he will ensure that his review of the citizenship curriculum will include consideration of measures to improve the training available for teachers and other school staff responsible for delivering the curriculum. [81436]

Jim Knight: The Government consider citizenship education an important element of the National Curriculum. The current review of citizenship will focus on the content of the curriculum and the broad themes upon which it is based. We recognise the significant role that Parliament and local government have to play in the education of young people and encourage teachers to organise lessons to include active learning about these institutions. Specific guidance on how to do this has been sent to all schools by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. Training teachers in the effective delivery of citizenship is a priority and we are funding 1,200 places for the continuing professional development citizenship certification course over the next two years. This is in addition to the 1,000 specialist teachers who will be trained by the end of this year.

Direct Schools Grant

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he used for pupil numbers in each local education authority for the purposes of calculating the direct schools grant for 2005-06; and whether these figures have been revised. [86447]

Jim Knight: Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was allocated for first time for 2006-07 and 2007-08, replacing the Schools Formula Spending Shares.

The DSG is calculated by multiplying each local authority's number of full-time equivalent pupils (aged three to 15) by the Guaranteed Unit of Funding as announced in December 2005. This is the sum that each authority knew it would receive for every pupil in its schools in January 2006 and in January 2007.

Indicative allocations of DSG were also issued in December 2005 for 2006-07 and 2007-08. As actual pupil numbers were not available at that time, the indicative allocations were based on forecast pupil numbers for January 2006 and January 2007. Forecasts were based on historical trends, further information can be found in the DSG Explanatory note on allocations and pupil projections at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=9224.

Final allocations of DSG for 2006-07 are based on the actual numbers of pupils in the authority's schools on the January 2006 pupil count date. My Department made it clear that final DSG allocations would be based on actual January 2006 pupil numbers, and that they were advised to make their own predictions of pupil numbers for planning purposes, based on locally available data and as the January 2006 pupil data came in.

The Department issued final allocations of DSG for 2006-07, based on actual January 2006 numbers, on 1 June 2006. Revised forecasts for 2007-08 will be issued over the summer and the 2007-08 allocations of DSG will be finalised around the same time next year.

Examinations

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of examinations taken in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* science, *(d)* music, *(e)* French, *(f)* physical education and *(g)* leisure and tourism at (i) GCSE and (ii) A-level were set by Edexcel in the last year for which figures are available. [86747]

Jim Knight: The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) publishes data on national results each year in August via its website at www.jcq.org.uk. The most recent examination series for which the data are

available is summer 2005. The following tables show the total number of results issued in each subject for the awarding bodies based in England which offer GCSE and A-level examinations, and the proportion of results that were issued by Edexcel.

GCSE (full course)[1]

Subject	Total number of results issued by English-based awarding bodies	Total number of results issued by Edexcel	Percentage
Maths	694,754	351,583	50.60
English Language	600,764	29,715	4.95
English Literature	492,906	23,392	4.75
Science (Double Award)	1,019,577	188,571	18.50
French	258,456	46,838	18.12
Music	54,279	2,334	4.30
PE	151,624	5,688	3.75
Leisure and Tourism (Applied GCSE)	17,071	8,222	48.16

[1] These data refer to full course entries only

GCE A-level[1]

Subject	Total number of results issued by English-based awarding bodies	Total number of results issued by Edexcel	Percentage
Maths	53,622	24,075	44.90
English Language	16,041	1,424	8.78
English Literature	45,928	8,698	18.94
Biology	48,207	8,956	18.58
Chemistry	34,804	8,956	25.73
Physics	25,780	8,030	31.15
French	12,019	5,726	47.64
Music	8,765	6,594	75.23
PE	21,084	3,368	15.97
Leisure and Tourism	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] These data refer to A2 examinations only, not AS
[2] No data available—first certification summer 2006

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many final grades at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level were incorrectly awarded and subsequently corrected in each of the past five years. [86868]

Jim Knight: Data on the appeals process for the awarding bodies which set and offer GCSE, AS and A Level examinations in England are collected and published annually by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The following tables show the information requested for 2003, 2004, and 2005. Comparable data are not available for previous years.

The information provided in the following tables is provided at a qualification level for GCSEs and at a unit level for AS and A Levels. These data cover the three English-based awarding bodies which provide these examinations.

GCSE	2003	2004	2005
Number of entries (qualifications)	523,8371	541,2338	533,6919
Enquiries as percentage of entries	0.70	0.80	0.83
Number of enquiries about results	36,686	43,207	45,439
Number of changes to final grades	9,374	9,810	10,628
Changes as percentage of entries	0.18	0.18	0.20

A level	2003	2004[1]	2005[1]
Number of entries (units)[2]	544,392	6,330,959	6,296,768
Enquiries as percentage of entries	0.95	0.78	0.78
Number of enquiries about results	51,519	49,520	48,828
Number of changes to final grades	6,107	7,263	5,355
Changes as percentage of entries	0.11	0.11	0.09

[1] The information on A Level examinations for 2004 and 2005 includes AS, A Level and Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE) examinations.
[2] The number of entries for A level examinations is the number of separate units awarded in the summer examination series, rather than the number of complete A level qualifications in that series, as each qualification comprises a number of units, and the final result of each unit can be queried or changed.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many appeals there were against final grades awarded at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level in each of the past five years. [86869]

Jim Knight: Data on the number of appeals are collected annually by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as the regulatory authority for the public examinations system in England. The appeals procedure can only be invoked once the Enquiries about Results (EAR) services has been exhausted.

The following table shows the information requested for 2003, 2004, and 2005 for the awarding bodies based in England which offer GCSE, AS and A Level qualifications. Comparable data are not available for previous years. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of this data by qualification.

	2003	2004	2005
Number of entries (qualifications)	6,946,999	7,221,124	7,200,647
Number of appeals	598	649	730
Appeals as percentage of entries	0.009	0.009	0.010
Number of successful appeals	89	206	100
Successful appeals as percentage of entries	0.001	0.003	0.001

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of students in English schools taking GCSE *(a)* Art, *(b)* Drama and *(c)* Music achieved grades A* to C in the last period for which figures are available. [87010]

Jim Knight: The following table shows pupils[1] achieving a grade A*-C at GCSE in 2005 in *(a)* Art and Design, *(b)* Drama, and *(c)* Music, as a percentage of pupils who attempted the subject.

Subject	Number of pupils[1] (Thousand)	Percentage achieving A*-C
Art and Design	186.8	69
Drama	93.8	70
Music	52.7	70

[1] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who attempted GCSE in the 2004-05 academic year

Free School Meals

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many primary school pupils were eligible for free school meals in Swindon in each year since 1997; what percentage of the total this represented in each year; and how many took up their entitlement in each year. [86639]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the tables.

Maintained primary schools[1]: school meal arrangements 1997-2006[2]. Position in January each year. Swindon local authority and England

Swindon local authority area[3]

	Number on roll[4]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	Percentage taking free school meals	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
1998	18,047	2,223	12.3	2,768	15.3
1999	18,072	1,925	10.7	2,563	14.2
2000	17,928	1,830	10.2	2,372	13.2
2001	17,901	1,739	9.7	2,238	12.5
2002	17,626	1,638	9.3	2,104	11.9
2003	17,350	1,692	9.8	2,065	11.9
2004	17,249	1,641	9.5	2,134	12.4
2005	16,857	1,338	7.9	1,861	11.0
2006[2]	16,906	1,180	7.0	1,494	8.8

England

	Number on roll[4]	Number of pupils taking free school meals	Percentage taking free school meals	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
1998	4,460,128	727,838	16.3	886,069	19.9
1999	4,507,663	690,321	15.3	853,020	18.9
2000	4,435,343	668,177	15.1	816,994	18.4
2001	4,406,187	628,507	14.3	779,307	17.7
2002	4,363,270	613,561	14.1	750,594	17.2
2003	4,309,777	601,896	14.0	727,631	16.9
2004	4,254,206	605,839	14.2	737,220	17.3
2005	4,205,665	565,829	13.5	713,684	17.0
2006[2]	4,150,593	553,688	13.3	666,886	16.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Provisional.
[3] Swindon local authority was formed in April 1997 as a result of Local Government Reorganisation, therefore there is no data available prior to this.
[4] Prior to 2003 'Number on roll' includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are solely registered, excluding boarding pupils. Due to underlying changes in data collection, this coverage was extended to also include all pupils with dual (main) registration and boarding pupils from 2003.
Source:
Schools Census.

Higher Education

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students from Cornwall were in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time higher education in the UK excluding Cornwall in each year since 1990, broken down by (i) the socio-economic classifications of students' parents or guardians, (ii) sex and (iii) age; [85064]

(2) how many students were in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time higher education in Cornwall in each year since 1990, broken down by (i) the socio-economic classifications of students' parents or guardians, (ii) sex and (iii) age. [85065]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* The latest available information is shown in the tables. Data for the years prior to 1996/97 are not held centrally.

Undergraduate students from the UK studying in Cornwall[1]

	1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Total	860	45	895	55	870	45	935	45
of which:								

Undergraduate students from the UK studying in Cornwall[1]

	1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Gender								
Male	460	5	460	5	410	5	415	5
Female	400	40	435	50	460	40	520	40
Age								
Under 21	395	0	415	0	430	0	475	0
21 and over	470	45	480	55	440	45	460	40

	2000/01		2001/02		2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Total	1,060	50	1,155	40	1,280	40	1,430	50	1,555	50
of which:										
Gender										
Male	450	5	490	5	545	5	645	10	685	10
Female	610	45	665	35	735	35	785	40	870	40
Age										
Under 21	560	0	595	0	665	0	770	0	865	0
21 and over	500	50	565	40	610	40	660	50	685	50

[1] Including students from Cornwall. Covers students at higher education institutions located in Cornwall.

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, so constituent parts may not sum to totals.
2. Excludes students at institutions outside Cornwall which have campuses within Cornwall.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Undergraduate students from Cornwall[1] *studying in the UK (excluding those studying in Cornwall)*

	1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Total	6,625	2,515	6,900	2,305	7,130	2,625	7,310	2,920
of which:								
Gender								
Male	3,210	925	3,300	885	3,410	920	3,440	990
Female	3,415	1,590	3,600	1,420	3,720	1,705	3,870	1,930
Age								
Under 21	3,850	50	4,080	35	4,315	55	4,510	60
21 and over	2,775	2,460	2,820	2,265	2,815	2,570	2,800	2,855

	2000/01		2001/02		2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Total	7,365	3,075	7,455	3,245	7,450	3,570	7,690	4,125	7,720	4,115
of which:										
Gender										
Male	3,405	1,075	3,440	1,125	3,340	1,155	3,400	1,260	3,335	1,275
Female	3,960	2,000	4,015	2,120	4,110	2,415	4,290	2,865	4,385	2,840
Age										
Under 21	4,470	90	4,430	85	4,300	85	4,450	100	4,390	125
21 and over	2,895	2,985	3,025	3,165	3,150	3,480	3,245	4,025	3,330	3,985

[1] Students from Cornwall have been identified by reference to their home postcode. The proportion of students who provided a valid postcode has increased in each year since 1996/97 and this will have contributed to the increase in the number of students from Cornwall shown in the table.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, so constituent parts may not sum to totals.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

First degree students from the UK studying in Cornwall[1]

	2002/03	2003/04	FT 2004/05
Total	1,275	1,335	1,555
of which:			
Socio economic group[2]			
1-3	245	565	860
4-7	105	305	425
Not known	925	465	270

[1] Including students from Cornwall.

[2] Socio-economic information was collected for the first time in 2002/03. It was only collected for students who entered full-time courses via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Comparable information is not available for students on part-time courses. Prior to 2002/03 a different classification of social background was used but this is not available from the HESA data.

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5, so constituent parts may not sum to totals.
2. The categories of socio-economic groups are:

1 = Higher managerial and professional occupations,
2 = Lower managerial and professional occupations,
3 = Intermediate occupations,
4 = Small employers and own account workers,
5 = Lower supervisory and technical occupations,
6 = Semi-routine occupations,
7 = Routine occupations.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

First degree students from Cornwall studying in the UK (excluding those studying in Cornwall)

	2002/03	2003/04	FT 2004/05
Total	6,075	6,220	6,155
of which:			
Socio economic group[1]			
1-3	945	1,885	2,705
4-7	505	1,010	1,445
Not known	4,625	3,325	2,005

[1] Socio-economic information was collected for the first time in 2002/03. It was only collected for students who entered full-time courses via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Comparable information is not available for students on part-time courses. Prior to 2002/03 a different classification of social background was used but this is not available from the HESA data.

Notes:

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1 = Higher managerial and professional occupations,
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4 = Small employers and own account workers,
5 = Lower supervisory and technical occupations,
6 = Semi-routine occupations,
7 = Routine occupations.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

International Students

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact on the number of international students applying to English universities of the different rules on visa extensions which apply in England and Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [83591]

Bill Rammell: It is too soon to assess the impact of the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme on international student numbers. This scheme was introduced in June 2005 as part of the Fresh Talent Initiative to help to address the ageing and declining population in Scotland. International students are able to stay in the UK following completion of their studies under the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme. This scheme was extended in May to enable all international students, on completion of a postgraduate degree, or an undergraduate degree in a shortage sector, to work in the UK for up to 12 months. The numbers of international students coming to English higher education institutions to study increased by nearly 60 per cent. between 2000/01 and 2004/05, the latest date for which figures are available. The Government recognise the benefits that international students bring to institutions, to the economy and to the country more generally. We also recognise that the international education market has become more competitive. That is why on 18 April this year the Prime Minister announced the second phase of his international education initiative which is designed to secure the UK's position as a leader in the field of international education.

NUT

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the National Union of Teachers on education policies; and if he will make a statement. [86097]

Jim Knight: An introductory meeting between the Secretary of State and the General Secretary of the NUT took place earlier this month.

Official Communications (Schools)

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* written and *(b)* electronic communications were sent to (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools by (A) his Department and (B) other official education bodies in 2005. [86445]

Jim Knight: The Department sent 20 emails automatically to all primary and secondary schools in 2005. These emails provided schools with a regular update on the information and resources available to them online and in hard copy.

The Department only sends hard copy publications automatically to schools in England in exceptional cases having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004. Discussions with head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the printed publications they needed, when they needed them, and to be able to order multiple copies. No hard copy publications were sent automatically to all schools in 2005.

Details relating to publications sent to all schools by NDPBs during the academic year 2004-05 can be found in the Department's annual section 38 report. The latest report, issued in October 2005, showed that 29 publications had been sent to all secondary schools and 22 to all primary between January 2005 and July 2005. Where a document has been sent to both primary and secondary schools it will appear in both figures.

The Department does not currently hold details of emails sent by NDPBs to all schools.

Qualification and Curriculum Authority

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the annual cost to public funds was of the Qualification and Curriculum Authority in each of the last five years. [86713]

Jim Knight: The annual cost to public funds of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in each of the last five years was:

	£ million
2001-02	72.2
2002-03	79.3
2003-04	82.9
2004-05	119.2
2005-06	135.0

The increase in the annual cost to public funds in recent years is largely attributable to the costs of modernising the examinations system. This programme of work was announced by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on 17 November 2003.

Research Assessment Exercise

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has undertaken of the cost effectiveness of the operation of the research assessment exercise. [86169]

Bill Rammell: The Higher Education Funding Council for England has estimated the total cost of the 2008 research assessment exercise (RAE) as at least £45 million. Although that is not a disproportionate sum in view of the size of the budgets whose allocation the RAE informs, the bulk of those costs relate to the time that university staff spend preparing for the exercise. One of the main objectives of the consultation proposals on the reform of higher education research assessment and funding that my Department published on 13 June is to devise a system to replace the RAE which continues to promote high-quality research but frees researchers from the administrative burdens associated with the RAE, allowing more of their time to be spent on academic work.

School Closures

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in rural areas were approved for closure in 2005, broken down by local authority area. [86451]

Jim Knight: In 2005, eight rural schools were approved for closure. All of these were primary schools. The following table lists the schools by local authority area.

Decisions about school closures are taken locally. Since February 1998 there has been a presumption against the closure of rural schools. Although this does not mean that no rural school will ever close, decision makers must satisfy themselves that closure is clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

Local authority	Name of school
East Riding of Yorkshire	Thorngumbald Junior school
Northumberland	Byrness First school
	Horncliffe First school
North Yorkshire	Womersley Church of England Primary school
Wakefield	Walton Junior school
Wiltshire	East Tytherton Maud Heath primary
	Parley All Saints Church of England primary school
Worcestershire	Stone C of E First school

Note: These figures exclude amalgamations where two schools have been replaced by one new school on an existing site.

School Toilets

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the required toilet to *(a)* male and *(b)* female staff ratio is in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools. [86982]

Jim Knight: Regulation 4 of The School Premises Regulations[1] requires that

> "In every school there shall be a washroom or washrooms which are adequate for the number of staff at the school".

There are no required toilet ratios for male and female toilets. The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 provide a table of the minimum number of water closets and wash stations for different numbers of staff as follows:

[1] http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1999/19990002.htm.

Number of people at work	Number of water closets	Number of wash stations
1-5	1	1
6-25	2	2
26-50	3	3

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) each local education authority have outdoor toilets that are still in use. [86992]

Jim Knight: Information on numbers of outdoor toilets at schools is not held by my Department. In 1998-2000, £19 million was allocated to local authorities to ensure that every school had indoor toilet provision. Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £5.8 billion this year and will rise further to over £6.3 billion by 2007-08.

Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of outdoor toilets.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on repairing toilets in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in the last 12 months. [86993]

Jim Knight: Decisions on how much is spent on repairing toilets in primary and secondary schools are not made centrally but by local authorities and their schools. The Department does not have records of expenditure at this level of detail.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what has been done to improve accessibility to school toilets for disabled pupils. [86994]

Jim Knight: Statutory requirements have been put in place, along with non-statutory guidance and funding to assist local authorities, governing bodies and proprietors of schools in meeting their duties to improve access and provision for disabled pupils in schools. This includes the provision of accessible toilets for pupils with disabilities.

1. Local authorities, governing bodies and proprietors of schools have planning duties under The Disability Discrimination Act Part 4 Education 2001 to improve access to schools for disabled pupils. They should also comply with The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (regulations 3 and 9), The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003, The Building Regulations 2000 (as amended). The Department issues non-statutory guidance in the form of Building Bulletins and information issued on the Teachernet website www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbuildings.

2. Each year, Schools Access Initiative funding is allocated to authorities and schools so that they can improve buildings for the needs of disabled pupils. This funding is now £100 million each year, and can be augmented by funding from other sources. Some of this will be used for the provision of accessible toilets for pupils with disabilities where this is the local priority. Compliance with non-statutory guidance is usually required for all school buildings funded by the Department.

Science Centres

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what financial support the Government have provided to science centres over the past five years; and if he will make a statement; [87025]

(2) what recent meetings he has held with representatives of science centres to discuss their future role and funding; [87027]

(3) what assessment he has made of the contribution science centres make to students choosing to pursue science-based university degrees and careers. [87028]

Bill Rammell: The DfES together with the DTI provided joint funding of £2 million to science centres in 2004-06 to help alleviate short-term funding problems.

Officials from both DfES and DTI met with ECSITE-UK, the umbrella body that represents the science and discovery centre network, in April to discuss their future role and funding. It is our aim that the centres should work to become viable without ongoing government support and should identify alternative sources of funding from local Learning and Skills Councils, Regional Development Agencies and any other sources at local and regional level. Although there has been no firm commitment from our Departments on future funding, ECSITE-UK have been asked to submit a proposal outlining how the centres will work together more collaboratively and pursue innovative ways of becoming more financially viable, and how the DfES and DTI can help them to achieve this.

No formal assessment has been made to gauge the contribution science centres make to students choosing to pursue science-based university degrees and careers.

Secondary School Pupils

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary school-age children there are expected to be in *(a)* Oldham metropolitan borough and *(b)* Tameside metropolitan borough in each of the next 10 academic years. [85334]

Jim Knight: Population estimates for Oldham and Tameside metropolitan borough areas are the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics. The 2003 based projections for children aged 11 to 18 in each area are given in the following table:

Projection of population aged 11 to 18 in Oldham and Tameside at mid-year

	Oldham	Thousand Tameside
2005	24.9	24.0
2006	24.6	23.7
2007	24.4	23.4
2008	24.4	23.1
2009	24.3	22.7
2010	24.1	22.2
2011	23.8	21.6
2012	23.4	21.2
2013	23.4	20.9
2014	23.4	20.7
2015	23.4	20.5
2016	23.3	20.4

Special Educational Needs

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he plans to take in response to the report of the Education and Skills Select Committee on special educational needs, with particular reference to steps to address the recommendation regarding the facilitation and encouragement of collaborative arrangements between communities of schools. [85336]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government will be giving their formal response to the Select Committee's report in due course. They will address the points the Committee has made about encouraging collaborative working across communities of schools. The Government's special educational needs strategy "Removing Barriers to Achievement" (2004) encouraged greater collaboration between special and mainstream schools through involving special schools in mainstream programmes, such as the Specialist Schools and Building Schools for the Future programmes.

Student Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many graduates have been contacted by the Student Loans Company in circumstances where the Student Loans Company believes the individual should be making repayments on an income-contingent student loan but they are not; and if he will make a statement. [84694]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company does not contact individual borrowers on this basis as it does not know what an individual's income is and consequently whether they should be making repayments or not. Income contingent loans are collected through the tax system. The SLC ensures that HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has the right information needed to match borrowers with taxpayer records so that employers can make deductions, and HMRC can collect repayments through the self assessment process, when a borrower is earning over £15,000.

Sure Start

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the Sure Start scheme on children in the Hollinwood ward of Oldham, with particular reference to educational attainment. [85335]

Beverley Hughes: Sure Start Hollinwood was set up in 1999 and became a children's centre in 2004. Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) carried out their own evaluations assessing progress against a range of outcomes for children, including educational attainment, as part of their local level monitoring and evaluation. Sure Start Hollinwood's evaluation of its first three years of operation and its other reports can be obtained directly from the programme or from the National Evaluation of Sure Start website www.ness.bbk.ac.uk. The Three-Year Evaluation showed how the programme had developed regular 10 week family literacy courses for children and their carers; supported four independent community based pre-schools allowing them to improve their curriculum and ran a six week group for children aged between 12 and 18 months providing parents with ideas on how they could help their children's early communication and allowing them to borrow 'chat bags' containing a book, nursery rhyme tape and musical instrument.

The impact of Sure Start Local Programmes nationally on children is being assessed through a comprehensive National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS). It is too early yet to see an impact on educational attainment as the children being tracked through the evaluation are only just three years old. However, this is being assessed and results on this will be available in due course.

NESS is also looking at if and how the characteristics of SSLP communities change over time and early analysis shows that achievement at Key Stage 2 in Maths and English and proportion of children achieving five GCSEs A*-C has improved for children in Round 1-4 SSLP areas faster than in England though this cannot be attributed to Sure Start.

HEALTH

Air Products

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the quality of the service provided by Air Products in Greater Manchester to patients dependent on home oxygen. [86394]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* A six-month transitional programme to transfer patients to new suppliers began on 1 February 2006. Action is continuing with Air Products to address the quality of service provision including issues of particular concern to patients. There is room for further improvement and we are closely monitoring progress in conjunction with the national health service. At this time, there is continuous assessment of all suppliers, including Air Products, with regular meetings to discuss suppliers' reports on progress and action to tackle emerging issues.

Ambulances

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of ambulances responding to a 999 call in Lancashire in the last 12 months had a paramedic on board; and if she will make a statement. [85528]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on paramedics on board ambulances responding to 999 calls is not collected centrally.

Each ambulance service should plan to provide appropriate resources to meet local demand. This may include resources in addition to traditional ambulance provision, for example rapid response vehicles and motorbikes, as well as utilising staff such as community paramedics or emergency care practitioners. Patients who need a traditional ambulance response will continue to receive one. The fleet mix will vary across the country depending on operational and geographical requirements.

Audiology

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received in relation to the decision to exclude audiology from the 18-week waiting time target for treatment. [86800]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Representations have been received from various stakeholders, including hon. Members, and there has been a great deal of correspondence on the topic.

Avian Influenza

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the potential threat of H5N1 avian influenza to the population of Great Britain. [84640]

Ms Rosie Winterton: European Union and United Kingdom (UK) controls are in place aimed at preventing the spread of bird flu. Nonetheless, it remains a remote possibility that bird flu could be introduced to poultry through the migration of wild birds, the illegal importation of dead chickens for consumption, the illegal importation

of live birds or the entry into the UK of a person who has acquired the illness in an infected area. The Department, in close collaboration with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), maintains an on-going assessment of these risks.

DEFRA publishes and regularly updates risk assessments on the threat to the UK of the introduction of H5N1 from birds which is available in its latest publication, "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 situation in Europe and potential risk factors for the introduction of the virus to the United Kingdom". It can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/latest-situation/index.htm

The Department recently commissioned a report from the Health Protection Agency, "Addressing a Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment (QMRA) of the Risks Posed to UK Public Health by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1"

The risk of the H5N1 avian influenza virus acquiring the ability to spread more easily from person to person or to spread more readily from birds to people is constantly monitored by the World Health Organisation and its assessments are published on its website at:

www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html

The Government have well-developed plans in place to act early in the event of any outbreak of avian influenza in poultry, to put in place measures to contain it, and to protect those workers involved in controlling it. DEFRA has published its contingency plan on its website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/avianinfluenza-contplan.htm

Breast Cancer

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on breast cancer screening in *(a)* Guildford and Waverley primary care trust, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [84090]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Figures on the funding of local breast screening services are not held centrally. Funding for breast screening is in primary health care trust baselines and the Department estimates that the national health service breast screening programme costs around £172 million per year.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the Government will lobby the World Health Organisation to change the International Classification of Diseases to reflect inflammatory breast cancer as a discrete type of disease. [84642]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are not aware of a need for inflammatory breast cancer to be classified as a discrete type of disease and therefore will not be lobbying the World Health Organisation on this matter.

Capital Budget Underspends

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations underspent on their capital budget in 2005-06; and by how much in each case. [85783]

Andy Burnham: The 2005-06 provisional outturn is the most recently published data on the national health service's financial position. The data show that the provisional capital underspend in 2005-06 was £1,162 million. Of the 566 NHS organisations in 2005-06, 494 underspent against their capital budget. A table containing this information is available in the Library.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths have been caused by the bacterium Clostridium difficile in *(a)* Chase Farm Hospital and *(b)* North Middlesex Hospital in each of the last three years. [85889]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 20 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths have been caused by the bacterium Clostridium difficile in (a) Chase Farm Hospital and (b) North Middlesex Hospital in each of the last three years. (85889)

Special analyses of deaths involving Clostridium difficile are undertaken annually by ONS for England and Wales. These are published in Health Statistics Quarterly. The latest year for which such figures are available is 2004. Information on the numbers of deaths between 1999 and 2004 involving Clostridium difficile was published in "Health Statistics Quarterly" 30 in May 2006.[1] The number of deaths in NHS Hospitals where Clostridium difficile was a contributory factor in the years 2001 to 2004 was 6,168 out of a total of 1,178,776 deaths in NHS Hospitals. A breakdown of the figures by individual hospital could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2005) Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*. England and Wales, 1999-2004. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 30, 56-60.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that community hospitals meeting the criteria laid down in "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" are not adversely affected by financial deficits faced by primary care trusts. [83242]

Andy Burnham: The White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: a new direction for community services" makes clear that community hospitals should not be lost in response to short-term budgetary pressures that are not related to the viability of the community facility itself.

The Department wrote to strategic health authorities (SHAs) on 16 February 2006 about the need for SHAs to assure themselves that all primary care trust (PCT) proposals for changes relating to community hospitals are consistent with the long-term strategy of the White Paper to move care closer to patients' homes and that local people are properly consulted. In addition, the Department held meetings with SHAs during March 2006 to discuss local plans for reconfiguration of community services.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to her oral statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 819, on community hospitals, how many community hospitals in the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire strategic health authority area are based in Victorian workhouse facilities; [85676]

(2) pursuant to her oral statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 826, how many community hospitals have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire strategic health authority area since 1997; and how many are being considered for closure. [85677]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 816-7, on community hospitals, if she will ask the South West strategic health authority to assure itself that the proposals from *(a)* West Gloucestershire primary care trust to the close the Dilke Memorial hospital and the Lydney and District Community hospital and *(b)* the Gloucestershire Partnership Trust to close Colliers Court are not being made in response to short-term budgetary pressures. [85270]

Andy Burnham: The Department wrote to strategic health authorities (SHAs) on 16 February 2006 about the need for SHAs to assure themselves that all primary care trust (PCT) proposals for changes relating to community hospitals are consistent with the long-term strategy of the "Our health, Our Care, Our Say" White Paper. Copies of that letter area available in the Library. In addition, the Department held meetings with SHAs during March 2006 to ensure that any plans locally to reconfigure community services support the White Paper principles of providing modern health and social care in more local and community settings. These sentiments were repeated in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of the Government's recently published document "Our health, our care, our community: investing in the future of community hospitals and services".

Continuing NHS Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to consult on the details of the *(a)* screening tool and *(b)* decision support tool for determining eligibility for continuing NHS care. [87668]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are consulting on the national decision support tool as part of the current national consultation on continuing care. A draft of this tool has been published, alongside the consultation documents. Comments and contributions are welcomed as is the case with all the consultation documents.

We are currently consulting on the principles behind the screening tool. Should it be decided to produce a screening tool, as an outcome of the consultation, it will undergo rigorous benchmarking.

Deaf-Blindness

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what specialist services are available in Herefordshire for children with deaf-blindness; [84166]

(2) what the Government's recommended time limit is for Herefordshire council to carry out assessments of children with deaf-blindness for specialist services. [84167]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information relating to specialist services in Herefordshire for children with deaf-blindness is not held centrally. Information on such services can be obtained from either Herefordshire county council or Herefordshire primary care trust.

There is no recommended time limit for the assessments of children with deaf-blindness for specialist services.

Dentistry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her plans are for the provision of training for dental technicians in the south of England; and if she will make a statement. [85931]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As part of our major investment programme for the expansion of dental education, the university of Portsmouth opened a school of professionals complementary to dentistry in 2004 and, in January 2006, we announced that the university of Exeter and the university of Plymouth would be establishing a new Peninsula dental school. These universities are considering whether provision for the training of dental technicians could be incorporated into the expansion programme.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are in the Easington primary care trust area; and how many dentists have opted out of the NHS in the Easington primary care trust area. [84225]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 31 March 2006, there were 19 national health service dentists with a general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services (PDS) contract within Easington primary care trust (PCT).

Information on the number of dentists who have not signed the new contract is not available centrally. However, some provisional information that covers contracts is available. A contract may be for more than one dentist and cannot be broken down further to individual dentist level. Provisional management estimates show that in Easington PCT.

Contracts signed	
Number	10
Approximate units of dental activity (UDA) value	148,452
Contracts still in discussion	
Number	0
Approximate UDA value	0
Contracts rejected	
Number	0

Approximate UDA value	0
Percentage of UDAs	0.0
Contracts signed	
Number signed without dispute	5
Number signed in dispute	5
Percentage of disputes	50.0

Notes:
1. The information provided is not validated.
2. It represents a snapshot of the position in early April.
3. PCTs are working with dentists to resolve as many disputes as possible locally.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign nationals married to an EEA or Swiss national have applied for full registration as dentists in the UK since 2004. [87046]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held by the Department. The General Dental Council is responsible for the registration of dentists who wish to practice in the United Kingdom.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why different rules apply to the spouses of EEA/Swiss nationals applying for full registration as dentists in the UK from those that apply to spouses of UK citizens. [87048]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The General Dental Council, which is responsible for the registration of dentists practising in the United Kingdom, is bound by the provisions of European Union (EU) sectoral directive on dentistry, which governs recognition of dental qualifications. As with the directives relating to other professions, the intention is to facilitate the movement of professionals within Europe. Where an EU national and his or her spouse (who is not originally from the EEA) move between member states, the directive provides for an assessment as to whether the spouse's professional qualifications can be considered equivalent to a European qualification. EU law does not, however, allow such an assessment if they remain in the country in which they normally reside. A non-EEA national can still obtain full registration in the UK through the General Dental Council's international qualifying examination.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are registered with an NHS dentist in (i) Kingston and Surbiton, (ii) South West London and (iii) London. [85411]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the estimated percentage of children and adults registered with a national health service dentist in the specified areas as at 31 March 2006.

	Adults	*Child*	*Percentage Total*
England	46	60	49
London	40	50	42
South West London			
Strategic Health Authority	35	52	39
Of which:			
Kingston Primary Care Trust	31	59	37

Patient registration was part of the remuneration arrangements under the former system of general dental services up to 31 March 2006. Under the new system, the concept of registration no longer forms part of the remuneration system. The Department is therefore introducing a comparable means of monitoring the number of patients covered by NHS dental services, but the transition to the new arrangements has meant that it will be some months before the new measure is available.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on the reasons for the change in the level of (i) NHS denture work, (ii) NHS chrome work, (iii) NHS bonded chrome work, (iv) NHS veneer work and (v) NHS non-precious metal crown work since the implementation of the new dental contracts; and if she will make a statement. [85973]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect routine information on the quantity or type of dental appliances supplied but will be assessing, in conjunction with the implementation review group, the impact of the new contractual arrangements on this and other aspects of the services provided to national health service patients. It is for individual dentists working under general dental services contracts or personal dental services agreements to use their clinical judgement to determine the type and quality of any dental appliance required.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists have had their superannuation contributions *(a)* discontinued and *(b)* curtailed by their primary care trust in (i) England and (ii) Enfield since 31 March 2006. [85888]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are not involved in calculating the superannuation contributions of dentists. Dental providers give details of superannuable pay for each of their dental performers to PCTs and the PCT then enters the relevant details onto the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) payment systems. The BSA then deducts the superannuation amounts from the monthly payments to dental providers.

DXA Scanners

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps her Department is taking to provide revenue support for the introduction of new DXA scanning machines purchased with the fund allocated from the centrally held revenue budget; [85585]

(2) whether the budget allocated for the purchase of new DXA scanners is *(a)* available for capital expenditure only and *(b)* a ring-fenced fund; [85586]

(3) which strategic health authorities *(a)* have received and *(b)* will receive funding from the fund allocated from the centrally held revenue budget for the purchase of new DXA scanners; [85587]

(4) what proportion of the budget allocated for the purchase of new DXA scanners in 2006-07 and 2007-08 has been spent. [85588]

Andy Burnham: The Department allocated £3 million revenue (£214,000 each), on a non-recurrent basis in 2005-06, to 14 strategic health authorities (SHAs). Analyses by the National Osteoporosis Society (NOS) in 2005 identified these SHAs, as listed as follows, as having the least available dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scanning capacity. The funding was allocated for the purchase of DXA scans, rather than DXA scanning equipment. Scans were mainly to be purchased from independent sector (IS) providers, but also from national health service providers where this represented better value for money. Expenditure against these allocations has not been monitored centrally, but it will be subject to audit.

Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
Birmingham and the Black Country
Cheshire and Merseyside
Cumbria and Lancashire
Greater Manchester
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire
South West Peninsula
Surrey and Sussex
Thames Valley
West Midlands South
West Yorkshire

Capital funding of £17 million has been made available in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to improve NHS capacity through investment in new DXA scanning equipment. This additional funding was mainly included in the overall strategic capital allocation to SHAs and is not ring-fenced. The Department does not monitor how SHAs' strategic capital is spent.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) were informed of their revenue allocations up to 2007-08 on 9 February 2005. The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations represent a £135 billion investment in the NHS, £64 billion to PCTs in 2006-07 and £70 billion in 2007-08. The Department has no plans to make additional recurrent funding available to PCTs to cover the running costs of DXA scanners.

Gender Dysphoria

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1220W, on gender dysphoria, what the locations are of centres providing gender reassignment surgery that have treated NHS patients. [85227]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In survey of specialised services commissioners conducted in October 2004, the following national health service trusts and private units provided gender dysphoria surgery:

Male to female:

Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust (Charing Cross Hospital);
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust;
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust;
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh NHS Trust;
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (Leicester General Infirmary);
The Hove Nuffield; and
The Sussex Nuffield;

Female to male:

University College London Hospitals NHS Trust; and
The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth.

Health Expenditure

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the amount spent on the NHS *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in Gloucestershire was in each year since 1978. [74166]

Andy Burnham: The table shows total England net expenditure over the time frame requested and also a shorter time series of information for Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire strategic health authority (SHA) area, now part of the South West SHA. Data for 1998-99 to 2004-05, are the earliest and latest years for which information is available.

Information for other countries in the United Kingdom can be obtained from the relevant devolved administrations.

It is not possible to provide data for Gloucestershire as this does not correspond to any current specific health body area. Information in the table relates to revenue expenditure by all relevant health authorities, SHAs and primary care trusts (PCTs) within the current Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA area.

Net expenditure time series

£ million

		Net NHS expenditure[1]	*Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA*
Cash[2]			
1978-79	Outturn	6,273	—
1979-80	Outturn	7,447	—
1980-81	Outturn	9,700	—
1981-82	Outturn	10,854	—
1982-83	Outturn	11,819	—
1983-84	Outturn	12,494	—
1984-85	Outturn	13,407	—
1985-86	Outturn	14,176	—
1986-87	Outturn	15,173	—
1987-88	Outturn	16,668	—
1988-89	Outturn	18,420	—
1989-90	Outturn	19,855	—
1990-91	Outturn	22,326	—
1991-92	Outturn	25,353	—
1992-93	Outturn	27,968	—
1993-94	Outturn	28,942	—
1994-95	Outturn	30,590	—
1995-96	Outturn	31,985	—
1996-97	Outturn	32,997	—
1997-98	Outturn	34,664	—
1998-99	Outturn	36,608	1,302
1999-2000	Outturn	39,881	1,514
Resource budgeting stage 1[3]			—
1999-2000	Outturn	40,201	—
2000-01	Outturn	43,932	1,669
2001-02	Outturn	49,021	1,844

Net expenditure time series

		Net NHS expenditure[1]	*£ million Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA*
2002-03	Outturn	54,042	2,022
Resource budgeting stage 2[4,5,6]			—
2003-04	Outturn	64,183	2,291
2004-05	Outturn	69,306	2,539
2005-06	Estimated outturn	77,847	—

England expenditure data series:

[1] Figures are not consistent over the period (1971-72 to 2007-08). Therefore, it is difficult to make comparisons across different periods.

[2] Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.

[3] Expenditure figures from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are on a stage 1 resource budgeting basis.

[4] Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are on a stage 2 resource budgeting basis.

[5] The resource budgeting stage 2 expenditure figures shown for 2004-05 to 2007-08 are consistent with table 3.4 of the 2006 departmental report.

[6] A retrospective adjustment for an underspend on NHSLA provisions of £1.497 billion in 2004-05 affects growth rates for the periods 2003-04 to 2004-05 and 2004-05 to 2005-06.

Notes on Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire expenditure data series:

1. Expenditure figures given are not the total NHS expenditure in the area.
2. Figures for 1998-99 to 2001-02 have been prepared using gross expenditure figures. Figures for 2002-03 and 2003-04 have been adjusted to eliminate expenditure which would be double counted where an authority acts as a lead in commissioning healthcare or other services.
3. Expenditure by SHA area is taken as the total expenditure of the SHA, predecessor health authorities and PCTs within the SHA area.
4. Expenditure on general dental services and pharmaceutical services accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and prescription pricing division of the NHS Business Services Authority (formerly known as the Prescription Pricing Authority), respectively, are excluded. This expenditure cannot be included within the figures for the individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.

Sources:

1. Audited accounts of relevant health authorities 1998-99.
2. Audited summarisation forms of relevant health authorities 1999-2000 to 2001-02.
3. Audited summarisation schedules of relevant primary care trusts 2000-01 to 2004-05.
4. Audited summarisation forms of Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA 2002-03 to 2004-05.

Influenza Pandemic

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written statement of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 16-17WS, on the informal meeting of EU health ministers, what the content was of the discussion on the development of an EU-wide stockpile of antivirals for use in the event of an influenza pandemic; what size she expects such an EU-wide stockpile to be; whether the UK would be expected to contribute to the EU-wide stockpile from its own stockpile of antivirals; for what purpose an EU-wide stockpile of antivirals would be used; and if she will make a statement. [85830]

Ms Rosie Winterton: At the informal meeting of European Union (EU) Health Ministers on 25-26 April, the presidency sought a consensus from member states on the principle of whether to establish an EU stockpile of antiviral drugs. No agreement was reached and the United Kingdom, supported by a number of other member states, emphasised that there was insufficient information on practical issues to demonstrate whether a stockpile could work in practice, and hence be effective.

The purpose of the proposed stockpile would be to try to slow the spread of a pandemic in Europe. The size of the proposed EU-wide stockpile is three million treatment courses. The UK's national level stockpile of 14.6 million treatment courses covering 25 per cent. of its population will be complete by September 2006. We currently plan to maintain it at this level.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated of on the efficacy of stockpiling gloves and face masks for use in the event of an outbreak of pandemic influenza. [84017]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have recommended the use of face masks for health care professionals who would be working closely with infected patients. This is detailed in the national health service infection control guidance which is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/pandemicflu This guidance is evidence-based and sets out how protective clothing, including gloves, should be used to minimise the risk of NHS staff acquiring pandemic influenza while caring for symptomatic patients. Gloves are not required for routine care of patients with pandemic flu.

The chief medical officer commissioned the Health Protection Agency to review the scientific evidence for the use of face masks by the public during an influenza pandemic. This review did not find any clear evidence that such a policy would be of benefit. However, as with all policies relating to pandemic influenza, the evidence is regularly reviewed.

Infection control guidance for the workplace is available on the Health and Safety Executive website at www.hse.gov.uk

Low-life Expectancy

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to tackle low life expectancy in areas of deprivation. [87008]

Caroline Flint: Life expectancy is improving across England for all but is currently improving more slowly in the spearhead areas with the worst deprivation. Some spearhead areas are on track to meet the 2010 health inequalities target and we are working to ensure this best practice is spread not only to enable more people to live longer but narrow the health inequalities gap too.

Mental Health

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the recent changes in the levels of services in mental and community health services in Northamptonshire. [85870]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The assessment of recent changes in the levels of services in mental and community health services in Northamptonshire is the responsibility of the NHS East Midlands strategic health authority (SHA).

It is for SHAs in conjunction with primary care trusts and other local stakeholders to plan and develop services to meet the needs of their local populations.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department is taking to improve the safety of women patients in NHS mental health accommodation. [84801]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has already introduced a number of policy initiatives which will improve the safety of women patients in mental health accommodation, including: single sex accommodation guidance in 2000; a national suicide prevention strategy in 2002; psychiatric inpatient care best practice guidance in 2002; mainstreaming women's mental health guidance in 2003; and management of violence guidance in 2004 to make in-patient services safer, including clear guidance on single sex accommodation to which national health service trusts are expected to adhere. This allows for men and women within the same unit, providing that there are separate sleeping areas, separate bathrooms and appropriate operational policies and procedures in place to ensure each patient's safety.

The Department's statistical note of May 2005, "Elimination of mixed-sex hospital accommodation", shows that 99 per cent. of mental health trusts and primary care trusts which provide mental health services meet these single-sex accommodation objectives. We are working closely with the remaining trusts to ensure that they achieve the necessary standards as quickly as possible. This is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/21/41/04112141.pdf

In 2005, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidelines on the management of violence in inpatient settings. Revised guidance on the management of aggression and violence is due to be published in September 2006 by the Care Service Improvement Partnership (CSIP), and this will also address issues of sexual safety.

The Healthcare Commission will include safety and the physical environment in their improvement review on acute inpatient care, commencing in autumn 2006 and reporting in 2007. The Healthcare Commission will also include sexual safety in its review of inpatient mental health services due to be carried out in spring 2007.

In addition, the Department will participate in national programmes which will build on existing initiatives of protecting vulnerable patients in mental health services with CSIP, the National Patient Safety Agency, and other agencies to ensure that reporting and appropriate investigation of all such incidents occurs. For example, CSIP together with the current joint Home Office/Department programme on domestic and sexual violence will discuss with mental health trusts what type of guidance is most needed to help support this.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds were available in secure mental health wards in each year since 1997. [85410]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average daily number of available beds for adults, excluding the elderly, in secure mental illness and in secure learning disability wards for each year from 1996-97 is shown in the table. Figures for 2005-06 are not yet available:

	Available beds in secure mental illness wards (daily average)	*Available beds in secure learning disability wards (daily average)*	*Available beds (both types)*
1996-97	1,575	423	1,998
1997-98	1,921	439	2,360
1998-99	1,747	422	2,169
1999-2000	1,882	404	2,286
2000-01	1,952	431	2,383
2001-02	1,848	407	2,255
2002-03	2,064	508	2,572
2003-04	2,569	514	3,083
2004-05	2,696	503	3,199

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for mental health services for Northamptonshire *(a)* was in 2005-06 and *(b)* is in 2006-07. [85871]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on budgets for mental health services for Northamptonshire for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is not held centrally.

Planned investment in mental health per head of weighted working age population in the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland strategic health authority (SHA) area for 2005-06 is provided in the table.

	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland[1] SHA
Weighted population	902,914
Total investment (£000)	134,663
Overall investment per head (£)	149

[1] This SHA merged with Trent SHA to become the East Midlands SHA effective from 3 July.
Source:
2005-06 National Survey of Investment in Mental Health Services. It is for primary care trusts to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Midwives

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken to implement the Independent Midwives NHS Community Midwifery Model in all parts of the country; [85765]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with midwives' representatives in relation to the Independent Midwives NHS Community Midwifery Model. [85766]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with strategic health authorities (SHAs) and other local stakeholders to determine which

models best suit the local needs of women and the midwifery workforce. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of maternity services.

Ministers and officials met with the Independent Midwives Association (IMA) in August 2005 and again in March 2006 to discuss their proposal of a national health service community midwifery model. The IMA was asked by Liam Byrne, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care Services, to identify a PCT and SHA, together with a group of midwives, who would be willing to test the model and help to create an outline contract. That process is continuing.

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust has to sell the site occupied by the Fraser Day hospital in Newport Pagnell. [85827]

Andy Burnham: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females are diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, broken down by age; what medication is available to those diagnosed with multiple sclerosis; and if she will make a statement. [87105]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) is not collected.

Under the MS risk-sharing scheme, a joint venture between the Department and drug manufacturers, beta interferon and glatiramer acetate are available to patients who meet the criteria of the Association of British Neurologists, including those with secondary progressive MS. In addition, all patients living with multiple sclerosis have access to a wide range of medications to help manage the symptoms associated with this disease. These include drugs for the relief of pain, depression, spasticity and bladder problems.

NHS Direct

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1050W, on NHS Direct, what steps she is taking to measure the net value of NHS Direct to the national health service. [57539]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 10 March 2006]:* Regular performance review meetings are held between the Department and NHS Direct. This review includes indicators in relation to the percentage of urgent and emergency referrals and the percentage of calls completed by NHS Direct without onward referral.

NHS Direct applies consistent methods to assess the clinical needs of people contacting them across the country. According to that assessment they give advice on self care, provide access to a nurse or, where appropriate, advice on seeing a doctor, or other part of the national health service. This ensures that people are able to access health services appropriately.

NHS Direct provides a 24-hour service, 365 days a year, that is shown in monthly patient satisfaction surveys to be highly valued by people seeking advice on health and health care.

The service is available through a variety of channels—by telephone, through the internet or through television sets in the comfort of one's own home. NHS Direct also provides medical and dental out of hours services for a number of primary care trusts and is developing a number of services to support and complement other NHS organisations, including pilot work to proactively support patients with long-term conditions, as well as pre-operative screening and post-operative follow up services. Its work to support people in their homes is an important contribution to the changes in services needed to meet people's needs as set out in the White paper, "Our health, our care, our say, a new direction for community services".

NHS Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria will apply to the use of capital money for the NHS; and whether capital receipts for the sale of closed community hospitals will be able to be reused in new community facilities. [85077]

Andy Burnham: The Department's capital investment plans are set out in chapter 4 of the 'Departmental Report 2006' published in May of this year.

National health service trusts and primary care trusts may retain the proceeds of disposals for reinvestment up to their delegated limits. The sums above this limit go back to the strategic health authority for local prioritisation and it would be unusual for them not to be reinvested in the locality.

As long as the sale proceeds are used for capital investment, such as investment in buildings and equipment, it is for local managers to decide what types of facility are bought and this could include investment in a new community hospital.

The Government have recently announced a central capital fund of £750 million to invest in community hospitals projects and the criteria that will apply to this money are set out in the recently published document 'Our health, our care, our community' and are available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk

NHS Performance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 264, on NHS performance, (1) what the financial impact was of the *(a)* social and economic deprivation, *(b)* proportion of elderly people living in the community and *(c)* demands of a rural economy element of the funding formula on each primary care trust in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07; [81960]

(2) what other elements in addition to those mentioned are contained in the funding formula for local health trusts; and how these are weighted within the formula in respect of their potential proportionate impact on local health trust budgets; [81962]

(3) what assessment she has made of the potential *(a)* financial impact and *(b)* proportionate overall funding impact on the average primary care trust (PCT) of (i) the demand of a rural economy, (ii) the proportion of elderly people living within the community, (iii) social and economic deprivation, (iv) the market forces factor and (v) all other elements which create variability of funding for PCTs and health trusts; [81963]

(4) what financial impact *(a)* the demands of a rural economy, *(b)* the proportion of elderly people living within the community, *(c)* social and economic deprivation and *(d)* the market forces factor have on the available budget for each of the three Cornish primary care trusts. [81997]

Andy Burnham: Funding for primary care trusts (PCTs) is informed by a weighted capitation formula which determines their target shares of available resources to enable them to commission similar levels of healthcare for populations with similar healthcare need.

Four elements are used to set PCTs' actual allocations:

weighted capitation targets which are set according to the national weighted capitation formula which calculates PCTs' target shares of available resources by adjusting PCT populations for age (to allow for different levels of health need in different age groups), additional need (highly correlated to social and economic deprivation) and unavoidable geographical differences in the cost of providing healthcare (the market forces factor (MFF));

recurrent baselines which represent the actual current allocation which PCTs receive. For each allocation year the recurrent baseline is the previous year's actual allocation, plus any adjustments made within the financial year;

distance from target (DFT) which is the difference between weighted capitation targets and recurrent baselines above. If the weighted capitation targets are greater than recurrent baselines, a PCT is said to be under target. If the weighted capitation targets are smaller than recurrent baselines, a PCT is said to be over target; and

pace of change policy which determines the level of increase which all PCTs get to deliver on national and local priorities and the level of extra resources to under target PCTs to move them closer to their weighted capitation targets.

Because there are four elements to PCT allocations, it is not possible to state the financial impact of each adjustment in the formula.

There are separate components in the formula for different services: hospital and community health services (HCHS), primary medical services, prescribing and HIV/AIDS. Within each component, each adjustment for age, additional need and unavoidable costs is expressed as an index comparing the PCT score on the adjustment to the national average. These indices are listed in "2003-04 to 2005-06 Primary Care Trust Revenue Resource Limits Exposition Book" and "2006-07 and 2007-08 Primary Care Trust Initial Revenue Resource Limits Exposition Book" which are available in the Library.

The demands of a rural economy are reflected in both the additional need and unavoidable cost adjustments. The additional need adjustment recognises that access to services is more difficult in rural areas by including measures of distance to providers in the statistical modelling. The unavoidable cost adjustment includes an adjustment for emergency ambulance services where geographical cost differences are partly accounted for by rurality.

A full explanation of the elements in the weighted capitation formula and their weights is provided in "Resource Allocation Weighted Capitation Formula Fifth Edition" which is available in the Library.

PCTs (Debt Cancellation)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial arrangements were which enabled the Ellesmere West and the Ellesmere Port and Neston primary care trusts to cancel their historic debts; whether the arrangements were approved by Ministers; and if she will make a statement. [82535]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* As part of its 2006-07 financial management strategy, Cheshire and Merseyside strategic health authority (SHA) agreed to use the SHA reserve to absorb £15 million of Cheshire West primary care trust (PCT) carry-forward of overspending from previous years and £6 million of Ellesmere Port and Neston PCTs carry-forward of overspending from previous years.

SHAs are responsible for delivering overall financial balance for their local health communities, and ensuring each and every body achieves financial balance.

People Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training is available for social workers to help them identify and detect victims of trafficking. [87080]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is the responsibility of the General Social Care Council, the regulatory body for social workers, to approve the courses for pre-registration and post-qualification training in social work.

It is the responsibility of social care service providers to ensure that their employees are suitably qualified and competent to carry out their role.

Rural Health Services

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how she assesses the needs of the rural population in making funding allocations within the NHS. [85135]

Andy Burnham: Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted-capitation formula is used to determine each PCT's target share of available resources. In calculating relative health needs, the formula includes an adjustment related to the age of the population, as well as an additional need adjustment that is related to the level of deprivation. In addition, the formula takes account of the difficulties of accessing services in rural areas.

The development of the weighted-capitation formula is continuously overseen by the advisory committee on resource allocation (ACRA). This is an independent

body, which has national health service management, general practitioner and academic members. The ACRA work programme post 2007-08 includes further consideration of rurality issues.

Speech and Language Therapy

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the delivery of speech and language therapy services in County Durham. [84692]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Speech and language therapy services in Durham cover a full range of adult and children's services.

Durham and Chester-le-Street primary care trust (PCT) provides services for North Durham, serving the populations of Durham, Chester-le-Street and also the populations of Derwentside PCT. The adult service is both acute and community-based, and the children's service is focused in the community.

South Durham is serviced by Sedgefield PCT serving the populations of Sedgefield, Durham and Dales PCT and Darlington PCT. The Department uses a predominantly consultative model of delivery. Services may be face-to-face, within groups, telephone contact and training sessions.

Therapists (Norfolk)

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to provide therapists in Norfolk to provide psychological therapies for depression. [84861]

Andy Burnham: We consider that improvements in access to evidence-based psychological therapies should be available, and this policy was set out in our 2005 manifesto and in the "Our Health, our care, our say" White Paper. Clinical guidelines about access to psychological therapies were also commissioned by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, which concluded that these treatments should be made available to all people with mild to moderate depression or anxiety or schizophrenia.

Our "Improving Access to Psychological Therapies" (IAPT) programme forms a key part of the Government's "Health, Work and Well-Being-Caring for Our Future" strategy, which the Department launched last October with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Health and Safety Commission. The IAPT programme will define the best way to achieve these improvements over the next five to 10 years.

We have recently set up psychological therapy demonstration sites in Doncaster and Newham, to help test the extent to which increasing access to these therapies improves well-being, reduces worklessness and the number of people claiming incapacity benefit and provides greater choices in treatment and core options for people with these conditions. The demonstration sites will help to clarify the numbers of staff, the skills set and the training requirements needed to improve access to psychological therapies. Evidence from the demonstration sites will be supplemented by a national network of smaller, local IAPT projects and 20 national primary care mental health collaborative sites.

We have provided resources for delivering mental health services, including psychological therapies, within the unified allocations made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is for PCTs in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to decide how best to use their resources to deliver services in line with their assessment of local need.

Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1238W, on waiting lists, whether her Department holds information on how the average waiting time in 1979 of nine months, as stated by the then Secretary of State for Health in her answer of 3 December 1996, *Official Report*, column 784, on NHS operations, was calculated. [85966]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not hold details of the average waiting time quoted in the reference given. Official figures on average waiting times are only available from 1988.

Wheelchairs (Waiting Times)

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for an NHS wheelchair in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England in 2005-06. [86407]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

William Kerr/Michael Haslam

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish the response to the recommendations of the inquiry into the conduct of William Kerr and Michael Haslam published in July 2005. [86698]

Andy Burnham: There are many similarities between the issues raised by the Kerr/Haslam inquiry and those of the Ayling and Neale inquiries and the fifth report of the Shipman inquiry. We are therefore intending to publish a joint response to all four reports. This will be issued as soon as possible after the close of the consultation on the reviews of medical regulation and non-medical regulation which we published last week and which contain important recommendations relevant to the issues raised by the four inquiries. In the meanwhile, we are progressing some of the specific recommendations from the Kerr/Haslam inquiry where these are not directly affected by the consultation.

TRANSPORT

A13 (Speed Cameras)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras are situated on the A13 between the A405 and the M25; and what plans there are to install new speed cameras in the next two years. [87257]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department only holds information on a road number or partnership basis rather than for specific lengths of road. More detailed information will be available from individual partnership websites, links to which can be found via our website at www.dft.gov.uk/safetycameras. The Department is not aware of any current plans for new speed cameras on the A13 in the next two years.

Road Improvements (East Sussex)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations were involved in the preparation of the draft orders for the proposed A21 upgrade. [86170]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has consulted widely, which is normal practice, with local highway authorities, statutory bodies and stakeholders and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to publish the draft orders for the proposed A21 upgrade; and if he will make a statement. [86171]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency will publish draft orders on behalf of the Secretary of State in accordance with the individual scheme programmes, in line with our response on 6 July to the advice from the South East region about its major scheme priorities to 2011. We have accepted the region's advice to include the A21 Tonbridge Bypass to Pembury Dualling, the A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst Bypass and the A21 Baldslow Junction Improvement within the programme of schemes that we expect to be taken forward in the South East in the next five years, subject to the completion of all the statutory procedures, funding available and compliance with the Department's scheme appraisal requirements.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role the South East England Development Agency has played in preparing draft orders for the proposed A21 upgrade. [86173]

Dr. Ladyman: At this stage work has not yet started on preparing draft orders. South East England Development Agency will be consulted alongside other statutory bodies and stakeholders in due course.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Highways Agency has to issue compulsory purchase orders for houses along the route of the proposed A21 upgrade. [86462]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency will publish draft compulsory purchase orders on behalf of the Secretary of State in accordance with the individual scheme requirements and programmes.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the draft orders relating to the proposed Hastings to Bexhill link road; and if he will make a statement. [86463]

Dr. Ladyman: The Bexhill to Hastings link road is being promoted by East Sussex county council, who are the local highway authority. It is, therefore for the council to determine when to publish the draft orders for the scheme.

A3 (Hindhead)

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the report of the inspector on the proposed work on the A3 at Hindhead. [86691]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1-2W.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81487]

Gillian Merron: DfT(c) have a call off contract with Adecco, Brook Street and Reed, who are contracted to provide temporary agency staff when required. This contract is also used by the Department's Executive agencies. The hourly rates for each agency are commercially sensitive information, therefore the average hourly rates incorporating the three agencies above are as follows:

	£
London rates	
AA	9.92
DS	12.50
AO	10.80
PS	13.84
SPS	15.56
EO	12.30
HEO	16.05
SEO	18.91
Regional rates	
AA	8.25
DS	10.31
AO	9.23
PS	11.54
SPS	12.80
EO	10.91
HEO	12.82
SEO	14.45

In addition, some of the Department's Executive agencies also use other agencies to provide temporary staff. The average hourly rates are as follows:

Driving Standards Agency —no set rates with other agencies used. No average available.

Highways Agency—Average hourly rate of other agencies—£13.19

VOSA

	£
AA	7.80-9.66
AO	8.51-10.42
EO	12.06-12.32
HEO	15.43
SEO	18.41

GCDA—Average hourly rate of other agencies—£10.88

DVLA—No information available

The use of temporary staff is something that the Department only considers to cover a short term temporary period such as covering leave or while a permanent resource is found. The Department actively manage their headcount and will consider any displaced staff for temporary roles prior to obtaining a temporary agency worker.

Aircraft Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many commercial flights departed from UK airports to destinations a distance away of *(a)* 500 miles or less, *(b)* 1,000 miles or less, *(c)* 1,500 miles or less and *(d)* in intervals of 500 miles up to 10,000 miles in the most recent year for which figures are available; and how many passengers departed from UK airports to such destinations in each case. [84112]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold the information but it is available from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Contact details for information at CAA may be found at www.caa.co.uk.

Airport Expansion

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the Government's plans for airport expansion in Southern England. [84412]

Gillian Merron: I refer to my reply on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1697W to the hon. Member for Croydon South (Richard Ottaway).

Buses

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus compliance officers are available to monitor bus punctuality in *(a)* England and *(b)* the North West region; how bus punctuality is measured; and how many bus operators were found not to be running their services punctually in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [83358]

Gillian Merron: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1325-6W, to my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Manchester, Blackley (Graham Stringer), regarding the number of bus compliance officers available in Great Britain. A full account of the measurements for bus punctuality is published in the Traffic Commissioners Practice Direction No.4 which is available on-line via: www.dft.gov.uk.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1267W, regarding the number of operators called to public inquiry and the number of orders issued to restrict operations.

To provide a detailed answer regarding bus operators found not to be operating punctually can only be done at disproportionate cost as the data are not held centrally.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to encourage the use of public transport by bus in Coventry, South. [83971]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* Within the context of delivering our long-term strategy for improving bus services across the country, the most recent steps taken by the Government include:

- Providing local authorities in England with the resources to support their Local Transport Plan strategies, a large part of which are related to improving bus-related infrastructure (some £571 million invested by local authorities between 2001-02 and 2004-05 in bus improvements);
- The introduction of free local concessionary fares for older and disabled people from April 2006, and the announcement of free national concessionary fares from April 2008;
- Up to £200 million per year of the Transport Innovation Fund (from 2008-09) has been made available specifically to support packages of measures that will address congestion in towns and cities through demand management and public transport improvements, including better bus services;
- Allocating £20 million to fund 43 kick-start schemes to pump-prime promising local bus services;
- £54 million available for 2006-07 to support rural bus services.
- Providing capital funding for major bus schemes, such as the £42 million contribution towards the Greater Bristol Bus Network scheme.

Over the coming months we will be looking at the success of these and other initiatives, with a view to developing future plans to encourage bus use.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has undertaken on the *(a)* number and *(b)* length of bus routes serving general hospitals in each local authority which draw down a budget for concessionary fares. [85027]

Gillian Merron: None. From 1 April 2006, older and disabled people have been entitled to free off-peak travel within their local authority area. We are introducing a national scheme in April 2008 which will allow older and disabled people free off-peak bus travel anywhere in the country. In the interim, local authorities have the discretion to offer travel concessions to a hospital outside their boundary, based on their judgement of local needs and circumstances and their overall financial priorities.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus passengers there were in each local authority administering concessionary fares *(a)* in the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* (i) five and (ii) 10 years previously; how many bus routes there were in each such local authority; and what the total mileage of routes was in each authority. [84094]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold this information which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age is of buses in service in each region. [85563]

Gillian Merron: The information, for the first quarter of 2006, is given in the following table.

Region/country	*Age of fleet (years)*
North East	8.1
North West	7.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	8.2
East Midlands	8.0
West Midlands	7.9
East of England	9.0
Greater London	5.3
South East	7.2
South West	9.0
England	7.7
Scotland	8.0
Wales	9.8
Great Britain	7.8

Note:
This table shows the age of buses by their region of registration, which may not be the same as their main area of operation. *Source:* DVLA

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he issues to local authorities on checking compliance by bus companies with the arrangements for concessionary fares. [84959]

Gillian Merron: None. The Transport Act 2000 places a duty on bus operators to offer the statutory minimum entitlement; it is an offence if they fail to comply with that obligation. It is for Travel Concession Authorities to decide on how best to check compliance based on local circumstances and to take any necessary action.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact of free bus travel on the existing arrangements for bus travel between *(a)* Skelmersdale and Liverpool, *(b)* Ormskirk and Wigan and *(c)* Skelmersdale and Southport. [83468]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not yet have full details of the discretionary enhancements that will be offered by local authorities. We will be carrying out a comprehensive survey of concessionary fares schemes shortly.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to make an announcement on the outcome of the Greater Bristol Bus Network bid for new Showcase Bus routes submitted in July 2005. [83436]

Gillian Merron: On 6 July 2006 the Greater Bristol Bus Network Scheme was awarded Programme Entry into the Department's local authority major scheme programme, allowing the scheme to progress through statutory procedures.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what subsidies were granted to rural bus operators in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [85938]

Gillian Merron: The majority of subsidies for local bus services, including those in rural areas, are provided through unhypothecated funding from the Government's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to local authorities.

The Department has separately provided specific funding for rural bus services to local authorities in England through the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG) since 1998, and the Rural Bus Challenge (RBC) between 1998 and 2003.

The amounts provided in RBSG allocations and RBC awards are shown in the table.

		£ million
	RBSG	*RBC*
1998-99	32.50	11.2
1999-00	32.50	16.8
2000-01	32.50	21.2
2001-02	41.50	20.5
2002-03	47.50	20.0
2003-04	48.50	20.3
2004-05	51.00	n/a
2005-06	53.00	n/a

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what criteria are taken into account when decisions are made on the suitability of local authorities for yellow bus pilot schemes; [86532]

(2) whether the Government plan to extend the yellow bus schemes *(a)* to more pilot areas and *(b)* to the whole of England. [86533]

Gillian Merron: There are no plans to extend yellow bus schemes to more pilot areas or to the whole of England. Individual local authorities and passenger transport executives are encouraged to consider these and other dedicated school bus schemes as part of broader local transport planning and decide if they would be appropriate to their area.

The Education and Inspections Bill includes provisions to improve home to school transport, including enabling a small number of local authorities to propose Pathfinder schemes to pilot innovative approaches to home to school transport which would focus on better school bus provision for more pupils and which could include trialling yellow bus schemes.

DfES has policy responsibility for home to school transport and has published the 'School Travel Pathfinder Draft Prospectus and Guidance' alongside the Education and Inspections Bill. This includes details of the criteria that the Secretary of State for Education and Skills will apply in deciding which schemes to approve (http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=9800).

Correspondence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish the preliminary assessment letter he sent to the Prime Minister following his appointment as Secretary of State. [85045]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Copies have today been placed in the Libraries of the House and published on the departmental website at www.dft.gov.uk.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the unnumbered command papers produced by his Department in each session since 1976; say how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81642]

Gillian Merron: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to Explanatory Notes to Treaties, Explanatory Memorandums to Statutory Instruments and some Treasury Minutes. All other documents are published in the Numbered Command Papers series.

The Department for Transport was formed on 31 May 2002; since then some 277 unnumbered Command Papers have been laid.

Copies of all unnumbered Command Papers are made available via the Vote Office.

Departmental Staff

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82233]

Gillian Merron: The Department has used the Access to Work scheme particularly in our larger agencies. Records of the support provided via the service are either not centrally recorded or incomplete. As it is for the individual to apply for help via the scheme, the employer will not always be aware that support has been provided.

Digital Tachographs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he is taking steps to exempt coach companies organising tours lasting more than one week from the rule that requires drivers to have one day off in seven; what representations have been made to him by trade unions about the rule; and if he will make a statement. [84835]

Gillian Merron: A new, directly applicable EU Regulation on drivers' hours has recently been adopted by the EU institutions—it was published in the Official Journal in April 2006 and will, for the most part, come into force in April 2007.

During negotiation of this new EU Regulation, consideration was given to retaining the provision in the existing EU Regulation which allows coach drivers on non-regular journeys—such as excursions, tours and private hire—to postpone their weekly rest period until the end of the twelfth day. Following strong opposition to this on road safety grounds, it was not included.

The Department carried out an extensive public consultation exercise prior to adoption of this new EU Regulation. The trade unions were invited to contribute, and did not support the retention of this particular provision.

Driving Test Centres

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport where each driving centre test site is located; and how many of each type of test were taken at each site in 2005-06. [85825]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Environmental Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81191]

Gillian Merron: On 12 June the Government launched new targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate, which included a requirement for all Departments to have Environmental Management Systems based upon or modelled upon a recognised system. The Department for Transport is committed to achieving this target.

Harbours Bill

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the merits of the Harbours Bill. [86267]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 853W.

Insurance (Foreign Drivers)

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure foreign drivers of foreign registered vehicles are adequately insured when driving in the UK. [86731]

Dr. Ladyman: European law requires all vehicles registered in a member state to have insurance for the use of that vehicle in any other member state.

The police have full power to stop and check any foreign vehicle to ensure the driver has appropriate insurance cover.

Local Authorities (Transport Funding)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities have had transport funding withheld by his Department since his Department's press release of 28 July 2004 announcing the withholding of funds to Thurrock, East Sussex, Plymouth and Southend-on-Sea; what the reason was in each case; and when the withheld money was paid in each case. [82208]

Gillian Merron: Funds were withheld in late 2003 from Thurrock, East Sussex, Plymouth and Southend-on-Sea because they had reported poor programme delivery in the previous year. The authorities were given the opportunity to take action to improve their performance during the early part of 2004 and in all cases took sufficient steps to convince the Department to provide the funds later.

The press release of 28 July 2004 announced that the funds previously withheld from Thurrock, East Sussex, Plymouth and Southend-on-Sea would be released. This funding was released as part of the local government financial settlement for 2005-06 announced in late 2004.

No authorities have had local transport capital funding similarly withheld since July 2004.

M42

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of the equipment required to introduce hard shoulder running on the M42 is already installed. [87040]

Dr. Ladyman: I am reviewing the proposed start date of hard shoulder running in light of the good progress being made towards its introduction.

M6 Widening

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects work on the widening of the M6 motorway between Birmingham and Warrington *(a)* to begin and *(b)* to be completed. [86123]

Dr. Ladyman: Today I announced that I have instructed the Highways Agency to progress plans for the online widening of the M6 from junction 11a to 19, and to no longer pursue the Expressway alternative. They will now continue to work on the design and delivery of the scheme. Early indicative dates suggest that the first phase of the works could commence in 2012 and open in 2014 with the whole scheme being completed around 2017. This is of course subject to the availability of funding, the satisfactory completion of the detailed design process and the normal statutory procedures.

Maritime Labour Convention

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress the Government have made towards a decision on whether to ratify the International Labour Organisation's Maritime Labour Convention. [85918]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government will ratify the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 as soon as UK law and practice is adapted to the requirements of the Convention.

Motorway Costs

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost of *(a)* one mile of new motorway, *(b)* adding an extra lane to one mile of motorway, *(c)* one mile of new dual carriageway and *(d)* one mile of new single carriageway. [86138]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1280W, to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling), about the average costs per mile of building motorways, dual carriageways and single lane roads. Adding an extra lane to one mile of motorway is estimated at an average of £27.5 million per mile.

National Travel Scheme

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1599W, on the National Travel Scheme, when he expects decisions to be made on how the National Travel Scheme will be delivered in 2008. [85296]

Gillian Merron: The implementation of the national scheme requires primary legislation and has implications for the financing of local government, both of which require formal consultation. Therefore, it will not be possible to make final decisions before summer 2007.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide a substantive reply to Question 84871 before the House rises for the summer adjournment. [86940]

Dr. Ladyman: A substantive reply was given to the hon. Member on 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1-2W.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83163]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport was created in 2002. The information provided in the table is correct as at 31 March 2006, except for the Chair and members of the Strategic Rail Authority. The Chair was appointed on 1 April 2006 and the members reduced to two at the same time.

Public body	*Number of appointments*	*Remuneration (pa) (£)*	*Emoluments (£)*
Commission for Integrated Transport	Chair x 1	[1]5,431	—
	Vice Chair x 1	24,000	—
	Members x 10	5,403	—

Public body	Number of appointments	Remuneration (pa) (£)	Emoluments (£)
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Council	Chair x 1	Unpaid	[2]—
	Members x 20	Unpaid	[2]—
Civil Aviation Authority	Chair x 1	124,649	60,299
	Members x 9	[3]884,554	[4]242,165
Rail Passenger Council (operates as Passenger Focus)	Chair x 1	25,000	[5]—
	Members x 11	15,000	[5]—
Railway Heritage Committee	Chair x 1	Unpaid	Out of pocket expenses only
	Deputy Chair x 1	Unpaid	Out of pocket expenses only
	Members x 10	Unpaid	Out of pocket expenses only
British Transport Police Authority	Chair x 1	25,800	[6]—
	Deputy Chair x 1	19,350	[6]—
	Members x 10	14,448	[6]—
Senior Traffic Commissioner	Senior Traffic Commission x 1	93,483	—
Traffic Commissioners	Traffic Commissioners x 6	84,135	—
Strategic Rail Authority	Chair x 1	20,731	—
	Members x 2	20,731 and 208,512 (41,712 wef 25 June 2006)	—

[1] The current Chair of the Commission for Integrated Transport chooses to receive a reduced level of remuneration for this post.
[2] £34 per quarter communication allowance.
[3] Represents total members' remuneration.
[4] Represents total members' emoluments.
[5] £150 p.a. miscellaneous allowance.
[6] £150 p.a. to cover printing costs.

Details of public appointments to public bodies sponsored by all Departments can be found in 'Public Bodies', copies of which are in the Library. 'Public Bodies' has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures, including those for the public bodies sponsored by the Department for Transport, for 2005.

Public Transport (London)

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people travelled on *(a)* buses, *(b)* trains and *(c)* other forms of public transport in each (i) London borough and (ii) region in each year since 2001. [85476]

Gillian Merron: The number of bus and light rail passenger journeys by Government office region (including London) for years 1994-95 to 2004-05 can be found in table 2.1 of the Department's publication "Regional Transport Statistics: 2005". This publication is available from the Department's website and a copy will shortly be placed in the House of Commons Library. The number of London Underground passenger journeys for years 1994-95 to 2004-05 can be found in table 2.4 of the same publication.

Information on regional rail travel is included in the National Rail Trends Yearbooks, which are published by the Office of Rail Regulation and available in the House of Commons Library. The statistics team at the Office of Rail Regulation also hold information on rail travel by station and by borough.

Information on the number of public transport journeys in each London borough is not available for other modes.

Railways

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of revenue support grant is paid towards rail passenger services in London. [82943]

Gillian Merron: Revenue support grant (RSG) is paid to local authorities (including London borough councils and the Greater London authority, GLA) to be spent according to local priorities. There is no element in the calculations underpinning the RSG levels related specifically to rail passenger services.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many employees of *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* its contractors are employed in maintaining the track at Dawlish Warren; and what the cost of this workforce has been in each of the last 10 years; [87077]

(2) how much public money Network Rail has spent in Dawlish Warren on capital work to bolster up the sea defences since 1997; and what the annual cost has been of ongoing repairs in each of the last nine years. [87079]

Derek Twigg: These are operational matters for Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether planned improvements to Central Milton Keynes train station include a lift for disabled access to all platforms. [86748]

Derek Twigg: The station extension at Milton Keynes Central station is being designed to the latest accessibility requirements including the continued provision of lifts to all platforms.

Road Noise

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of road were resurfaced to reduce noise in each year since 2000-01; what the location of each resurfacing project was; what the total cost of resurfacing was in each year; and what work is planned in each year up to 2010-11. [85817]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency currently resurfaces roads for maintenance reasons only, but has in previous years also resurfaced carriageways for environmental noise reasons, when specific funding was available. The Highways Agency does not separately record these two categories of carriageway resurfacing and it is therefore not possible to confirm the carriageway length resurfaced purely for noise reasons.

Since 2000-01 it has been Highways Agency policy to resurface carriageways with quieter surfacing materials, when maintenance is required. The following table shows the total quieter surfacing delivered in each year (data are only recorded in lane kms):

	Lane kms quieter surfacing
2000-01	1,172
2001-02	1,613
2002-03	1,685
2003-04	1,565
2004-05	1,226
2005-06	1,618

The Highways Agency anticipates that it will deliver at least 1,000 lane kms in 2006-07. With respect to future forecasts, the forward maintenance programme is currently being updated, therefore it is not possible to accurately confirm the anticipated delivery for 2007-08. Delivery for years beyond 2007-08 will be subject to confirmation within the comprehensive spending review 2007.

The Highways Agency annually resurfaces a large number of routes, many of very short length; it is therefore not possible to identify every individual location.

Funding for carriageway resurfacing is from the Highways Agency's Renewal of Roads budget, which covers many different maintenance elements including carriageway resurfacing, street lighting, traffic signs and signals, drainage and geotechnical earthworks. Expenditure for carriageway resurfacing alone is not explicitly recorded and it is therefore not possible to identify this separately.

Road/Rail Bridges

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road bridges and *(b)* rail bridges in (i) Southend-on-Sea, (ii) Essex, (iii) Hertfordshire and (iv) the Metropolitan Police area of London have been (A) rebuilt and (b) renewed in each of the last five years. [85162]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collated centrally.

Queries on road bridges should be addressed to the relevant highway authorities.

Network Rail, the owner and operator of the national rail network, advise that the information concerning railway bridges is not held in this form.

Rural Transport

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was spent on the Rural Transport Fund in each year since 1998; [85551]

(2) how many bus services have been extended to rural areas under the Rural Transport Fund since 1998. [85552]

Gillian Merron: Since 1998 the Department has provided specific funding for rural transport through the Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG) and, up to 2003, awards under the Rural Bus Challenge (RBC). RBSG supports over 2000 services nationally in England. RBC has provided funding for over 300 local authority schemes. Annual allocations for each of these schemes are shown in the following table:

		£ million
	RBSG	*RBC*
1998	32.50	11.2
1999	32.50	16.8
2000	32.50	21.2
2001	41.50	20.5
2002	47.50	20.0
2003	48.50	20.3
2004	51.00	n/a
2005	53.00	n/a
2006	54.30	n/a

The Department also awarded funding for 11 schemes in rural areas through the Kickstart scheme in 2005.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has also provided funding through the Countryside Agency for Rural Transport Partnership schemes.

Sheffield Airport

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on Sheffield Airport. [86268]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State for Transport has not received any recent representations concerning Sheffield Airport.

Smoking Ban

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the ban on smoking in public places to be introduced in the Health Bill will be applied to cruise ships. [86413]

Dr. Ladyman: The intention is that the smoke-free provisions of the Health Bill will apply to all cruise ships when they are arriving or departing from a UK port while within UK territorial waters. The smoke-free provisions would not apply therefore to UK-flagged cruise ships operating outside of UK territorial waters or while transiting UK waters.

A consultation paper on the Government's proposals will be issued later this summer and the smoke-free provisions are due to come into effect next year.

Speed Cameras (East Riding of Yorkshire)

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there were in the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [86909]

Dr. Ladyman: East Riding of Yorkshire is a partner in the Humberside Safety Camera Partnership, which joined the national safety camera programme on 1 April 2003. The Department does not hold information for this area prior to this date. Since joining the programme the total number of speed camera sites in the East Riding of Yorkshire in each year is shown in the table:

	Total number of mobile sites
2003-04	25
2004-05	27
2005-06	26
2006-07 (to 30 June 2006)	26

Speed Limits

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to rural-proof its policies on *(a)* quiet lanes and *(b)* the installation of national speed limit signs at the end of lower-speed zones. [84356]

Gillian Merron: Quiet Lanes is a Countryside Agency initiative that aims to maintain the character of minor rural roads. Guidance on Quiet Lanes has been developed by the Department in collaboration with the Countryside Agency.

For national consistency, all changes of speed limit are required by law to be clearly signed so that all road users may be aware of potential vehicle speeds and to allow drivers ample time to adjust their speed accordingly. This includes the beginning of national speed limits. However, the signing requirements seek to strike a sensible balance between driver awareness and unnecessary sign clutter and environmental intrusion. For example, repeater national speed limit applies signs are only required on roads where there are street lights.

The Department acknowledges that speed limit signs may not necessarily be in keeping with the aesthetic layout of the countryside. However, they are a vital tool in alerting drivers to a change in road conditions. We continue to work closely with Defra and the Countryside Agency to ensure speed limit signing is appropriate yet not unnecessarily intrusive.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to provide a modified entry sign for Quiet Lanes to incorporate an advisory indication of maximum speed; and if he will make a statement. [84370]

Gillian Merron: The Department has developed new signs in consultation with stakeholders, for use in England, to indicate the entry and exit points of a Quiet Lane. There are no plans to incorporate an advisory maximum speed sign. The Department's guidance will explain that only minor roads or networks of minor roads which have low flows of motorised vehicles travelling at low speeds are appropriate for designation as Quiet Lanes.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances a local authority *(a)* requires permission from his Department to impose a 40 mph speed limit and *(b)* may impose a 40 mph speed limit on a rural road. [87406]

Dr. Ladyman: A local traffic authority has powers under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to introduce a 40 mph speed limit on any road for which it has responsibility without permission from the Department.

Stage Cottage, East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has spent on refurbishing Stage Cottage, Hurst Green, East Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [86172]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 19 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1470-71W, and 9 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1369W.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85179]

Gillian Merron: Since October 2005 statutory instruments sponsored by the Department for Transport have been reported as defective by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments on the following occasions.

JCSI's 7th Report of Session 2005-06:

Railways (Accident Investigation and Reporting) Regulations (S.I. 2005/1992)

JCSI's 8th Report of Session 2005-06:

Air Navigation (General) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/1980)

JCSI's 10th Report of Session 2005-06:

Civil Aviation (Investigation of Military Air Accidents at Civil Aerodromes) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/2693)

JCSI's 14th Report of Session 2005-06:

Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3165)

Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No. 5) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3170)

JCSI's 28th Report of Session 2005-06:

M6 Toll (Speed Limit) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1185).

Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the provisions which they have reported.

Transport Innovation Fund

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total estimated cost is of the schemes outlined by his Department as potentially eligible for the first round of Transport Innovation Fund funding; and what total funding is available for projects which receive this funding. [82315]

Gillian Merron: The total funding available within the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) is £9,450 million, of which £290 million is available in 2008-09 and £600 million in 2009-10, the first two years of the TIF. Of this, up to £200 million a year will be available for packages involving demand management aimed to tackle congestion.

The total cost of the schemes which will be taken forward for further consideration and appraisal under Productivity TIF, as listed in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's announcement on 27 June, is currently estimated to be around £1.4 billion. The option of a TIF contribution is also under consideration for Crossrail. I refer the hon. Member to the Parliamentary Estimate of Expense submitted with the Crossrail Bill for the estimated cost of that scheme.

My right hon. Friend's announcement made it clear that we expect to allocate TIF funds to only a limited number of the schemes listed, and that the availability of other funding contributions would be a consideration in deciding on those allocations.

Transport Projects

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what criteria expenditure on transport projects is judged; what rate of interest is used in discounted cash flow analyses; what value is attributed to *(a)* time savings and *(b)* the saving of life; by what ratio of benefits to costs such projects are judged; and what allowance is made for cost overruns. [81087]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport assesses all new transport infrastructure proposals using the New Approach to Appraisal (NATA) guidance which can be found at:

www.webtag.org.uk.

The discount rates used in order to compare costs and benefits that occur in different time periods can be found at:

http://www.webtag.org.uk/webdocuments/3_Expert/5_Economy_Objective/3.5.4.htm#041

and in the Treasury Green Book

http://greenbook.treasury.gov.uk/chapter05.htm#discounting

The published values of time savings can be found in unit 3.5.6 of NATA guidance:

http://www.webtag.org.uk/webdocuments/3_Expert/5_Economy Objective/3.5.6.htm

The most recent values used to estimate the benefits of the prevention of road accidents are set out in the "Highways Economic Note No. 1: 2004 Valuation of the Benefits of Prevention of Road Accidents and Casualties" which can be found on the DfT website.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/page/dft_rdsafety_610642.hcsp

The Department's value for money guidance explains how the information generated in appraisal is used to estimate a benefits to cost ratio to inform advice to Ministers. This can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_about/documents/page/dft_about_033477.hcsp

The Department's guidance on taking account of cost overruns in appraisal can be found at:

http://www.webtag.org.uk/webdocuments/3_Expert/9_Major_Scheme_Appraisal_in_LTPs/3.9.4.htm

Vehicles

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency holds on the *(a)* engine size and *(b)* environmental emissions of vehicles. [86848]

Dr. Ladyman: DVLA holds information on engine size for all vehicles. Information on carbon dioxide emissions is held for most vehicles registered since March 2001. Further information is available at www.dft.gov.uk/transtat

NORTHERN IRELAND

Adult Community Learning

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans his Department has to improve the availability of adult community learning. [85437]

Maria Eagle: Arising from the recommendations of the Review of Further Education (FE), the Department for Employment and Learning will bring forward new arrangements for improved collaboration between FE colleges and other education and training providers, including voluntary and community-based organisations. The involvement of non-statutory

organisations is intended to encourage those in the community who are reluctant to re-engage with the formal FE college structure to take up opportunities to develop their skills and generally improve their prospects of employment.

Airport and Port Security

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the level of security provided by security personnel at *(a)* airports and *(b)* ports; and if he will make a statement. [86310]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Department keeps the preventative transport security measures required under regular review. Industry implementation of the measures is subject to an ongoing programme of compliance monitoring and enforcement by DfT inspectors.

Audiology

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are waiting for digital hearing aids in each board area of Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [86306]

Paul Goggins: The Health and Social Services Boards have advised that the number of people assessed as suitable for a digital hearing aid and currently awaiting fitting within each of the four board areas is:

	Number
Northern board	109
Southern board	537
Eastern board	853
Western board	285

These figures include analogue users who are transferring to digital.

As part the Government's drive to reduce waiting times, an Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service (ICATS) is being developed within a number of disciplines which include ENT services.

A new electronic referral management system will manage all GP referrals for assessment. Those who can be assessed and treated without consultant intervention will be dealt with in a primary/community care setting and diagnostic requirements will be managed so that these are delivered within a set time of six weeks. Only those who need to see a consultant will be referred onward to a hospital.

Audiology departments will have an opportunity to bid for funds from the ICATS budget in order to modernise services, so there should be significant changes within service delivery in the future.

Bonfires

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures his Department has in place to improve the enforcement of the law relating to *(a)* lighting bonfires and *(b)* the burning of tyres and other toxic waste on bonfires. [86584]

David Cairns: The 2004 report by the Interagency Working Group on bonfires set out the Department of the Environment's remit, and the limited range of its powers with regard to bonfires (a copy of the report is available in the Library). Primary responsibility rests with district councils and landowners.

The Department's focus in relation to the burning of tyres and waste on bonfires is twofold. Firstly, it is continuing its campaign with commercial outlets producing waste tyres (through visits and guidance) to advise them how to dispose of tyres legally and to reinforce their duty of care obligations.

Secondly, under the Duty of Care provisions in the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997, it is maintaining its enforcement brief against the producers of trade waste (including tyres), or those who transport it to bonfires.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he took in 2006 to minimise the pollution from rubber tyres on bonfires during the Twelfth Celebrations. [86298]

David Cairns: In 2006, the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) targeted businesses that produce waste tyres by means of an advisory campaign involving mail shots and individual visits to premises by enforcement officers.

EHS is taking action, under the Duty of Care provisions within the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997, against the producers of trade waste (including tyres), or those who transport it to bonfires. From the July 2006 bonfire season, EHS is investigating seven cases that may result in prosecution of those who have not followed its advice and have allegedly allowed tyres to be disposed of on bonfire sites.

Although it is not possible to quantify the number of tyres being burned on bonfires due to the clandestine nature of storage before fires are built, observations would indicate that a lesser amount was burned this year.

Cancer

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* number of trips made to and from hospital and *(b)* combined cost of travel and hospital car parking incurred by cancer patients in 2005-06; and if he will take steps to exempt cancer patients from hospital car parking charges. [83065]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has made no assessment of the number of trips made to and from hospital by cancer patients in 2005-06, or the travel and hospital car parking costs incurred by them.

Not all acute hospital Trusts charge for car parking; those that do have in place policies regarding exemptions for patients and visitors who must attend on a frequent basis over a short period of time. For example, Belfast City Hospital provides an exemption from car park charging to radiotherapy patients whose course of treatment requires them to attend on more than 10 occasions. Chemotherapy patients are similarly exempted from the cost of car parking if their stay is longer than four hours. This policy makes a distinction between those actually receiving treatment and those attending the hospital for another reason.

In addition, the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme provides for patients who are in receipt of certain state benefits, or who are on a low income, to be reimbursed for hospital travel costs, including car parking charges.

Decisions about charging for car parking at hospitals, and exemptions from such charges, are matters for individual health and social services trusts. I will, however, be asking trusts to review their policy in this area.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by *(a)* the Northern Ireland Office and *(b)* each of the Northern Ireland departments on (i) hospitality, (ii) taxis, (iii) advertising, (iv) public relations consultants, (v) headhunters and recruitment consultants and (vi) management consultants during (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05 and (C) 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [76719]

Mr. Hanson: The following tables set out the total cost of (i) hospitality, (ii) taxis, (iii) advertising, (iv) public relations consultants, (v) headhunters and recruitment consultants and (vi) management consultants in *(a)* the Northern Ireland Office and *(b)* each of the Northern Ireland departments during (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05 and (C) 2005-06. Figures in respect of the 11 Northern Ireland Departments' advertising costs for 2005-06 are not yet completed but will be provided as soon as possible. For some Departments it has not been possible to provide the cost of taxis as expenditure is not recorded at this level. The relevant tables are noted accordingly.

Northern Ireland Office

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(i) hospitality	319,741	258,436	299,634
(ii) taxis	19,213	24,856	24,265
(iii) advertising	192,978	279,697	138,425
(iv) public relations consultants	4,944	7,400	10,230
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	136,260	49,237	0
(vi) management consultants	2.17 million	3.33 million	5.16 million

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(i) hospitality	110,559	134,553	97,000
(ii) taxis	n/a	n/a	n/a
(iii) advertising	371,573	371,227	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	0	0
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	0	0	0
(vi) management consultants	1.80 million	1.82 million	0.34 million

n/a = not available
[1] not yet available

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(i) hospitality	21,721	22,260	34,901
(ii) taxis	n/a	n/a	n/a
(iii) advertising	24,758	11,517	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	20,496.83	0
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	0	0	0
(vi) management consultants	0.47 million	0.40 million	0.27 million

n/a = not available
[1] not yet available

Department of Education

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(i) hospitality	23,791	43,074	33,891
(ii) taxis	2,154	3,282	2,042
(iii) advertising	80,266	73,137	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	0	3,848
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	0	0	0
(vi) management consultants	1.04 million	1.75 million	0.37 million

[1] not yet available

Department for Employment and Learning

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(i) hospitality	42,759	29,904	33,000
(ii) taxis	13,077	9,540	11,641
(iii) advertising	149,210	498,570	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants[3]	0	0	0
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	0	0	0
(vi) management consultants	0.43 million	0.42 million	[2]0.73 million

[1] not yet available
[2] Projected figure for 2005-06. Actual costs for 2005-06 not yet available.
[3] As well as PR activity figures shown include television, radio, cinema, outdoor (adshels etc.) and press advertising

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(i) hospitality	24,551	23,813	19,102
(ii) taxis	8,694	7,489	6,751
(iii) advertising	154,656	88,420	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	93,283	124,737	95,501
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	0	0	52,875
(vi) management consultants	2.11 million	1.22 million	[2]1.29 million

[1] not yet available
[2] estimated

Department of Environment

	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
(i) hospitality	11,181	12,612	23,328
(ii) taxis	n/a	n/a	n/a
(iii) advertising	977,821	1,333,024	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	0	0
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	0	0	0
(vi) management consultants	0.48 million	0.31 million	0.49 million

n/a = not available
[1] not yet available

Department of Finance and Personnel

	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
(i) hospitality	53,647	68,297	56,822
(ii) taxis	4,793	7,520	12,778
(iii) advertising	298,260	280,789	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	0	0
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	208,731	203,934	46,061
(vi) management consultants	2.53 million	2.65 million	3.78 million

[1] not yet available

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
(i) hospitality	188,466	170,531	171,080
(ii) taxis	n/a	n/a	n/a
(iii) advertising	355,141	347,494	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	0	0
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	0	0	0
(vi) management consultants	0.60 million	0.40 million	0.70 million

n/a = not available
[1] not yet available

Department for Regional Development

	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
(i) hospitality	32,408	31,869	23,076
(ii) taxis	n/a	n/a	n/a
(iii) advertising	24,282	22,364	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	0	0
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	47,723	1,375	36,675
(vi) management consultants	1.04 million	2.18 million	1.37 million

n/a = not available
[1] not yet available

Department for Social Development

	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
(i) hospitality	27,296	38,085	27,255
(ii) taxis	n/a	n/a	n/a
(iii) advertising	107,793	98,766	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	0	4,363
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	0	0	0
(vi) management consultants	1.59 million	0.62 million	0.48 million

n/a = not available
[1] not yet available

Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister

	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
(i) hospitality	93,703	63,974	96,011
(ii) taxis	15,000	8,000	9,468
(iii) advertising	324,053	191,800	[1]—
(iv) public relations consultants	0	0	0
(v) headhunters and recruitment consultants	34,410	0	4,383
(vi) management consultants	1.28 million	0.70 million	0.87 million

[1] not yet available

Disappeared People

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what pressure is being brought to bear at meetings with Sinn Fein/IRA to disclose the whereabouts of the disappeared. [86315]

Paul Goggins: The Government urge anyone with information about the whereabouts of the disappeared to bring that information to the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains, so that the remains can be recovered and some degree of closure provided to the families.

Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is of the average domestic capital value for rates revaluation purposes in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* each district in Northern Ireland. [86815]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is contained in the following table.

District council	*Average capital value assessment (£)*
Antrim	105,000
Ards	128,000
Armagh	106,000
Ballymena	107,000
Ballymoney	103,000
Banbridge	107,000
Belfast	115,000
Carrickfergus	101,000
Castlereagh	131,000
Coleraine	122,000
Cookstown	111,000
Craigavon	90,000

District council	Average capital value assessment (£)
Derry	95,000
Down	118,000
Dungannon	108,000
Fermanagh	103,000
Larne	91,000
Limavady	98,000
Lisburn	123,000
Magherafelt	109,000
Moyle	114,000
Newry And Mourne	118,000
Newtownabbey	105,000
North Down	154,000
Omagh	96,000
Strabane	85,000
Northern Ireland	112,000

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the latest estimate is of the *(a)* proportion and *(b)* number of households which will see (i) an increase, (ii) no change and (iii) a decrease in rates bills as a consequence of the domestic rates revaluation, before the application of transitional relief, in (A) Northern Ireland as a whole and (B) each district in Northern Ireland. [86822]

Mr. Hanson: The proportion of households in Northern Ireland which will face an increase in bill (of more than 5 per cent.) is 37 per cent. This represents approximately 261,000 households. The proportion that will experience a decrease in bill of more than 5 per cent. is 45 per cent. (around 320,000 households) and the proportion with no change in bill (that is, between +/-5 per cent.) is 18 per cent. (124,000 households).

The following table provides the information for each district council in Northern Ireland.

Council	Decrease in bill by more than 5 per cent.		Increase in bill by more than 5 per cent.		No change (between +/-5 per cent.)	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Antrim	10,466	56	5,696	30	2,664	14
Ards	11,385	36	14,167	45	6,198	19
Armagh	10,954	51	7,370	34	3,358	15
Ballymena	13,304	54	7,290	30	3,910	16
Ballymoney	6,326	57	3,014	27	1,694	16
Banbridge	10,298	59	4545	26	2,740	15
Belfast	46,115	37	61,808	50	16,360	13
Carrickfergus	11,527	70	2,757	17	2,243	13
Castlereagh	7,541	26	16,483	58	4,616	16
Coleraine	13,609	51	8,772	33	4,219	16
Cookstown	3,256	26	6,107	49	3,159	25
Craigavon	23,848	69	6,622	19	4,166	12
Derry	22,497	55	10,259	25	8,077	20
Down	9,862	38	11,028	42	5,304	20
Dungannon	5,899	30	9,534	49	4,134	21
Fermanagh	8,693	36	10,075	41	5,531	23
Lame	7,965	57	4,631	33	1,363	10
Limavady	6,944	60	2,610	23	2,004	17
Lisburn	18,941	44	14,397	33	9,726	23
Magherafelt	5,898	41	5,240	36	3,389	23
Moyle	3,469	45	3,160	41	1,089	14
Newry	10,231	30	15,343	45	8,562	25
New'abbey	18,062	53	7,542	22	8,482	25
North Down	14,635	44	13,198	40	5,511	16
Omagh	9,351	51	5,584	30	3,513	19
Strabane	9,168	62	3,837	26	1,685	12

None of the estimates above take into account the households which may qualify for housing benefit or the new rate relief scheme. They also ignore the impact of the transitional relief scheme.

Domestic Violence

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many women reported incidents of domestic violence in each of the last five years; what measures are in place to support women who report domestic violence; and if he will make a statement. [85435]

Mr. Hanson: The number of domestic violence incidents reported to the Police Service of Northern Ireland is given in the following table. There is no official breakdown available by gender but it is known that women are the victims in the majority of reported cases. A strategy for addressing domestic violence in Northern Ireland, "Tackling Violence at Home", was launched in October 2005. The strategy is aimed at providing protection and support to all victims of domestic violence, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation. All victims can seek information and advice through the 24-Hour Free-phone Domestic Violence Helpline which handles over 20,000 calls each year. Any victim of a domestic assault can seek protection

from the police who will investigate, arrest the alleged abuser if power exists and prosecute where there is evidence of a crime. The police have trained Domestic Violence Officers in each District Command Unit. Alternatively a victim can apply to a court for a civil order (a non-molestation order and/or an occupation order) to prevent further abuse or exclude the abuser from the family home. There are 12 Women's Aid Refuges in operation across Northern Ireland for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Local Women's Aid Groups also provide a range of other services for women, including outreach and floating support for women who wish to remain in their own homes.

Domestic violence incidents reported to PSNI

April-March each year	*Incidents reported to PSNI*
2001-02	14,937
2002-03	15,512
2003-04	16,926
2004-05	20,959
2005-06	23,059

Notes:
These figures do not represent the prevalence of the problem as domestic violence is seriously under-reported.

Domiciliary Oxygen Supplies

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were dependent on a domiciliary oxygen system in their home in *(a)* 1995 and *(b)* 2005. [86945]

Paul Goggins: Those patients who are dependent on an oxygen system in their home, requiring long-term oxygen therapy—i.e. 15 hours or more a day over a prolonged period—are normally prescribed an oxygen concentrator. It is also considered to be economical for those requiring a minimum of eight hours oxygen a day to be prescribed an oxygen concentrator.

Central Services Agency (CSA) records report that in 1997 (earliest information available) 31 patients were being managed on a concentrator (with 19 of these in possession of a back-up cylinder/giving set). In 2005, 1,566 patients were being managed by a concentrator and 1,279 of these had a back-up cylinder/giving set.

Driving Tests

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many driving test appointments were not kept at each test centre in Northern Ireland in the last three years. [86297]

David Cairns: Figures for the number of driving test appointments not kept for each test centre are shown in the following table for the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. The figures are primarily for appointments where candidates have failed to appear but also include any appointments cancelled by the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency.

Appointments not kept

Test centre	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Armagh	28	57	45
Ballymena	52	78	83
Balmoral Road, Belfast	101	175	267
Coleraine	55	66	100
Cookstown	22	69	68
Craigavon	108	103	129
Dill Road, Belfast	68	115	153
Downpatrick	27	23	80
Enniskillen	21	30	49
Larne	53	79	175
Lisburn	6	96	141
Newbuildings	18	23	24
Newry	44	50	79
Newtownards	11	86	133
Omagh	66	73	84
Waterside House, Londonderry	70	97	110
Total	750	1,220	1,720

Empty Properties

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated change is in the numbers of vacant premises in Northern Ireland between the date when such premises became liable for rates payments and the most recent date for which such figures are available. [85728]

Mr. Hanson: On 4 June 2004 statistics were extracted from the Rate Collection Agency database identifying 8,901 non-domestic vacant properties that were now eligible to pay rates from 1 April 2004. These figures were extracted to facilitate the first phase of billing which commenced on 1 July 2004.

At 17 July 2006 this figure has reduced to 7,153.

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to ensure that every home in Northern Ireland uses at least one energy efficient light bulb. [86944]

Mr. Hanson: It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to contribute to a more sustainable environment, one that aims to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels as an energy source. I would like to see every house with energy efficient light bulbs and to that end a number of steps are being taken. Northern Ireland Electricity distributes energy efficiency light bulbs (CFLs) through the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre, Energy Efficiency Levy projects and the Warm Homes Scheme. Eligible households receive four light bulbs. NIE aim to distribute over 97,000 energy efficient light bulbs this year.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive as part of its Home Energy Conservation Authority role raises public awareness of energy efficiency by advertising widely on TV, radio etc., by providing face to face advice at exhibitions, shows, etc. in conjunction with the EST Advice Centre, and by funding a number of projects such as cash back for insulation and demonstration schemes. These actions promote and encourage the use of energy efficient light bulbs.

Higher Education

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of 18 year olds in each constituency in Northern Ireland went on to higher education in each of the last five years. [85443]

Maria Eagle: The information is set out in the following table.

Percentage of 18 year olds in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland entering higher education 2000-01-2004-05

Parliamentary constituency	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Belfast East	31	26	30	26	28
Belfast North	17	18	20	18	18
Belfast South	14	24	20	23	37
Belfast West	17	18	16	16	18
East Antrim	26	27	29	28	34
East Londonderry	29	31	27	27	30
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	43	37	35	38	37
Foyle	28	30	28	29	32
Lagan Valley	32	34	36	31	34
Mid Ulster	38	35	32	35	38
Newry And Armagh	41	34	32	29	31
North Antrim	34	31	34	32	32
North Down	39	35	36	38	34
South Antrim	36	30	31	31	30
South Down	31	32	33	29	32
Strangford	33	31	31	31	33
Upper Bann	33	31	33	29	29
West Tyrone	39	35	35	32	35
Total	30	30	30	29	31

Note:
1. The data in the table exclude 877 18 year olds with an unknown postcode.
2. The total 18 year old population in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years was as follows: 24,408 in 2000-01, 25,548 in 2001-02, 26,023 in 2002-03, 26,756 in 2003-04 and 27,288 in 2004-05.

Source:
HESA, FESR and NISRA mid-year population estimate

Housing Executive

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's properties had been vacant for more than three months in each district council area at the end of 2005. [86943]

Mr. Hanson: The information is not available in the format requested but the following table sets out the figures at 31 December 2005 by Housing Executive district office. The figures include long term voids, those pending demolition, those not available because of short term operational reasons and those available for letting.

Housing Executive district office	*Total*
Antrim	168
Armagh	100
Ballycastle	4
Ballymena	160
Ballymoney	3
Banbridge	33
Bangor	174
Belfast 1	38
Belfast 2	142
Belfast 3	20
Belfast 4	264
Belfast 5	104
Belfast 6	168
Belfast 7	40
Carrickfergus	80
Castlereagh	96
Cookstown	21
Coleraine	97
Collon Terrace	2
Downpatrick	17
Dungannon	50
Fermanagh	14
Lame	192
Limavady	32
Lisburn Ant St.	161
Lisburn Dairy Fm	12
Lurgan/Brownlow	163
Magherafelt	23
Newry	100
Newtownabbey 1	84
Newtownabbey 2	127
Newtownards	127
Omagh	63
Portadown	37
Strabane	23
Waterloo Place	108
Waterside	37
Total	3,084

Implementation Group on Positive Parenting

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the terms of reference are of the Implementation Group on Positive Parenting established by the Ministerial Committee on Children and Young People; by what criteria membership of the group will be established; and what the timetable is for its work. [86927]

Mr. Hanson: When the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People last met on 4 July, it agreed, in principle, to the establishment of a group to co-ordinate the implementation of Article 2 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and to assist in the ongoing work on positive parenting. Positive parenting is a cross-departmental issue. An announcement on arrangements will be made soon.

Joyriding

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what sentencing guidelines are in place for persons convicted of "joy-riding" in Northern Ireland. [74982]

Mr. Hanson: The Government does not issue guidelines on sentencing for any offence in Northern Ireland. Sentencing is entirely a matter for the independent courts based on case law and precedent. The role the Government plays is to provide the legislative framework and options within which the courts operate. To that end, in 2004 we introduced two new offences and penalties to deal with what is often inappropriately referred to as "joy-riding".

We created the offence of "Aggravated vehicle taking" which is a vehicle being taken without consent, and which is then driven dangerously or causes an accident which results in injury, damage to property or damage to the vehicle. The maximum penalty for this offence is up to five years imprisonment, a fine, or both.

We also created the more serious offence of "Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking". The maximum penalty for this offence is up to 14 years imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Language Support

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many inspections of language support services were carried out by the Department of Education Inspectorate in Northern Ireland in each of the last four academic years; and what the findings were of each such inspection. [86565]

Maria Eagle: The inspections that have been carried out by the Education and Training Inspectorate during the last four years have focused on the quality of language support for learners in schools and colleges of further education, rather than on such bodies as may have a remit to support schools and colleges.

ETI has published a report "The Provision for English for Speakers of Other Languages and Modern Languages in Further Education" (April-June 2005). This is available at www.deni.gov.uk under Education and Training Inspectorate, surveys. The quality of learning and teaching and the standards and outcomes achieved by the learners in schools, in relation to the provision for English as an additional language, have also been inspected recently. This report will be available from the Department's website, referred to above, early in the 2006-07 academic year.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether pensioners on an occupational pension will be eligible for a rates reduction under the new domestic rates system from 2007. [85733]

Mr. Hanson: Pensioners on an occupational pension will be eligible, along with others on low incomes, to apply for rate relief under the new scheme to be introduced in April 2007. In addition, if they are experiencing an increase in their rate bill by more than 33 per cent. as a result of the move to a capital value based system, they will automatically receive transitional relief for three years.

Newly Qualified Nurses

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many nursing graduates in Northern Ireland found posts within *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [86308]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not held either in the Department or the relevant higher education institutions (HEIs) in Northern Ireland.

HEIs conduct a 'Graduate Destination Survey', which offers a snap shot of graduate activity, commencing six months after graduation. Completion of the survey questionnaire is voluntary, so not all graduates respond.

The following tables set out the information available for both HEIs in Northern Ireland for the last three years. Academic year 2005-06 is not yet available.

Table 1: Queens University Belfast, (QUB) Graduation Destination Survey

Academic year	*Completed questionnaires*	*Employed (percentage)*
2002-03	110	94.5
2003-04	376	97
2004-05	460	97.1

Source:
QUB Destination Survey

Table 2: University of Ulster Graduation Destination Survey

Academic year	*Completed questionnaires*	*Employed (percentage)*
2002-03	1	100
2003-04	144	95.8
2004-05	7	100

Source:
UU Destination Survey

Orthodontists

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many orthodontists are registered for the provision of NHS treatment in each health board area in Northern Ireland. [86555]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is detailed in the following table:

Orthodontists registered for the provision of NHS treatment by health board area as at December 2005

Health board	Number
Eastern	21
Northern	8
Southern	9
Western	7

Note:
An orthodontist is identified as having over 30 per cent. of orthodontic treatment items and over 20 treatments in a six-month period.
Source:
Central Services Agency.

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting list time for orthodontist treatment is in each of the health board areas in Northern Ireland. [86556]

Paul Goggins: The information is not available as requested.

Orthodontic treatment is provided in both hospital and primary care but waiting list information is only available for hospitals.

Waiting list information is collected by time band. It is therefore not possible to calculate the arithmetic mean (average) length of time waiting. It is however possible to identify the median or mid-point waiting time band.

The latest available waiting list statistics show the position for initial out-patient appointment for orthodontics treatment at 31 March 2006.

Health board area as at 31 March 2006

Health board	Waiting time[1] (Month)
Eastern	0-2
Northern	0-2
Southern	3-5
Western	0-2
Other	3-5
Northern Ireland	3-5

[1] Median waiting time band for initial out-patient orthodontic appointment at 31 March 2006.
Source:
Departmental Return CH3.

Pensioners

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pensioners in Northern Ireland *(a)* receive homecare and *(b)* reside in care homes. [87288]

Paul Goggins: Information is not collected centrally on the number of pensioners receiving homecare. However, the number of persons aged 65 and over receiving home help services in Northern Ireland was 21,617 at 31 March 2005, the latest date for which figures are available.

Information on the number of pensioners residing in care homes is also not collected centrally. However, information is available for 2001 from the Northern Ireland Census of Population on the number of people resident in communal establishments, including residential homes and nursing homes. The number of persons aged 65 and over resident in these homes is shown in the following table.

Place of residence	Number of persons aged 65 and over
Residential homes	3,325
Nursing homes	6,171
Total	9,496

Poverty

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in Northern Ireland are estimated to be living (i) on the poverty line and (ii) below the poverty line; and if he will make a statement. [86317]

Mr. Hanson: Defining poverty as households whose income is 60 per cent. or less of the GB median household income, the households below average income Northern Ireland report indicates that there were 114,000 people living in relative poverty in rural and 218,100 in urban areas after housing costs in the period 2004-05. It is not possible to give figures separately for those at or below this relative poverty line.

Property Tax Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1822W, on property tax reform, when the paper will be placed in the Library. [85445]

Mr. Hanson: I can confirm that a copy of the paper was placed in the Library on 19 July 2006.

Saville Inquiry

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his latest estimate is of the cost to public funds of the Saville Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [83905]

Mr. Hanson: On the figures available at the end of May 2006 the total cash spend of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry was £172 million. Out of this the Northern Ireland Office has spent £137.5 million and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence reports that his Department has spent £31.5 million.

Sustainable Buildings

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many builders have been prosecuted for non-compliance with environmental building regulations in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [80952]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments do not hold this information. Enforcement of building regulations is the responsibility of district councils. Having written to district councils, I can confirm that there have been six prosecutions for non-compliance with the environmental building regulations in the last five years.

Valuation and Lands Agency (Data Protection)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the Valuation and Lands Agency has made of whether the Valuation and Lands Agency's domestic rates revaluation computer database holds sensitive personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998. [86823]

Mr. Hanson: Information managers, at departmental and agency level, are responsible (at the appropriate level) for the proper implementation of Government policies concerning Data Protection and Freedom of Information principles.

The Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) assesses its obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 on an ongoing basis. DFP, as required by the Data Protection Legislation, completes an annual notification to the Information Commissioners Office. Notification is the process by which DFP as a data controller informs the Information Commissioner of certain details about the processing of personal data. Those details are used by the Commissioner to make an entry describing the processing in a register, which is available to the public for inspection.

Business areas within the DFP contribute to this process by undertaking a review of the notification at least annually when it is due for renewal or when a new process or system is proposed which may change the way personal data are handled.

The Valuation and Lands Agency assesses whether its domestic rates revaluation computer database holds sensitive personal data, as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998, at least annually when the Department of Finance and Personnel reviews its Data Protection Notification. The Agency applies the eight Data Protection principles outlined in the Data Protection Act 1988. Assessment of data held is also undertaken when changes are made in process or systems within the agency.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 24 July 2006

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Support Sector

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the impact of the delay to single farm payments on the farm machinery business; and if he will make a statement. [84613]

Barry Gardiner: UK tractor registrations, a broad indicator of the strength of the domestic market for agricultural equipment, have increased marginally in the first half of 2006. However, individual businesses may, to varying effects, have been affected in the short term by the cash flow issues faced by farmers as a result of the timing of payments under the 2005 single payment scheme (SPS).

Animal Freight

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed by his Department to carry out on-road inspections of transporters carrying vertebrate animals in each of the last five years. [86354]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold the information requested. Roadside checks are arranged by local authorities, to check compliance with a range of animal health and welfare rules. The state veterinary service liaises with local authorities so that emergency veterinary cover can be made available if needed.

Animal Health Strategy

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding the Government incorporates into its animal health strategy for the rescue and care of abandoned, wounded and homeless animals. [86871]

Mr. Bradshaw: *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* While the Government applaud the fine work undertaken by animal welfare charities in rescuing and caring for abandoned, wounded and homeless animals, we do not use public money to directly fund such work. However, we do have policies in place to increase the value of charitable gifts by generous tax concessions.

Aarhus Convention

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to inform the public of their rights under the Aarhus Convention. [85491]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise that the Aarhus Convention is an important statement, at international level, of the rights of the public to be involved in decisions which have significant environmental effects. The UK's ratification of the convention, in February 2005, demonstrates our commitment to the importance of these principles. A comprehensive guide can be found on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/internat/aarhus/index.htm

In addition, DEFRA's environmental information unit (EIU) provides advice on the convention and the Environmental Information Regulations. The EIU has produced leaflets and posters publicising peoples' rights to access environmental information and provides detailed guidance on the DEFRA website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/eir/index.htm This also links to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the code of practice and the Aarhus Convention.

The code of practice, (which was laid in Parliament in February 2005) and guidance have been revised to take responses to a public consultation into account.

Additionally, the unit offers support to Government Departments and public authorities on EIRs. This support includes workshops to discuss how they can raise awareness within their authorities and provides an opportunity to share good practice. In 2003-04, the Government's sustainable development unit worked with the Department for Constitutional Affairs supporting the freedom of information (FOI) roadshows programme and gave talks to public authorities around the country explaining how to handle FOI and EIR requests.

Biomass Energy Crops

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to remove barriers to the market development of biomass energy crops; and what further measures are planned. [86116]

Ian Pearson: The Government provide support to help establish and develop supply chains, and create markets for biomass energy crops. The Government set up a Biomass Task Force in 2004 to identify the barriers to developing biomass energy and to recommend ways to overcome the problems.

The Government's response to the taskforce report was published in April 2006 and sets out 12 key initiatives and over 60 associated actions to help realise optimum use of biomass as a resource. These measures include a capital grant scheme for biomass boilers, the establishment of a new Biomass Energy Centre to provide expert information and advice, further grant support for biomass supply chains, and a commitment to consider using biomass in the Government estate. We also intend to publish a UK Biomass Strategy in the coming year.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have been brought by each local authority in England under section 3 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 since the Act came into force. [86149]

Mr. Bradshaw: Measures contained in section 3 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, which concern exposing vehicles for sale on the road, commenced in June 2005.

Figures relating to the number of prosecutions brought under this section will not be available until autumn this year.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received regarding the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [87766]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has received a range of representations on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, in the form of letters, emails and parliamentary questions.

Commercial Kitchens

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research his Department has conducted into *(a)* carbon emissions from commercial kitchens and *(b)* means to reduce such emissions; [84943]

(2) what plans his Department has to encourage the use of technology to reduce carbon emissions from commercial kitchens. [84942]

Ian Pearson: The information available on carbon emissions from commercial kitchens is currently very limited.

Two scoping studies have been carried out for DEFRA which indicate that carbon emissions from non-domestic cooking equipment are somewhere between 2.2 million and 6 million tonnes of carbon per annum. Further work is being carried out by the Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) to refine these estimates. The MTP estimates that the refrigeration equipment used in commercial kitchens produces a further 1.4 million tonnes of carbon per annum.

The Government are working with industry, through the Carbon Trust and the MTP, to reduce these emissions. For example, the Hotel and Catering International Management Association manages a programme on behalf of the Carbon Trust which offers free energy saving advice to the sector.

We are also working to encourage manufacturers to improve the efficiency of their goods by developing agreed test methodologies, performance standards and benchmarks which will enable the relative energy efficiency of these appliances to be measured. This process is complete for commercial refrigeration equipment but is at an early stage for commercial ovens.

If all existing catering equipment were replaced by best practice[1] equipment, we estimate that carbon emissions from commercial kitchens could be reduced by 18 per cent. Substantial additional carbon savings can be made through management and behavioural measures.

[1] The top 10 per cent. of equipment, currently on the market, in terms of energy efficiency.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81295]

Barry Gardiner: The following Command ("Green" and "White") Papers have been produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, since October 2005.

Paper number	*Title*	*Publication date*
6692	Autumn Performance Report	21 December 2005
6764	UK Climate Change Programme 2006	28 March 2006
6845	UK Government Response to Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's 25th Report: Turning the Tide—Addressing the Impact of Fisheries on the Marine Environment	24 May 2006
6827	Departmental Report	25 May 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the Unnumbered Command Papers produced by his Department in each Session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81298]

Barry Gardiner: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to explanatory notes to treaties, explanatory memorandums to statutory instruments and some Treasury minutes. All other documents are published in the Numbered Command Papers series.

A complete list of unnumbered Command Papers can only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Copies of all unnumbered Command Papers are made available via the Vote Office.

Environment Agency

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency takes to ensure that its charging policy is fair and equitable across its user groups. [87032]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency complies with Her Majesty's Treasury's "Fees and Charges Guide", applies the polluter (or beneficiary) should pay principle, attributes relevant costs to specific charging regimes, and recovers those costs through charges.

The Agency also takes account of guidance set out in the DEFRA Charging Handbook, which states that policy makers should be sensitive to the burden upon payers (and particular segments) and that this should be done though developing a Regulatory Impact Assessment on the proposed change in charge if it

imposes a real increase in burden. In accordance with good Government practice the Agency routinely seeks the views of stakeholders, customer groups and individual charge payers on proposals for changes.

Environmental Directives

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which environmental directives have been agreed and published since May 1997; and what the date or expected date of transposition is of each. [84060]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA was formed in June 2001. Between 8 June 2001 and 30 June 2006, 30 EU environmental directives, for which the Department has responsibility for implementation, were adopted. These are shown in the following table.

Directive number	*Directive name*	*Transposition deadline*	*Date UK transposition completed/or expected to be completed*
2001/080/EC	Limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants	27 November 2002	9 September 2003
2001/081/EC	National emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants	1 March 2002	13 March 2003
2001/091/EC	Restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (hexachloroethane)	31 December 2002	30 June 2003
2002/003/EC	Relating to ozone in ambient air	9 September 2003	26 February 2004
2002/031/EC	Energy labelling of household air conditioners	1 January 2003	14 March 2003
2002/040/EC	Commission Directive 2002/040/EC implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household electric ovens	31 December 2002	14 March 2003
2002/045/EC	Relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (short-chain chlorinated paraffins)	6 July 2003	23 December 2003
2002/049/EC	Assessment and management of environmental noise	18 July 2004	October 2006
2002/062/EC	Adapting to technical progress for the ninth time Annex I to Council Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on marketing and use of (organostannic compounds)	31 October 2002	14 March 2003
2003/002/EC	Relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of arsenic	30 June 2003	23 December 2003
2003/004/EC	On public access to environmental information and repealing 90/31 3/EEC	14 February 2005	04 January 2006
2003/011/EC	Relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (pentabromodiphenyl ether octabromodiphenyl ether)	15 February 2004	22 March 2004
2003/035/EC	Providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment	25 June 2005	October 2007
2003/066/EC	Energy labelling of household electric refrigerators, freezers and their combinations	30 June 2004	1 July 2004
2003/087/EC	Establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community	31 December 2003	23 December 2004
2004/008/EC	On the promotion of cogeneration based on a useful heat demand in the internal energy market	21 February 2006	September 2006
2004/012/EC	Packaging and packaging waste	18 August 2005	September 2006
2004/035/EC	Environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage	30 April 2007	April 2007
2004/042/EC	Limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products	30 October 2005	25 October 2005
2004/098/EC	Restrictions on the marketing and use of pentabromodiphenyl ether in aircraft emergency evacuation systems	1 January 2005	22 December 2004

Directive number	Directive name	Transposition deadline	Date UK transposition completed/or expected to be completed
2004/101/EC	A scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community	13 November 2005	September 2006
2004/107/EC	Relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air	15 February 2007	February 2007
2005/032/EC	Establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for energy-using products	11 August 2007	August 2007
2005/033/EC	The sulphur content of marine fuels	11 August 2006	August 2006
2005/059/EC	Restrictions on marketing and use of certain dangerous substances (Toluene and Trichlorobenzene)	15 December 2006	December 2006
2005/069/EC	Marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations	29 December 2006	December 2006
2006/007/EC	Bathing water quality	24 March 2008	March 2008
2006/011/EC	Pollution caused by dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the community (codified version)	n/a	n/a
2006/012/EC	Waste (codified version)	n/a	n/a
2006/032/EC	Energy end-use efficiency and energy services	17 May 2008	May 2008

I am placing in the Library of the House a list which itemises the directives adopted together with:

(a) the EU deadline for transposition into domestic legislation.

(b) where, appropriate, the final or expected United Kingdom transposition date.

Details of all Directives in force can be found on the Eur-Lex database available on the European Union's website at: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex.

Environmental Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81183]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA is firmly committed to the achievement of environmental management systems ISO 14001 standard in its buildings. A programme of independent accreditation to that standard is under way. The priority is for our larger sites to achieve accreditation and at the end of June, a total of 27 sites (offices and laboratories), covering 78 per cent. of staff in the Department and its Executive Agencies, were accredited to ISO 14001. Three further sites covering eight per cent. of staff in the Department have environmental management systems in place, which are yet to be independently certified to the standard.

DEFRA has submitted data relevant to this question (including external certification) for annual Sustainable Development in Government Reports. The last Report published by the Sustainable Development Commission in December 2005, covering the reporting period April 2004 to March 2005, is available at: http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/watchdog.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commit the Government to compliance with the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard. [85982]

Ian Pearson: On 12 June the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced new sustainable operations targets for the Government estate. Environmental management systems (EMS) are a key enabler in supporting improvements in operational performance on the estate, particularly in areas such as energy, water and waste. Therefore, the new targets included a commitment that all Government Departments should have an EMS in place, based, or modelled upon, a recognised system (such as ISO 14001, or the European regulation EMAS).

Departmental performance against EMS estate targets has been published in annual Sustainable Development in Government Reports. The last report published by the Sustainable Development Commission, the independent watchdog, was in December 2005. It covered the reporting period April 2004 to March 2005 and is available at: http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/watchdog

Farm Subsidies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006 to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten), *Official Report*, column 24W, on farm subsidies, whether the former Chief Executive of the Rural Payments Agency remains on paid leave of absence; when a decision on his future will be made; and if he will make a statement. [73215]

Barry Gardiner: As a priority, DEFRA appointed an interim Chief Executive of the RPA to lead the organisation through the next period, and work has already begun to strengthen the senior management team. The former CEO of the RPA is currently on paid leave and we are in the process of resolving his employment issues through the proper legal procedures in line with the Department's HR good practice.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Single Payment Scheme funds for the period between December 2005 and February 2006 to be paid. [85413]

Barry Gardiner: The EU regulatory payment window for 2005 Single Payment Scheme ran from 1 December 2005 to 30 June 2006. The Rural Payments Agency began to make payments to English farmers in February 2006 and by 30 June over £1.438 billion (94.9 per cent. of total estimated expenditure) had been disbursed. The remaining sums will be paid as soon as possible.

Fisheries

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what share of the EU Fisheries Fund agreed on 19 June will be allocated to *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each other EU member state. [86469]

Mr. Bradshaw: The European Fisheries Fund, which will replace the current Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) from 1 January 2007, will run for seven years with a total budget of €3.849 billion. We anticipate that the UK will be allocated about €122 million. However, the Council regulation has not completed its formal procedures so the figure is subject to confirmation. Therefore the Department does not yet hold specific information relating to other member states.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1729-30W, what report his Department has made to the European Commission on by-catch monitoring under the obligations of Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004. [87342]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK Government's report to the European Commission, on by-catch monitoring, is available on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/fish/sea/conserve/regulation.htm.

Flood and Coastal Defences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the full updating of the National Flood and Coastal Defence database will be completed. [86366]

Ian Pearson: The National Flood and Coastal Defence database has been developed in a number of phases. The latest development means that it can now hold data on structures that help control coastal erosion as well as flood defences, and it is now live and available to staff in both the Environment Agency and the operating authorities. Further development will be planned to meet evolving needs.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's expenditure has been on flood defences in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [86075]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency (EA) is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England. DEFRA has provided £141 million to the EA in grant in aid in 2006-07 up to the end of July. This supports capital improvement projects, maintenance and operation of existing infrastructure, and associated activities such as flood warning, public awareness of flood risk and advising planning authorities with respect to development in areas at risk of flooding.

Local authority expenditure on flood risk management other than capital projects is supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government Revenue Support Grant mechanism.

Capital projects to manage coastal erosion risk often also provide significant benefit in terms of reducing risk of flooding from the sea but expenditure on these is routed directly to local authorities by DEFRA, and is not included in EA grant in aid. It would not be possible to identify the proportion resulting in flood risk benefit without incurring disproportionate cost.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Environment Agency has made of the flood defence systems in Robertsbridge, East Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [86887]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency's current assessment of the Robertsbridge flood defence systems is that they are in very good condition and able to function in accordance with the design.

However, modifications, which will improve the Agency's response time during a flood incident, are to be made to the road crossing defences this summer in time for the start of the flood season.

GM Crops

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what genetically modified crops are licensed to be grown in the UK. [87519]

Ian Pearson: Only one type of genetically modified (GM) maize seed, Monsanto's MON 810, is currently approved and being made available for commercial cultivation in the European Union. MON 810 is not suitable for UK growing conditions.

Greyhound Racing Industry

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from animal welfare organisations on the decision by the greyhound racing industry to pursue self-regulation; and if he will make a statement. [86535]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has received representations from a number of animal welfare organisations about regulating greyhound racing.

I recently received a joint letter from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Dogs Trust and the League Against Cruel Sports outlining their concerns on the self-regulation of greyhound racing. These organisations are represented

on DEFRA's Greyhound Working Group—set up to examine the welfare aspects of greyhound racing and to offer advice to Ministers and officials on future regulations and a code of practice. This group has yet to make any recommendations.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reconsider the decision not to include proposals for statutory provision for greyhound racing in the Animal Welfare Bill. [87343]

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to promote the welfare of retired greyhounds. [87137]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Animal Welfare Bill, currently before Parliament, will introduce an offence of failing to provide for the welfare needs of an animal. This will apply to owners and keepers of all animals, including racing and retired greyhounds. In addition, we are considering making specific regulations under the Animal Welfare Bill in relation to the welfare of racing greyhounds. We consider that these regulations are better contained in secondary legislation rather than on the face of the Bill.

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many racing greyhounds were killed at the end of their working lives in each of the last five years. [87402]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government do not hold such information.

H7N3 Virus (Norfolk)

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what compensation is available for Norfolk poultry farmers whose poultry has been culled as a consequence of the outbreak of the H7N3 virus. [68649]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* Under the Animal Health Act 1981, compensation is payable for all healthy birds culled for disease control purposes; the amount is the value of the bird immediately before slaughter. This applies to all birds suffering from any strain of avian influenza, regardless of whether it is of high or low pathogenicity. We also provide compensation for eggs or other property that is destroyed.

In the recent cases of H7N3 in Norfolk, the affected poultry owners will receive compensation for all birds slaughtered because the mortality rate was low and slaughter was conducted on suspicion of disease.

Landscape Management

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned into (i) the capability of farmers to continue to manage the landscape and (ii) possible further changes to the Single Farm Payment to encourage this. [85120]

Barry Gardiner: The Government are committed to conserving and enhancing the countryside and biodiversity and recognise the key role played by farmers and other land managers. The introduction of Environmental Stewardship (ES) in 2005 was recognition of the benefits that can be delivered by farming and provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land. Together with the introduction of cross-compliance conditions under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS), this will ensure that the English landscape continues to be protected and enhanced. It will also encourage the retention, if not expansion, of countryside management skills.

Past research has considered implications of common agricultural policy Reform on land management, including the take-up of agri-environment schemes. A new research programme was set up last year to monitor the impacts of the introduction of the SPS on farm level change and the environment under the Agricultural Change and Environment Observatory Programme, details of which are at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/observatory/index.htm. The results of that programme will help inform the UK negotiating position in future EU discussions on both the SPS rules and wider CAP reform.

Environmental Stewardship has also an evaluation strategy, available at http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/pdfs/es/ES-EvaluationPlan-Feb06.pdf, and is supported by research and monitoring programmes. The projects under these ES programmes tend to focus on issues such as 'effectiveness', 'efficiency' and 'improvements' relating to the management options of the scheme. The 'capability of farmers' is not investigated independently but is a factor that can influence the outputs of these projects.

Methane

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken *(a)* in England and *(b)* internationally to reduce the effects of methane emissions. [84239]

Ian Pearson: UK methane emissions between 1990 and 2004 fell by an estimated 50 per cent., mainly as a consequence of reductions in sectors such as waste, agriculture, coal mining and natural gas distribution.

More recycling, helped by the introduction of the landfill tax, and an increase in the capture of landfill gas for energy recovery, has led to an estimated 63 per cent. fall in landfill emissions since 1990. There has been a 40 per cent. decrease in landfill emissions since 1999, when the Government increased the landfill tax to £10 per tonne of waste. Agriculture accounts for around 41 per cent. of UK methane emissions, and emissions from this sector have fallen by an estimated 13 per cent. since 1990.

We are currently reviewing our approach to anaerobic digestion, which can help to capture and utilise emissions from manures and slurries, as part of the Government's response to the Biomass Taskforce Report. Additionally we are continuing to fund research on options to reduce direct emissions from ruminants.

Methane emissions from coal mining fell by more than 70 per cent. between 1990 and 2004 due to the closure of coal mines as a consequence of fuel switching in the energy supply industry and UK Coal participation in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme. Methane gas extracted from mines and used as fuel has

been exempt from the climate change levy since 2003. This exemption encourages the owners of mining facilities and decommissioned mines to invest in systems that capture methane that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere.

Fugitive emissions from natural gas have fallen by about 39 per cent. between 1990 and 2004. National Grid Gas, which owns and maintains the UK gas distribution network, is continuing to improve the UK gas network. Internationally, the UK is taking an active role in the international Methane to Markets Partnership, and will co-chair a new Agriculture Sub-Committee with Argentina. This will examine the scope for capturing methane from animal wastes in a cost-effective way.

Nanotechnology Products

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish details of the Government's timetable for the introduction of mandatory regulations for nanotechnology products; and whether they will apply retrospectively for those products already on the market in the UK. [83267]

Ian Pearson: From a review the Department has undertaken and has published on the DEFRA website, I am assured that much of our current legislation addresses risks from materials regardless of their size. DEFRA has responsibility for the possible environmental risks from nanomaterials. If there are environmental risks which need controlling, irrespective of whether the cause of the risk is already marketed or not, they will be appropriately controlled and emergency powers are available if needed.

I am aware that very small materials may pose new risks and it is with that in mind that the UK are moving towards a framework of appropriate control. We are therefore currently gathering evidence to see if these types of products represent a hazard or risk to the environment that would require additional control. Our evidence-gathering phase, working across the UK Government, is scheduled to cover the next two years, at which point it is intended that there will be a fundamental review of the need for control. Given this, there are no plans for the mandatory regulation of nanotechnology products and hence no plans for publication.

DEFRA recently consulted on this approach. The consultation period ended on 23 June but information is still available on the DEFRA website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/nanotech-vrs/index.htm

Natural England

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any of the current functions of *(a)* English Nature and *(b)* the Countryside Agency will be discarded in the transfer of responsibilities to Natural England. [87072]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 July 2006]*: None of the current functions of English Nature or the Countryside Agency will be discarded in the transfer of responsibilities to Natural England, although some of the Countryside Agency's responsibilities will transfer to the Commission for Rural Communities rather than to Natural England. We took the opportunity in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to consolidate and simplify the way in which the roles of these bodies have been described in legislation since the 1940s. However the statutory purpose of Natural England is deliberately drawn widely to encompass everything which the predecessor bodies were able to do. It will, of course, be a matter for the Board of Natural England, in consultation with Ministers, to decide how to distribute its resources between its various functions.

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in amalgamating English Nature and the Countryside Agency to form Natural England. [87074]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 July 2006]*: Significant progress has been made towards establishing Natural England. For over a year, the constituent bodies that are to form the new agency have been operating as a confederation of partners working together under a common overarching vision and purpose. In May this year we established Natural England as a "skeleton body", with Chair, members and senior officers, to undertake preparatory work. In June, this skeleton body published a document setting out its "Strategic Direction". Work is well under way on the remaining arrangements for Natural England to take on its full statutory functions on 1 October.

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what new responsibilities Natural England will have in addition to those arising from the transfer of tasks from the Countryside Agency and English Nature. [87075]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 July 2006]*: In addition to the transfer of responsibilities from the Countryside Agency and English Nature, Natural England will also assume responsibility for the majority of the functions which are currently undertaken by DEFRA's Rural Development Service. Principal among these is the administration of agri-environment schemes. The functions will be formally set out in an agreement, under part 8 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, between the Secretary of State and Natural England.

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how Natural England will co-ordinate its activities with other Government bodies with responsibilities for the natural environment, with particular reference to the Environment Agency. [87076]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 July 2006]*: Natural England will need to work effectively with a wide range of stakeholders at both the national and the regional level. Our Rural Strategy 2004 confirmed the particular importance we attach to the need for Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency to work closely together. A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed in September 2005 setting out how this could be achieved and it was a subject of lively debate during the passage of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill. The first major collaborative

project between Natural England and the Environment Agency, on catchment sensitive farming, has begun.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83974]

Barry Gardiner: Since his appointment my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has visited the South East three times, and the North West, the South West, and the West Midlands each once. In addition he has undertaken numerous engagements in London.

Onshore Windfarms

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the levels of carbon emissions relating to onshore windfarms. [86888]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

Once a windfarm has been commissioned it produces no carbon emission.

Of the carbon used in the development of a windfarm, the Sustainable Development Commission's report published November 2005 makes clear that "the energy pay back for a windfarm is 3-10 months."

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from their website. http://www.sd-commission.org.uk

Orang-utans

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to prevent the habitat of the orang-utan being destroyed in *(a)* Malaysia, *(b)* Indonesia and *(c)* other countries by the increased use of palm oil. [83595]

Barry Gardiner: The Government are very conscious that increasing consumption of goods and services in the UK can have environmental and social consequences overseas. DEFRA is commissioning research on the environmental impacts of internationally sourced commodity production, and palm oil is one of the commodities being investigated. The results of the research will inform future policy development in the UK and abroad.

We are also working hard in a number of areas to tackle the important issue of natural habitat loss that might affect the orang-utan.

For example, the UK Government have been the major financial supporter of the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) run by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). More information is available at: http://www.unep.org/grasp.

In October 2005, EU Agriculture Ministers finalised new legislation on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) that will allow the EU to enter into agreements with developing countries to provide them with assistance to tackle illegal logging.

The Government are also seeking to address concerns regarding the use of palm oil for transport bio-fuel production. We are proposing to develop a carbon and sustainability assurance scheme to ensure that the best transport bio-fuels are used in the UK. The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership is looking to define the principal environmental criteria required to protect sensitive eco-systems and will prepare a draft environmental standard to apply to all fuels, including imports.

Organic Food

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of organic food sold in the UK which was produced in the UK; what powers the UK has to check the authenticity of organic food imported from abroad; and if he will make a statement. [85947]

Barry Gardiner: It is estimated that overall the percentage of organic food sold in the UK which was produced in the UK increased from 30 per cent. in 2002, to 44 per cent. in 2005. For food which can be produced in the UK the estimate for 2005 is 62 per cent. The Soil Association[1] estimates that in 2005, 66 per cent. of the organic primary produce sold by multiple retailers was sourced in the UK.

Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91 requires organic food imported from outside the EU to be produced to EU standards for organic production. The European Commission has recognised certain third countries as having equivalent systems of production and control. Otherwise decisions on equivalence are taken by the member states in response to requests from individual importers for the authorisations required for importing organic produce from third countries not recognised by the European Commission for this purpose.

[1] *Source:*

Organic Market Report 2006—published by the Soil Association—data collected by Soil Association from Tesco, Sainsburys and the Co-op.

Pet Cemeteries

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what agreement he has reached with the Environment Agency on landfill licensing fees for small pet cemeteries; and if he will make a statement. [86594]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 May 2006, *Official Report,* column 1915W.

DEFRA officials, working with the Environment Agency, have now completed their investigation into the scope for taking an alternative approach to the permitting of pet cemeteries. We expect to announce a proposal very shortly.

Recreational Boaters

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the Environment Agency proposes to increase its charges to recreational boaters. [86295]

Barry Gardiner: The Environment Agency has a significant backlog of work on its waterways assets. Over the past year it has made considerable capital investment towards reducing the backlog but in order for waterways to remain sustainable in the future, boaters will need to pay a fair and proportionate contribution towards their upkeep.

Recycling in Schools

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recycling targets his Department has set for schools; and if he will make a statement; [86133]

(2) how much funding has been allocated for school recycling projects in England; and if he will make a statement; [86260]

(3) what discussions he has had with schools on (*a*) increasing the provision of recycling facilities and (*b*) promoting recycling awareness in schools. [86261]

Mr. Bradshaw: No recycling targets have been specifically set by the Government for schools. However, DEFRA does provide financial support for the operation of Eco-Schools, an international programme developed by the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE) and managed in England by Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS). Eco-Schools promotes environmental awareness around nine main themes, one of which is waste minimisation and recycling.

Eco-Schools involves the whole school (pupils, teachers, non-teaching employees and governors) together with members of the local community (parents, the local authority, the media and local businesses). The scheme enables schools to enter for an internationally recognised award, the highest level of which is the Green Flag, with intermediary awards of bronze and silver. Over 3,000 schools are currently registered, including 500 schools that have achieved Green Flag status.

DEFRA will be providing £40,000 of funding for Eco-Schools in 2006-07. £100,000 is also provided from non-grant sources, mainly from other sponsorship.

In addition, from April 2006 the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) will be carrying out work with schools, including continuation of the Cycler assemblies, as part of their waste awareness programme. Many local authorities are involved with waste education work, both independently and with WRAP. The Environment Action Fund also funds some projects that work with young people on issues around sustainable consumption.

Sakhalin Island (Pipelines)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the monitoring of the construction of onshore oil and gas pipelines on Sakhalin Island to ensure that it meets environmental standards; and how the information is verified. [87576]

Ian Pearson: The Government have been closely involved in the Sakhalin project from both an environmental and social viewpoint. There has been close monitoring of the onshore construction of oil and gas pipelines by the potential lender group, including the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Officials from both ECGD and the Department for International Development have visited the island and some of the construction sites.

Additionally, environmental consultants acting on behalf of the potential lenders are carrying out regular monitoring and verification of the project's performance.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department has received on how many rivers on Sakhalin Island were crossed with oil and gas pipelines as part of the Sakhalin II project outside the designated winter period detailed in the River Crossing Strategy. [87577]

Ian Pearson: The designated winter period for crossing rivers as part of the Sakhalin II project is 1 December to 30 April.

Dates on which the rivers were crossed with oil and gas pipelines are available at the Sakhalin Energy website at:

http://www.sakhalinenergy.com/en/project.asp?p=rc_list.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures his Department has taken to ensure that there are sufficient safeguards in place to prevent a net loss of salmon spawning area on Sakhalin Island as a result of construction activities by the Sakhalin II consortium; and if he will make a statement. [87578]

Ian Pearson: The Department has gathered information to ensure there are safeguards in place to prevent a net loss of salmon spawning area on Sakhalin Island. Information gathered on the effect of the Sakhalin II project on salmon spawning habitats includes:

- Official and ministerial meetings with Shell;
- Information included in Sakhalin Energy's River Crossing Strategy;
- Monitoring information published by Sakhalin Energy on its website;
- Information gathered during site visits carried out by Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) and other potential lenders and their independent consultants.

Sakhalin Energy has committed itself to ensuring no net loss of habitat. DEFRA will be monitoring performance through its close working relationships with the relevant departments such as ECGD, who, together with other agencies such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), have commissioned independent monitoring of the project.

Sewage Sludge in Agriculture Regulations

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date the Sewage Sludge in Agriculture Regulations will be implemented. [86560]

Ian Pearson: The Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations came into force in 1989. We have consulted on proposed revisions and are currently seeking views from stakeholders before making recommendations on how best to proceed.

Six-day Movement Rule

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he made the last assessment of the six-day movement rule; and if he will make a statement. [87002]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 525W.

I subsequently announced, on 7 February 2006, an independent review of the livestock movements rules. When announcing the review I made it clear that the length of the movement standstills applicable to any species was out of scope. I expect to receive the report shortly.

Slow Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote slow food. [84734]

Barry Gardiner: Under DEFRA's regional food strategy we have, since 2003, been providing an additional £1 million per year to support the quality regional food sector in England. Food from Britain (FFB) take the lead in the delivery of a national programme of activity that supports producers in the sector. In taking forward this programme of activities, which focuses on trade development, consumer awareness and business competitiveness, FFB work together with a range of organisations, including Slow Food UK.

A good example of this is ensuring a strong British presence at Slow Food's biennial Salone del Gusto food show held in Turin. Both organisations have worked well together for the last two shows in recruiting quality regional food producers for the event and in providing the necessary logistical support at the show. This close co-operation is continuing this year in preparation for the 2006 Salone del Gusto taking place in October.

Timber

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether members of his Department with responsibility for the Central Point of Expertise on Timber *(a)* have visited and *(b)* have plans to visit (i) Malaysia, (ii) Finland and (iii) Tasmania; and if he will make a statement. [85505]

Barry Gardiner: An official from the Department with responsibility for the Central Point of Expertise on Timber has visited Finland and Malaysia on official business. There are currently no arrangements for a visit to Tasmania.

Warm Front

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households in England are eligible for assistance under the Warm Front programme; and how the overall number of eligible households has changed as a result of revisions to qualifying benefits in each year since 2000. [82896]

Ian Pearson: According to the eligibility criteria for 2004-05, around 2.8 million households in the private sector were eligible for Warm Front.

Approximately 40 per cent. of these households were in receipt of disability benefits only. The eligibility criteria have stayed broadly the same since 2000, with major changes only occurring because of changes to the benefits or tax credit system, for example the replacement of income support for those of pension age with pension credit, and the replacement of working families and disabled persons tax credit with working and child tax credits. These changes had a minimal impact on the overall number of eligible households.

Water

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work has been carried out to establish the background levels of fluoxetine in the aquatic environment; and what estimate he has made of the amount of residues from *(a)* antidepressant and *(b)* other drugs in the (i) livers, (ii) brains and (iii) muscle of fish. [84064]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency has developed analytical methods for the detection of fluoxetine to levels of 0.002 microgrammes per litre (g/l) and norfluoxetine to 0.005 g/l. Monitoring was undertaken during 2005 downstream of a number of sewage works across England and Wales and fluoxetine (including norfluoxetine) was detected in 90 per cent. of the 39 samples. The average concentration detected was 0.017 g/l. An Environment Agency briefing on fluoxetine is available at: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/fluoextine_1068996.pdf

As a follow-up to studies commissioned by the Environment Agency, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) has investigated the presence of pharmaceutical products, including the antidepressant Lofepramine, in the liver and muscles of a small number of pike in the Grand Union Canal. Pike are predatory fish and thus exhibit the highest levels of any residues likely to enter the food chain. Lofepramine was not detected in any of the samples.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* levels of pre-tax profits and *(b)* increases in water charges imposed by water companies. [80614]

Ian Pearson: Water companies made profits of £2.1 billion in 2004-05. The Government recognise that companies have to pay a return on their capital. However, water companies can only increase their profits by becoming more efficient and delivering all their services at less cost. These savings are also passed to customers in lower bills when the next price limits are set.

Average water and sewerage bills for household customers in England and Wales increased by 5.5 per cent. (including inflation) in April 2006. Customers' bills rose by an average of £15, from £279 to £294. The increases are in line with the price limits set by the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) for 2005-10 and will contribute towards a total capital investment programme of £16.8 billion for environmental and service improvements.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much water on average was consumed by each person in England in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by water company. [84126]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat provides the Government with water consumption figures for England and Wales via the annual security of supply, leakage and the efficient use of water report. Household water consumption is expressed in litres per head per day.

The following table provides company estimates of average household consumption for 2004-05.

	2004-05
Water and sewerage companies (WaSC)	
Anglian	143
Dwr Cymru	151
Northumbrian North	146
Northumbrian South	158
Severn Trent	132
SouthWest	161
Southern	157
Thames	159
United Utilities	142
Wessex	146
Yorkshire	145
WaSC Average	147
Water only companies (WoC)	
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	167
Bristol	153
Cambridge	148
Dee Valley	145
Folkestone and Dover	159
Mid Kent	167
Portsmouth	159
South East	173
South Staffordshire	146
Sutton and East Surrey	173
Tendring Hundred	125
Three Valleys	178
WoC Average	165
Industry Average	150

Notes:
1. Averages are weighted by population of unmeasured households.
2. Excludes underground supply pipe leakage.
3. The 2004-05 report can be accessed on the Ofwat website at: http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/leakage04-05.pdf/$FILE/leakage_04-05.pdf

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much water consumption per head of population was planned by each water company in 2005-06. [84954]

Ian Pearson: All water companies in England and Wales prepared new water resources plans in 2004. The plans provided forecasts of per capita consumption (pcc) from 2005-06 to 2029-30. The following table shows pcc forecasts for 2005-06. These represent the theoretical average demand for water in a dry year, excluding the impact of any restrictions on water use. These numbers have been calculated from water companies' forecasts of measured and unmeasured pcc.

Water company	*Forecast pcc in 2005-06 (litres/head/day)*
Anglian Water	147
Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water	171
Bristol Water	149
Cambridge Water	152
Cholderton and District Water	171
Dee Valley Water	158
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water	166
Essex and Suffolk Water	165
Folkestone and Dover Water	169
Mid Kent Water	170
Northumbrian Water	150
Portsmouth Water	169
Severn Trent Water	137
South East Water	185
South Staffordshire Water	155
South West Water	163
Southern Water	168
Sutton and East Surrey Water	187
Tendring Hundred Water	131
Thames Water	168
Three Valleys Water	183
United Utilities	154
Wessex Water	147
Yorkshire Water	150

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much water was lost as a result of water leaks in London in each year since 1997. [87724]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. It collects leakage information from companies on their performance against these targets. This information is published annually in Ofwat's 'Security of supply, leakage and the efficient use of water report'.

Thames Water is the water supply company for the majority of customers in London. Some customers are supplied by Three Valleys Water, Essex and Suffolk Water, or Sutton and East Surrey Water. Ofwat collects leakage on the basis of company supply area only. Specific figures relating to London are not available.

Wildlife Sites

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards bringing 95 per cent. of all nationally important wildlife sites into favourable condition by 2010. [85460]

Barry Gardiner: As of 3 July 2006, 72.7 per cent. of the area of England covered by sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) was in favourable or recovering condition, compared with 56.9 per cent. in March 2003. This is good progress towards England's public service agreement target for SSSIs and in line with our trajectory to achieve 95 per cent. by 2010.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Divisions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House how many divisions were called off in each of the last three sessions due to failure to provide tellers; what the *(a)* date and *(b)* subject under discussion was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [87222]

Mr. Straw: The Journal Office of the House of Commons has supplied the following information for the last three Sessions, and for the current Session to date:

Session	*Date*	*Business*
2002-03	20 May 2003	Criminal Justice Bill (Report stage)
2003-04	None	—
2004-05	None	—
2005-06[1]	31 January 2006	Racial and Religious Hatred Bill (Programme) (No. 2)

[1] To 18 July 2006.

Early-day motions (E-tabling)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Leader of the House whether he has examined the merits of enabling e-tabling of Early Day Motions; and if he will make a statement. [87730]

Mr. Straw: This is essentially a matter for the House. The Government are however aware of concerns about the principle of electronic tabling for parliamentary proceedings without strong safeguards to ensure that any new system is not open to abuse, and that the Member concerned is personally responsible at each stage. I understand that the Procedure Committee is currently examining matters relating to EDMs, including the procedures for their tabling. I look forward to the Committee's recommendations.

Parliamentary Questions

Anne Main: To ask the Leader of the House what steps he is taking to ensure that ministerial answers to parliamentary questions address the terms of the questions being asked. [87753]

Mr. Straw: In answering parliamentary questions, as in other areas, Ministers are subject to the obligations set out in the Ministerial Code, which states that:

> "It is of paramount importance that Ministers give accurate and truthful information to Parliament... Ministers should be as open as possible with Parliament and the public, refusing to provide information only when disclosure would not be in the public interest".

Ministerial answers should reflect the terms of the questions asked.

As I have already indicated to the House, I have raised the answering of parliamentary questions directly with ministerial colleagues. This covered the issue of content as well as the issue of timeliness.

Anne Main: To ask the Leader of the House if he will ask the Modernisation Committee to examine the degree to which the quality of replies to parliamentary questions enables Ministers to be held accountable by hon. Members. [88280]

Mr. Straw: I have no plans to do so. I understand that the Procedure Committee may be considering an inquiry into parliamentary questions later this year. The Public Administration Select Committee (and its predecessor the Public Service Committee) has conducted regular inquiries since 1995-96 into aspects of the answers to parliamentary questions.

I also refer the hon. Member to the adjournment debate on written parliamentary questions of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 344-60, in which the role of parliamentary questions in contributing to ministerial accountability was discussed, including the pressure being placed on the system by the quantity of questions being tabled.

TRANSPORT

A13

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for improving the A13; what improvements were made to the A13 between Basildon and Southend-on-Sea during 2005; and if he will make a statement. [87256]

Dr. Ladyman: The A13 is the responsibility of the Secretary of State only between its junctions with the A1306 and A1089. We have no plans at present for improvements to this section of road. The remainder of the A13 is the responsibility of Southend on Sea borough council and Essex county council. Improvements to these sections of the road are therefore matters for these authorities. In his announcement of 6 July about Regional Funding Allocations, the Secretary of State approved entry into the programme of a scheme promoted by Essex county council for the improvement of the junction of the A13 with the A130 at Sadler's Farm.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* minor and *(b)* serious accidents occurred on the A13 between the A405 and the M25 in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [87258]

Dr. Ladyman: I presume the hon. Member means the A406. The number of serious and slight personal injury road accidents reported to the police on the A13 between the A406 and the M25 from 1996 to 2005 is given in the table.

Accidents occurring on A13 between A406 and M25: 1996-2005

	Serious	*Slight*
1996	41	189
1997	52	194
1998	33	188
1999	12	100
2000	27	153
2001	22	119
2002	17	107
2003	30	91
2004	28	122
2005	12	92

A21

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on properties purchased by the Highways Agency under compulsory purchase orders along the proposed A21 upgrade route. [86739]

Dr. Ladyman: No properties on this route have been compulsory purchased.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the environmental consequences of the proposed A21 upgrade. [87925]

Dr. Ladyman: The environmental consequences of the proposed A21 upgrade schemes are being assessed in accordance with the prescribed methodology set out in Volume 11 of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with residents in East Sussex regarding the proposed A21 upgrade. [87926]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has had discussions with residents in East Sussex, regarding the proposed A21 upgrade, as part of public consultation undertaken from November 2002 onwards.

Discussions will continue with individuals and representative and statutory bodies on the issues raised by the proposals.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role *(a)* Rother district council and *(b)* East Sussex county council have played in the proposed A21 upgrade. [87929]

Dr. Ladyman: Rother district council and East Sussex county council have participated in the A21 upgrade consultation processes that have taken place both prior to and following the publication of the Access to Hastings Multi Modal Study.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has spent on consultation fees while assessing the proposed A21 upgrade. [87930]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency spent £8,181.44 (ex-VAT) on the A21 upgrade consultation process that took place following the Access to Hastings Multi Modal Study.

These costs were incurred between April 2002 and February 2005 prior to Preferred Route announcements for the Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst improvement and the Flimwell to Robertsbridge improvement.

Accident Statistics

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal traffic accidents there were in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87498]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrians have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured by vehicles in each of the last 10 years. [87123]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of pedestrians killed in personal injury road accidents reported to the police for the years up to 2004 is published in Table 2 of Road Casualties Great Britain: 2004. Pedestrian fatalities for 2005 are published in Table 1 of Road Casualties Great Britain: Main Results: 2005.

The number of pedestrian injured in personal injury road accidents reported to the police over the last 10 years up to 2004 can be obtained from the in Table 5c of Road Casualties Great Britain: 2004 and Road Casualties Great Britain: 2002. The number of pedestrians injured in 2005 can be obtained from Table 1 of Road Casualties Great Britain: Main Results: 2005.

Copies of these publications are in the Library.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents occurred on or near pedestrian crossings in each year since 1997; and how many of these accidents involved the *(a)* death and *(b)* injury of pedestrians. [87124]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police that occurred on or within 50 m of a pedestrian crossing facility, and those that involved a pedestrian death or injury are given in the table.

Accidents on or within 50 m of a pedestrian crossing facility: 1997-2005

	All accidents	*Accidents involving pedestrian death*	*Accidents involving pedestrian injury*
1997	34,881	247	10,889
1998	35,679	229	11,007
1999	35,455	225	10,706
2000	34,835	213	10,433
2001	33,979	195	10,188
2002	33,999	206	9,948
2003	33,018	232	9,582
2004	30,824	181	9,171
2005	29,610	183	8,844

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hit-and-run incidents there have been in each London borough in each of the last five years. [86772]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police which involved one or more hit and run drivers or riders for the years 2001-05, in each London borough is given in the table.

Number of personal injury accidents involving one or more hit and run drivers/riders by London borough: 2001-05

	Number of accidents				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Barking	65	83	78	89	81
Barnet	169	217	191	178	153
Bexley	86	86	81	65	70
Brent	209	234	199	195	142
Bromley	102	153	95	97	106
Camden	255	237	212	161	103
City of London	72	53	35	51	33
Croydon	187	193	183	177	158
Ealing	163	225	217	175	169
Enfield	183	253	225	215	146
Greenwich	126	189	153	119	129
Hackney	265	292	235	224	187
Hammersmith	116	142	136	111	124
Haringey	232	252	237	176	120
Harrow	75	83	73	76	63
Havering	72	93	103	95	59
Hillingdon	113	131	130	101	91
Hounslow	186	154	184	137	105
Islington	244	252	195	143	114
Kensington and Chelsea	83	124	108	75	88
Kingston upon Thames	48	41	34	42	37
Lambeth	297	304	305	203	161
Lewisham	201	206	202	160	136
Merton	72	88	88	53	52
Newham	249	254	202	143	195
Redbridge	194	166	215	162	157
Richmond upon Thames	91	69	69	54	45
Southwark	293	294	271	170	171
Sutton	67	49	56	46	42
Tower Hamlets	228	209	208	164	151
Waltham Forest	177	184	195	161	157
Wandsworth	134	201	141	137	106
Westminster	326	335	317	231	200

Source:
Transport for London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents there were involving *(a)* pedestrians, *(b)* buses, *(c)* trams and *(d)* cyclists in London in each year since 1997. [87499]

Dr. Ladyman: The numbers of personal injury accidents reported to the police involving *(a)* pedestrian casualties, *(b)* buses, *(c)* trams and *(d)* cyclists in London in each year since 1997 are given in the following table.

Personal injury accidents by vehicle type: London: 1997-2005

	Number of accidents			
	With pedestrian casualties	Involving a bus or coach	Involving a tram[1]	Involving pedal cycles
1997	8,919	2,776	—	4,482
1998	8,778	2,957	—	4,359
1999	8,748	3,083	2	4,251
2000	8,351	3,188	9	3,586
2001	7,903	3,153	3	3,379
2002	7,238	2,862	6	3,104
2003	6,905	3,098	9	3,129
2004	6,206	2,939	10	3,021
2005	5,852	2,658	6	2,979

[1] Data for accidents involving trams are only available from 1999 onwards
Source:
Transport for London

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many sleep-related traffic accidents occurred on motorways in each of the past three years; how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries were incurred; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of such accidents. [87584]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer to my answers to my hon. Friend the Member for South Swindon (Anne Snelgrove) of 28 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 153W and to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 740W.

Bicycle Bells

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce legislation to make it a requirement for all bicycles to be fitted with bells at all times whilst being ridden. [87358]

Dr. Ladyman: Bells are currently required to be fitted at the point of sale of a bicycle, but there is no obligation to retain the bell when the cycle is in use, or indeed for the bell to be used.

New harmonised European construction standards for bicycles come into force in November this year. Although they do not cover bicycle bells, the introduction of these standards makes this a sensible moment to review our current policies on cycle construction, including the question of bells.

I would of course undertake a public consultation before making any proposal to amend regulations.

Boat Collisions (River Thames)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many collisions of boats there were on the River Thames in each of the last five years. [87786]

Dr. Ladyman: For each of the five years from 2001 to 2005 the total numbers of collisions involving all types of craft in the Thames area recorded by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) are:

	Number
2001	1
2002	2
2003	3
2004	3
2005	6

Boat Licences

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many boat licences were granted in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87501]

Dr. Ladyman: This information is not held by the Department for Transport.

Bus Driver Tests

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the pass rate was in each of the last three financial years for driving tests conducted by the Driving Standards Agency examiners on bus driver candidates; and how many bus driver candidates passed in each year. [87858]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table shows PCV (bus) tests conducted, number of passes and the pass rate for the last three financial years. Only tests conducted by DSA examiners are included.

	Number tests	*Number passes*	*Pass rate (percentage)*
2003-04	10,083	4,591	45.5
2004-05	12,251	5,369	43.8
2005-06	11,648	5,175	44.4

Cargo Transfers

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his Answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 258W, on cargo transfers, what guidance his Department has issued to harbour authorities on applying for *(a)* Harbour Revision Orders and *(b)* other orders under the Harbours Act 1964; and whether such guidance applies only in England and Wales. [87808]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has published advice on the procedures for obtaining Harbour Orders on the Department's website at http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_shipping/documents/page/dft_shipping_611467.hcsp.

The guidance applies only to England and Wales.

Crossrail

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies he has undertaken on the likely impact of Crossrail on the Heathrow Express. [86265]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* The report of the Crossrail Timetable Working Group, published on 22 June 2006, considers the impact of Crossrail services on existing rail services and future services allowing for growth, including Heathrow Express. A copy of the report can be found on my Department's website: http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_railways/documents/page/dft_railways_611918.pdf

Cycling Accidents

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious and *(c)* slight injuries suffered by cyclists on (i) urban roads and (ii) rural roads in each year since 2003 resulted from collisions involving (A) at least one motor vehicle, (B) no motor vehicles and (C) powered two-wheel vehicles. [87211]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is given in the table. The figures relate to casualties in personal injury road accidents reported to the police.

Cyclist Casualties on Urban and Rural Roads, by Vehicle Involved in an Accident: 2003-05

Accidents involving:		*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Motor vehicle				
Urban	Fatal	58	67	65
	Serious	1,644	1,537	1,628
	Slight	12,041	11,877	11,787
Rural	Fatal	46	52	65
	Serious	479	477	432
	Slight	2,170	2,063	2,083
No motor vehicle				
Urban	Fatal	60	73	73
	Serious	1,739	1,635	1,728
	Slight	12,352	12,186	12,023
Rural	Fatal	54	61	75
	Serious	552	538	484
	Slight	2,258	2,138	2,173
Two-wheeled motor vehicle				
Urban	Fatal	2	2	2
	Serious	37	41	30
	Slight	234	225	217
Rural	Fatal	0	0	3
	Serious	8	14	13
	Slight	56	38	47

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have *(a)* died and *(b)* received serious head injuries as a result of a cycling accident in each of the last 10 years. [87212]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of fatalities in personal injury road accidents reported to the police involving cyclists is given in the table.

Fatalities in accidents involving a cyclist, Great Britain, 1996-2005

	Number
1996	209
1997	192
1998	164
1999	184
2000	138
2001	141

Fatalities in accidents involving a cyclist, Great Britain, 1996-2005

	Number
2002	138
2003	120
2004	139
2005	157

The Department does not collect information on the type of injuries sustained during personal injury road accidents, and cannot identify serious head injuries.

Delegated Examiners

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements for conducting tests and keeping proper records have to be in place before he will grant his approval to the appointment of delegated examiners. [87836]

Dr. Ladyman: Before an organisation is approved to use delegated examiners it is visited by the local Supervising Driving Examiner. This is to confirm that all the necessary arrangements are in place to ensure that driving tests are conducted fairly and properly and under similar conditions to those conducted by DSA's own examiners.

Delegated examiners are required to submit monthly returns to DSA including pass and fail statistics and the number of pass certificates and driving test reports issued. They are also required to notify the Agency if they have not conducted any tests during the month.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driver Standards Agency has a dedicated team of people who supervise the operations of Passenger Carrying Vehicle delegated examiners. [87844]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driving Standards Agency's (DSA) sector managers are responsible for supervising delegated examiners. All sector managers are supervising driving examiners who undertake this quality assurance work as part of their general standards maintenance duties. DSA has 38 sector managers in post.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in the Driver Standards Agency work solely on conducting supervised Passenger Carrying Vehicle delegated examiner check tests. [87845]

Dr. Ladyman: None. The 38 sector managers in the Driving Standards Agency undertake this quality assurance work as part of their general standards maintenance duties.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether research has been undertaken by his Department into the effectiveness and safety of Passenger Carrying Vehicle delegated examiners conducting tests. [87851]

Dr. Ladyman: No research has been undertaken.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when passenger carrying vehicle delegated examiners were first introduced. [87852]

Dr. Ladyman: Delegated examiners for the passenger carrying transport industry were introduced by a predecessor to the Department for Transport at least 30 years ago. Responsibility for the scheme passed to the Driving Standards Agency when the Agency was established in September 1990.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what fee is charged by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) to train a passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) delegated examiner; and what income DSA has earned from training PCV delegated examiners in each of the last three financial years. [87853]

Dr. Ladyman: The charge for each full four-week course is £4,000 per trainee. Trainees who need to repeat only part of the course pay a proportional fee.

The income generated from delegated PCV examiner training fees in each of the last three financial years was:

	£
2003-04	29,000
2004-05	34,000
2005-06	49,000

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many actual supervised (check) driving tests the Driving Standards Agency undertook on passenger carrying vehicle delegated examiners in each the last three financial years; and how many tests were cancelled in each year. [87855]

Dr. Ladyman: 78 supervisory tests were conducted during the period 2005-06. No data about supervisory tests were collected before that time.

No supervisory tests have been cancelled.

Driver Numbers

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of drivers aged *(a)* 18 to 21 and *(b)* over 60 years in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990 and (iii) 2005 expressed (A) as a number and (B) as a proportion of the driving population. [87361]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table gives the number of people aged 18 to 21 and over 60 who hold a full driving licence and the proportion of the total number of licence holders in these age groups in 1985-86, 1989-91 and 2004, based on data from the National Travel Survey.

No survey was undertaken in 1980. Only aggregated information is available for 1989-91. Figures for 2005 are not yet available.

Number of full driving licence holders and proportion of total licence holders aged 18 to 21 years and over 60 years

	1985-86	*1989-91*	*2004*
Estimated number of licence holders (million)			
18-21	1.6	1.9	1.1
Over 60	4.1	4.9	7.0
Percentage of total number of licence holders			
18-21	7	7	3
Over 60	17	18	22

Driving Licence Directive

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department has received on the second EC Directive on driving licences, 91/439/EEC. [85986]

Dr. Ladyman: The second EC Directive on driving licences, 91/439/EEC, which was implemented in Great Britain on 1 January 1997, covers a very wide range of subjects relating to driving licensing matters. The Department for Transport receives many enquiries and representations on matters relating to the provisions of this directive.

Driving Safety Forward

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to date is of the Driving Standards Agency's Driving Safety Forward agenda. [87838]

Dr. Ladyman: Cost to date of the Driving Safety Forward project is £349,978.70 (excluding VAT) paid to the Agency's consultants, Symbia.

This excludes costs for staff time which have not been apportioned specifically to the project.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why there was no competitive tender for the contract for the Driving Safety Forward agenda; and how EU procurement rules were complied with in this instance. [87839]

Dr. Ladyman: Competitive tenders for the organisational review consultancy were invited from "OGC Buying.Solutions'" framework contractors. Seven tenders were received.

"OGC Buying.Solutions'" framework contracts have already been advertised and awarded in accordance with EU Procurement Directives.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the end date is for the contract with Symbia Ltd. for the Driver Standards Agency's Driving Safety Forward agenda. [87840]

Dr. Ladyman: In accordance with the latest contract variation, the end date of the contract with Symbia Ltd. is 29 September 2006.

Driving Standards Agency

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors have been employed by the Driving Standards Agency in each of the last three financial years; what type of work each carried out; and how much was spent on each in each year. [87837]

Dr. Ladyman: A table has been placed in the Library which shows information about consultants employed by the Driving Standards Agency in the last three financial years.

Providing the requested information about contractors employed by the Driving Standards Agency would entail disproportionate costs and so is not included.

Driving Tests

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average waiting time for a driving test was *(a)* in England and *(b)* broken down by (i) region and (ii) test centre in each of the last five years. [85810]

Dr. Ladyman: Available figures for number of weeks waiting time nationally, and in each DSA region, in each of the last five years are as follows:

Number of weeks

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
London	—	7.5	11.5	11.0	7.3
Midlands	—	8.6	10.2	8.8	5.8
Northern	—	8.4	10.1	7.8	5.3
Scotland	—	6.7	6.0	5.6	6.2
Wales	—	6.7	7.7	6.5	5.8
National	6.8	7.8	9.6	8.4	6.0

Figures broken down by DSA region in 2001-02 are not available. Such figures, average waiting times for England as a whole, and for individual test centres, could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, sets of tables showing waiting times at each centre during the same week in late March of each of the last five years have been placed in the Library.

EU Directives

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many full-time equivalent staff are working on implementing and administering EU directives, regulations and policies in his Department; [86758]

(2) what the cost to his Department was of implementing and administering EU directives, regulations and policies in 2005-06. [86759]

Dr. Ladyman: Implementation and administration of EU directives, regulations and policies is an important part of the work of the Department for Transport and we seek to do this in a timely and efficient way consistent with the principles of better regulation. Implementation and administration of EU policy is generally carried out by staff as part of their wider work and activity is not broken down in this way. The information requested could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

First Capital Connect (Cheap Day Returns)

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he was first informed of the plans of First Capital Connect to prevent use of cheap day return tickets on former Thameslink services serving Hertfordshire; what representations he made to First Capital Connect about these plans; and whether he took these plans into account in his decision to award the relevant franchise to First Capital Connect. [83563]

Derek Twigg: The First Capital Connect bid included a proposal to restrict the use of day return fares during the evening peak on certain routes. Day returns are fares that are not regulated and it is for operators to decide whether to offer them, at what price and with what restrictions.

All proposals in franchise bids are assessed in their deliverability and their compatibility with current fares policy.

Foreign Officers (Competency Certificates)

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that there are adequate controls on issuing certificates of equivalent competency for foreign officers serving on UK ships. [87548]

Dr. Ladyman: I have asked the Chief Executive of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to establish a working group, including representatives from the shipping industry and trade unions, to examine these issues.

Free Bus Travel

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding the Government are providing to West Lancashire district council to provide free bus travel for *(a)* older and *(b)* disabled persons; and whether it plans to use all of this funding to provide free travel. [83466]

Gillian Merron: The funding for concessionary fares is provided through revenue support grant which is unhypothecated; therefore the funding for concessionary fares is not separately identified. It is for local authorities to deicide on their overall funding priorities based on their judgment of local need and circumstances.

Pensioners and disabled people in England have had an entitlement to free off-peak local bus travel, from April 2006, which will be extended in April 2008 to free off-peak bus travel across the country.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of cars owned by the Government Car and Despatch Agency come with air conditioning as standard. [87932]

Dr. Ladyman: 99.04 per cent. of the Government Car and Despatch Agency's car fleet has air conditioning as standard.

Great Barford By-pass

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the original estimate of cost was for the Great Barford by-pass; and what the anticipated outturn of expenditure is. [87431]

Dr. Ladyman: The original estimated cost of the scheme at TPI entry in 1998 was £25 million and excluded VAT, 'optimism bias' projected inflation and revising costs in line with the road construction price index.

Following the application of these Treasury Green Book principles in April 2003, the costs of schemes submitted for TPI entry approval have been reported including the above items. The estimated cost for the A421 was then adjusted to £37 million. A budget increase to £58 million was approved by Ministers prior to start of works.

Highways Expenditure

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total expenditure on highways in Haltemprice and Howden constituency was in each of the last two financial years; and what the average figure was per constituency in each year. [88592]

Dr. Ladyman: Expenditure on highways (both by local authorities and the Highways Agency) cannot be disaggregated to constituency level except at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Drugs (Driving)

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorists killed in road accidents in each of the last five years had traces of illegal drugs in their bodies. [87485]

Dr. Ladyman: This information is not available. A study of fatal accident victims during the period 1996-2000 showed that in a sample of 779 drivers and riders killed, 17 per cent. had traces of illegal drugs. In 8 per cent. of the sample the drug detected was cannabis, traces of which remain detectable in the body long after consumption.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of motorists who drove with illegal drugs in their bodies in the last 12 months. [87486]

Dr. Ladyman: No such estimate is made by the Department. A 2004 European Commission study "Impaired motorists: methods of roadside testing and assessment for licensing" co-funded by member states, examined the prevalence of illegal drugs in drivers. The summary of the results of the UK element of that study are at www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/page/dft_rdsafety_611649-03.hcsp#P58_5194. The full report is at www.immortal.or.at/

Light Rail Procurement

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he intends to publish the Government's guidance on light rail procurement. [87434]

Derek Twigg: We hope to publish guidance on light rail later this year.

London Underground

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of safety measures on the London Underground network in relation to protection against the threat of terrorism. [85257]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The Department for Transport keeps the preventative transport security measures we require under regular review. Industry implementation of the measures is subject to an ongoing programme of compliance monitoring and enforcement by DFT inspectors.

M25

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the concrete surface of the M25 between junctions 8 and 9 is to be replaced with quieter surfacing. [87082]

Dr. Ladyman: The M25 between junctions 8 and 9 will not require resurfacing for maintenance needs within the period of the Agency's current five year forward programme. However when it does need to be resurfaced a quieter surfacing will be used as a matter of course.

Major Roads Projects

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the forecast costs are of each Highways Agency major roads project; [88133]

(2) what steps he is taking to tackle the effects of increasing construction material and energy prices on major transport projects. [88134]

Dr. Ladyman: The Chief Executive of the Highways Agency wrote to the Transport Select Committee in April 2006 with information on the latest ministerially approved budgets for major road schemes. I have placed the same data in the Library. Since April the following changes have been approved:

£ million

	Previous approved budget cost	*Latest approved budget cost*
M25 J12-15 Widening	120	127
A47 Thorney Bypass	27	28
A66 Temple Sowerby and Improvement at Winderwath	39	40
M40/A404 Handy Cross Junction Improvement	14	13
A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank Improvement	9	10
A66 Long Newton Junction	8	12
A57/A628 Mottram-Tintwistle Bypass	103	106
A590 High and Low Newton Bypass	22	35
A2 Bean-Cobham Phase 2	101	120
A2/A282 Dartford Improvement	72	122

In addition, on 20 July the Secretary of State's announcement on the Inspector's Report and scheme orders for the A3 Hindhead Improvement noted that the latest estimate for that scheme is £370.9 million.

The Chief Executive noted in his letter to the Select Committee that the cost estimates were being reviewed, principally to take account of construction inflation.

The Secretary of State has now asked Mike Nichols, Chairman of the Nichols Group, to review the Highways Agency approach to cost estimating and project management, and to make recommendations, including on how the agency should best assess, monitor and report on risks to its cost estimates. He will report in the autumn.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the economic effects of the implementation of the published scheme for improvements to the A303 Stonehenge in the first year after construction. [88240]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency's economic analysis of the A303 Stonehenge scheme is based on an assumed start of construction in 2008. On this assumption, it is estimated that in the first year after construction (2013) of the published scheme there would be travel time savings of between £3.495 million at low growth and £6.317 million at high growth. In addition, there would be safety benefits (resulting from a reduction in accidents) of between £2.035 million at low growth and £2.211 million at high growth.

Motorway Service Areas

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will publish a consultation document on regulations governing motorway service areas. [87583]

Dr. Ladyman: I have asked the Highways Agency to undertake a review of policy on roadside facilities, including motorway service areas. As part of the review process we shall be carrying out a public consultation exercise. It is anticipated that this consultation will commence shortly.

Oil Handling Facilities

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanism is used to grant consent to new oil handling facilities *(a)* within harbour authority areas and *(b)* elsewhere in UK internal and territorial waters. [87809]

Dr. Ladyman: There is no single mechanism for the granting of consent to new oil handling facilities. There are a range of possible consent regimes for such facilities, dependant upon where they are, whether there are new works involved and the extent to which there are existing powers available to the authorities involved.

Oil Spills (Contingency Plans)

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the comments received in response to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's consultation on oil spill contingency plans covering ship-to-ship transfers of oil in the Firth of Forth were categorised as not relevant; what proportion of such comments related to the effects of oil spill plan amendments in combination with effects of the proposed transfers; whether these comments will be made available to Forth Ports to assist them in assessing the transfer proposals under regulation 3 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994; and whether these comments will be published. [86736]

Dr. Ladyman: This information was placed on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency website on the 14 July 2006 in the form of a Responses Consultation Table and a Summary Analysis of Consultee Responses. The website address for these documents is: http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga-guidance-regulation/mcga-consultations/mcga-current_consultations/mcga-consultations-sts_forth/mcga-consultations-sts_outcome.htm

All comments relevant to the consultation process have been included in these documents.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to report to him following its consultation on *(a)* the implications for European wildlife sites of the proposed changes to Forth Ports oil contingency plans and *(b)* the other documents on which comment was invited in connection with ship-to-ship transfers of oil in the Firth of Forth; and what mechanism is proposed for making the findings public. [86737]

Dr. Ladyman: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) announced on 14 July 2006 its intention to approve the Oil Spill Contingency Plan covering Ship-to-Ship (STS) transfers in the Firth of Forth submitted by the harbour authority, and the harbour authority's proposed amendments to the overarching Clearwater Forth contingency plan, subject to a number of specified changes being made.

Concurrent with this announcement documents were placed on the MCA website. These included an assessment of the implications of the Firth of Forth STS transfer Oil Spill Contingency Plan in conjunction with the Clearwater Forth Plan for designated nature conservation sites, a summary analysis of consultee comments, a consultee table and a copy of the letter sent to the harbour authority (Forth Ports) in which the specified changes were set out. The website address for these documents is: http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga-guidance-regulation/mcga-consultations/mcga-current_consultations/mcga-consultations-sts_forth/mcga-consultations-sts_outcome.htm

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many responses have been made by *(a)* statutory bodies, *(b)* non-governmental and community organisations and *(c)* private individuals to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's consultation on ship-to-ship transfers of oil in the Firth of Forth. [86738]

Dr. Ladyman: This information was placed on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency website on the 14 July 2006 in the form of a Responses Consultation Table and a Summary Analysis of Consultee Responses. The website address for these documents is: http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga-quidance-regulation/mcga-consultations/mcga-current_consultations/mcga-consultations-sts_forth/mcga-consultations-sts_outcome.htm

Professional Drivers

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes he plans to make to the existing regulations in respect of the working hours of professional drivers; and if he will make a statement. [86948]

Dr. Ladyman: A new, directly applicable, EU regulation on drivers' hours has recently been adopted by the EU institutions—it was published in the Official Journal in April 2006 and will, for the most part, come into force in April 2007.

We will consult later this year on the amendments that will need to be made to domestic legislation to facilitate compliance with the new EU regulation. These amendments will adopt all of the national derogations

available in the new EU regulation (without any additional restrictions), apart from the newly available derogation for specialised vehicles transporting money and/or valuables—in Article 13.1.(m). We do not intend to adopt this derogation because there is no obvious case to exempt these operations which currently take place within the scope of the existing drivers' hours rules without any apparent difficulties.

The working time of mobile workers (basically drivers, crew and other travelling staff) operating on vehicles subject to the EU regulation on drivers' hours is governed by the European Road Transport Working Time Directive 2002/15/EC. A review of the UK's implementing regulations is due to commence later this year.

Railways

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which railway lines in England and Wales are under consideration for reopening; and what his policy is on the reopening of railway lines. [85533]

Derek Twigg: In July next year we will publish our High Level Output Specification. This will set out the railway outputs the Government wish to buy in terms of capacity, safety and reliability and the funding to support this for the next five years. It is for the industry to determine what inputs are needed to deliver this.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what solutions he has identified to overcrowding on the railways. [82505]

Derek Twigg: We are currently seeing huge growth in the railways, with more than a billion passengers carried last year, and this is set to continue. To help meet this challenge we are investing record amounts in the network.

Work is being undertaken to improve timetabling, infrastructure maintenance and renewals and other factors that can impact on reliable delivery of train services, which in turn will impact on crowding levels. We are also considering different measures to increase the capacity of the network, from train layout and length, turnaround times and infrastructure improvements. Major investment programmes such as the west coast main line modernisation project have already seen capacity improvements.

It is for the train operating companies to take decisions about the deployment of rolling stock. We will continue to review train counts and train plans to assess whether resources are being deployed effectively.

Register of Driver Training

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to date is of the development of the new Integrated Register of Driver Training system; and how much of the expenditure went to Capita. [87841]

Dr. Ladyman: The software development cost to date for the Integrated Register of Driver Trainers is £1,140,000 including VAT.

We are negotiating the costs of other variations to existing requirements and the additional costs arising from the extension of the project timescales and expect the total software development cost to be £2,400,000 including VAT.

All of this expenditure will go to Capita.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* change of control notices and *(b)* variation orders have been issued by the Driver Standards Agency in the development of the new Integrated Register of Driver Training system; and what the cost of each is. [87842]

Dr. Ladyman: 16 change control notices (CCNs) have been approved to date at a total cost of £332,470 including VAT. We are negotiating the costs of other variations and will issue further CCNs. The following table lists the cost and the number of individual variations covered in each of the CCNs agreed to date:

CCN	*Change Requests/Variations (Number)*	*Cost (excluding VAT) (£)*
1	21	83,687
2	3	25,097
3	23	15,015
4	7	4,620
5	7	7,095
6	1	4,950
7	1	4,785
9	1	2,250
10	2	5,940
11	1	17,490
12	[1]	14,450
15	8	33,568
16	3	8,279
17	7	26,338
18	1	2,008
19	5	27,381
Total		282,953

[1] Various security-related variations.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* estimated cost of and *(b)* timetable for developing the Integrated Register of Driver Training is; and whether each has changed since the project was established. [87843]

Dr. Ladyman: The estimated software development cost for the Integrated Register of Driver Trainers is £2,400,000 including VAT. The initial estimate when the project was established was £1,090,000 including VAT but this was based upon a very basic definition of the system. This definition changed significantly as the detailed requirements were identified during the course of the project.

The system was initially expected to be go live in August 2005. The first three registers, ADI, LGV and Pass Plus actually went live in March 2006. We expect the ORDIT and Fleet registers to be completed during quarter 3 and the remaining CBT register in quarter 4 of this year.

Road Schemes

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* original estimated cost of and *(b)* most recent cost estimates are for (i) Highways Agency schemes in the Targeted Programme of Improvements and (ii) all local authority schemes approved through the local transport plans. [86139]

Dr. Ladyman: For Highways Agency schemes, I refer the hon. Member to my answer today to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather).

I have placed information relating to major local authority schemes (generally those over £5 million) in the Library.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which road schemes were commenced by the Highways Agency in the Eastern Region in each year from 1999-2000 to 2005-06; and what the *(a)* original estimated cost, *(b)* final outturn cost, *(c)* original completion date and *(d)* actual completion date was of each project. [87432]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table lists all major road schemes, located in the Eastern Region, that have started works each year since 2000-01. In addition to the major projects detailed, the Highways Agency delivers many maintenance and smaller scheme improvements costing less than £5 million. The Highways Agency does not hold information for these schemes in the requested format.

Scheme	*TPI entry cost (£ million)*	*Total estimated (£ million)*	*Projected completion date at TPI entry*	*Actual/latest estimated completion date*
Schemes starting construction in 2000-01				
A6 Clapham Bypass	31	44	2002-03	December 2002
A11 Roudham Heath-Attleborough improvement	27	50	2002-03	March 2003
Schemes starting construction in 2001-02				
A120 Stansted-Braintree improvement	92	105	2004-05	July 2004
Schemes starting construction in 2002-03				
A10 Wadesmill-Colliers End	24	40	2003-04	October 2004
Schemes starting construction in 2003-04				
None	—	—	—	—
Schemes starting construction in 2004-05				
A14 Rookery Crossroads	5	14	2004-05	March 2006
A47 Thorney Bypass	15	25	2008-09	December 2005
A421 Great Barford Bypass[1]	25	58	2004-05	August 2006
Schemes starting construction in 2005-06				
A11 Attleborough Bypass[1]	14	29	2007-08	2006-07
M1 J6A-10 Widening[1]	241	289	2007-08	2008-09
A428 Caxton Common to Hardwick improvement[1]	22	55	2006-07	2007-08

[1] Under construction

This information is not available for the A1 Tempsford Junction improvement as it is not a scheme within the Targeted Programme Improvements. It was, however, the only other major scheme in the Eastern Region, to have started works since 1999-2000. This scheme was completed in October 2001.

Ship-to-Ship Oil Transfers

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* harbours and *(b)* oil handling facilities are subject to the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998; and what proportion are located within statutory harbour authority areas. [87811]

Dr. Ladyman: There are 167 Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998 Oil Spill Contingency Plans approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

159 of the 167 plans are harbour authority plans.

Eight of the 167 plans are stand alone oil handling facility plans within a harbour authority.

The majority of the 167 harbour authority plans incorporate oil handling facilities plans within their area.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how proposals to regulate Ship-to-Ship Transfers of oil and other cargoes in UK territorial waters will be implemented in harbour authority areas. [87813]

Dr. Ladyman: My officials are working on draft legislation which would control bunker transfers and Ship to Ship Transfers (STS) of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances carried as cargo in the UK's territorial sea and internal waters. It is not intended to apply the regulations to cover operations in statutory harbour areas.

Stopping Distances

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he next expects to review the stopping distances quoted within the Highway Code; and if he will make a statement. [88153]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department is currently considering major revisions to the Highway Code, following the public consultation which ended on 12 May 2006. We intend to publish the new edition of the code in spring 2007, subject to parliamentary approval. Stopping distances quoted in the code will be considered as part of the revision.

Street Lighting

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of electricity for street lighting on national roads supervised by the Highways Agency was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [86966]

Dr. Ladyman: For the financial year ending 31 March 2006 the gross spend, including VAT, on street lighting on the roads for which the Highways Agency is responsible, was £9.1 million.

Thameslink 2000

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the progress of the Thameslink 2000 project. [88157]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport and the Department for Communities and Local Government are currently considering the Inspector's report of the public inquiry held last year into the Thameslink 2000 project. Decisions on the various applications made by Network Rail in relation to this project will be announced as soon as is reasonably possible.

Traffic (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total volume of traffic in the Peterborough city council area was in each year since 2001; and what the percentage change has been over that period. [88198]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table gives the information requested:

Estimates of traffic volume, and year-on-year percentage change, in the Peterborough city council area: 2001 to 2005

	All motor vehicles (million vehicle kilometres)	*Year on year percentage change (percentage)*
2001	1,658	—
2002	1,705	2.8
2003	1,731	1.5
2004	1,775	2.5
2005	1,760	-0.8

Transport Economic Schemes (Cornwall and Scilly)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenditure on transport infrastructure schemes to support economic regeneration his Department is considering in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly; what the schemes are; how much of the expenditure will come from public funds; and when he expects decisions to be made. [87609]

Gillian Merron: The Department is currently considering two proposals for funding transport infrastructure put forward by Cornwall to support economic regeneration. The first concerns the transfer of RAF St. Mawgan from a military to a civilian airport (Newquay airport). The second is a new combined freight and passenger vessel to operate between Penzance and the Isles of Scilly, plus harbour improvements at Penzance and St. Mary's.

Funding for these schemes is subject to them satisfying the Department's funding approval requirements, but currently the requested DfT contribution for each scheme is approximately £21.4 million for the airport and £26.5 million for the Isles of Scilly project. Decisions will be taken on completion of the appraisal process. We are aware of Cornwall's' need for a decision soon on the Newquay airport and outstanding issues are being discussed.

Transport Safety

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transportation Safety; what note was kept of each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [81245]

Dr. Ladyman: The Secretary of State has not met the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transport Safety (PACTS). The Minister of State gave the ministerial response to a PACTS Westminster lecture in December last year and addressed a joint reception organised by my hon. Friend the Member for Northampton, North (Ms Keeble) and PACTS on 5 July. He also met with my hon. Friend the Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney) who was accompanied by the executive director of PACTS in May, to discuss the Road Safety Bill.

A note of that meeting is kept by the Department.

UK Seafarers

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to increase the number of UK seafarers working regularly at sea and the number of new entrant trainees; [87547]

(2) when the Government will make a decision on linking tonnage paid by the shipping companies to the employment of British officers. [87549]

Dr. Ladyman: I am considering the advice of the Shipping Task Force sub-group that was formed to propose measures to improve the maritime employment environment. The advice of the sub-group includes measures linked to both the training and employment of UK seafarers. I will make an announcement in due course.

Vehicle Statistics (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* low emission cars, *(b)* cars, *(c)* sports utility vehicles and *(d)* motorcycles are owned per person in London. [87783]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table is derived from DVLA data on vehicle registrations. It provides details of vehicles registered to keepers located in Greater London, compared with Greater London's population aged 17 or over. Some of the vehicles included, especially company cars, will be registered to London addresses but not driven in London.

Vehicles registered per 1,000 adults in Greater London at the end of 2005

	Number
Cars: under 120 g/km CO_2	2
All cars	434
Motorcycles	14

The DVLA vehicles database does not identify sports utility vehicles as a specific vehicle type, therefore no data can be provided to answer *(c)*.

DEFENCE

Lebanon

11. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution he expects British armed forces to make to the Prime Minister's proposed international force to be sent to Lebanon. [87194]

Mr. Ingram: Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to those members of the armed forces, and their partners and families, who have contributed in any way to the evacuation of UK and other nationals from Lebanon over recent days. The evacuation was conducted with the utmost professionalism, under difficult conditions, with the safety of evacuees paramount at all times. I should also like to convey my thanks to those members of the FCO and the MOD who have been involved in the evacuation. I offer all those involved my personal congratulations on a job well done.

Secondly, on the subject of international support for Lebanon, I can tell the hon. Member that plans are under development, both in terms of a peacekeeping deployment, and in terms of the humanitarian response. Specifically, discussions have been held with international partners including France and the United States, on the subject of an international force. Crucially, whatever is proposed will need the support of both the Lebanese Government and Israel. If an international force is to be deployed, HMG will consider how best we can support the international community in that effort.

African Conflicts

12. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps British military personnel are taking to help to prevent conflicts in Africa. [87195]

Mr. Ingram: UK armed forces personnel are playing an important role in helping prevent conflict in Africa, by building peace support capacity and teaching the principles of good governance and the democratic accountability of armed forces. British military personnel are providing training and technical assistance to the African Union, to African regional organisations and peace support centres and bilaterally to key partner countries such as Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone, in order to help build long-term conflict prevention and peacekeeping capacity.

Kosovo

13. **Helen Goodman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the involvement of British troops in the NATO deployment in Kosovo. [87196]

Mr. Ingram: The UK contribution to the NATO KFOR mission is around 180 troops, providing a highly effective force able to deploy across the whole of Kosovo. We remain committed to supporting NATO as they work alongside the UN Administrative Mission in Kosovo and the Kosovo Police Service. All of those responsible for security are working closely to maintain a safe and secure environment during the ongoing Final Status process.

Forces Accommodation

14. **David Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the quality of maintenance of forces accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [87197]

Mr. Watson: The Government attach a high priority to the quality of life of Service personnel and their families and are committed to improving and maintaining the quality of accommodation provided to them to the highest standards.

Service Families Accommodation is graded into four categories for condition, and I can tell the House that 95 per cent. of our housing stock in Great Britain falls into the top two of those categories. We are aware that more needs to be done to improve our housing stock, and it is for that reason we have introduced Prime Contracting to cover all repairs and maintenance. One contract replaces 22 previous contracts. This should lead to improved standards of work and responsiveness and much higher levels of satisfaction for families.

For our single Service personnel, we have already delivered over 10,000 new single living bedspaces with en-suite facilities, and a further 21,000 are due to be completed by early 2008. This will provide a vastly improved estate.

In addition, I am also pleased to announce today that the MOD is entering into negotiations to extend the Single Living Accommodation Modernisation Project by a further 5 years from 2007, which is a further illustration of our commitment to improve the living standards for our single personnel. This second Phase will provide a minimum of 3,000 additional bedspaces and create a minimum of 100 apprenticeships within the Prime Contractor's supply chain.

Nuclear Deterrent

15. **Dr. Murrison:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is the Government's policy to maintain the nuclear deterrent in the long-term. [87199]

Des Browne: We made it clear in our manifesto at the 2005 General Election that we are committed to retaining the United Kingdom's independent nuclear deterrent. The Prime Minister has made clear that this commitment applies for the planned life of the current system. Decisions on the position beyond that point will be made later this year.

Trident

16. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long it takes to target Trident missiles when at sea. [87200]

Des Browne: All the United Kingdom's Trident missiles have been de-targeted since 1994. The missiles can be targeted in sufficient time to meet any foreseeable requirement.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants listed are working on Trident and nuclear weapons policy, broken down by grade. [86696]

Des Browne *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* There are nine full-time civil servants in the Ministry of Defence working on Trident and nuclear weapons policy: 1 x Senior Civil Servant, 3 x Band B1s, 2 x Band B2s, 2 x Band Cs and 1 x Band E. They consult and engage others, as necessary.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason a discussion of a replacement for the Trident nuclear system was not included in the section on future capabilities of his Department's Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06, HC 1394. [86924]

Des Browne: The Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06 is a retrospective document accounting for the Department's use of the resources Parliament authorised for Defence against the performance baseline in the Departmental Plan 2005-09 reflecting the outcome of the 2004 Spending Review.

As we said in paragraph 18 of the report, work has now started to prepare for decisions on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent beyond the planned life of the current system. The section of the Annual Report and Accounts on future capabilities deals with major equipment projects which have passed the Main Gate investment approval point. It did not deal with any replacement of Trident, as no decisions on that have yet been taken in detail or principle, and hence there was and still is no project in that respect.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research work has been carried out to improve the *(a)* reliability, *(b)* performance, *(c)* longevity and *(d)* safety of the UK's Trident nuclear warhead. [87169]

Des Browne: Since the introduction into service of the current Trident warhead in 1994, no research has been undertaken to improve its performance. Work continues, however, under the stockpile stewardship programme at AWE to underwrite the continued reliability, longevity, and safety of our Trident warheads.

Army Recruits

17. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new recruits have joined the Army in the last two years, broken down by region of origin. [87201]

Mr. Watson: Over the last two financial years 21,880 recruits to the Regular Army enlisted nationally ranging from 380 in Northern Ireland to 3,650 in the North East. In my hon. Friend's own region, the West Midlands, he should be proud that 2,150 joined. I will place full details in the Library.

Armoured Vehicles

18. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with defence manufacturers concerning armoured vehicles capable of withstanding improvised explosive devices. [87202]

Des Browne: I announced an urgent review of protected vehicles for operations on 26 June. Today in a written statement I confirmed that this review had highlighted the requirement for a protected vehicle with capabilities between those of the heavily armoured Warrior and the light and manoeuvrable Snatch Land Rover. As the statement explained we shall buy around 100 additional Vector vehicles, up-armour a further 70 430 series armoured personnel carriers and introduce around 100 Cougar wheeled armoured vehicles.

21. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the availability of UK armoured vehicles in theatres of war. [87205]

Des Browne: As at 16 July, the availability of armoured vehicles deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan generally exceeded our targets.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times armoured vehicles broke down in Iraq between January and May 2006, broken down by vehicle type. [84803]

Mr. Ingram: We keep records of vehicle availability, rather than each breakdown, to allow for more efficient fleet management. This also provides a clearer picture

for commanders on the ground of the assets at their disposal. Between January and May 2006 vehicle availability for UK forces in Iraq was:

Vehicle	Availability (Percentage)
Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank and Challenger 2 Armoured Recovery Vehicle	77
Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle and Armoured Fighting Vehicle 432	81
Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked)	85
Saxon Wheeled Armoured Personnel Carrier	93
Snatch Protected Patrol Vehicle	90

Iraq

19. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the security situation in southern Iraq. [87203]

Des Browne: The four provinces covered by Multi-National Division (South East) remain relatively quiet compared to other areas of Iraq, accounting for around 4 per cent. of all attacks. The security situation in Basra, however, continues to cause concern. To address the problems in the province, the Iraqi Government have announced a security plan for Basra. I discussed the plan with Prime Minister Maliki this morning. The plan is in its early stages but has already resulted in increased presence of Iraqi security forces—with more to come.

Elsewhere in MND(South East) the security situation is more positive. Our progress with security and training of the Iraqi security forces was a factor in making Al Muthanna province the first where responsibility for security was handed over to Iraqi control. I expect Maysan and Dhi Qar provinces to follow suit before the end of this year, once the conditions on the ground are right.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much ordnance was used by British forces in Iraq in each of the last six months, broken down by type; [86101]

(2) how much and what type of ordnance was used by British forces in Iraq in the past six months. [86590]

Des Browne *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* Routine training accounted for the majority of most ammunition natures expended in Iraq by British forces. The following ammunition, broken down by type, was expended in each month, between January and June 2006:

Ordnance type	Explanation of use	January	February	March	April	May
Small Arms Ammunition	Personal weapons and machine guns	216,373	133,924	163,477	150,989	314,466
Pyrotechnics	E.g. Signal equipment and flares	829	67	1,086	1,126	606
Hand Grenades	E.g. High explosive or smoke grenades	774	733	564	267	760
Mortar Bombs	Both 51mm and 81mm calibre	803	30	906	864	738
30mm Calibre Rounds	Main armament on Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle (Rarden Cannon)	240	420	0	0	1,065
Main Battle Tank Natures	Main armament on Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks	0	0	0	189	0
Anti-Riot Natures	Baton Rounds	829	0	1,571	743	1,307
Explosive Ordnance Disposal	E.g. Demolition charges and controlled explosions	2,918	0	0	1,965	656
Anti Tank Mines	Used as high explosive donor charges in controlled explosions	3	0	0	1	0
Engineer Natures	Explosive cartridges for construction tools	0	0	0	0	2
Smoke Dischargers	Vehicle mounted smoke launchers	21	0	0	0	0
EPW2	GPS guided 1,000lb bomb	0	0	0	0	1

Ordnance type	Explanation of use	June	Training	Operational use	Total
Small Arms Ammunition	Personal weapons and machine guns	104,531	1,039,094	44,666	1,083,760
Pyrotechnics	E.g. Signal equipment and flares	360	598	3,476	4,074
Hand Grenades	E.g. High explosive or smoke grenades	344	2,409	1,033	3,442
Mortar Bombs	Both 51mm and 81mm calibre	273	3,424	190	3,614

Ordnance type	Explanation of use	June	Training	Operational use	Total
30mm Calibre Rounds	Main armament on Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle (Rarden Cannon)	405	60	2,070	2,130
Main Battle Tank Natures	Main armament on Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks	0	189	0	189
Anti-Riot Natures	Baton Rounds	385	4,244	591	4,835
Explosive Ordnance Disposal	E.g. Demolition charges and controlled explosions	3,170	78	8,631	8,709
Anti Tank Mines	Used as high explosive donor charges in controlled explosions	0	0	4	4
Engineer Natures	Explosive cartridges for construction tools	0	0	2	2
Smoke Dischargers	Vehicle mounted smoke launchers	91	75	37	112
EPW2	GPS guided 1000 lb bomb	0	0	1	1

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the aims are of the provincial reconstruction team in Basra; and what he expects the team to achieve. [87188]

Des Browne: Provincial reconstruction teams aim to provide support to build the capacity of Iraqi institutions at a provincial level.

The Basra team does this through coordinating the delivery of UK and international development and reconstruction assistance to southern Iraq; further development of the capacity of the provincial government; and assistance in the smooth transition of responsibility for security in southern Iraq to the Iraqi civil authorities.

Afghanistan

20. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made in training Afghan security forces in peacekeeping. [87204]

Des Browne: Over 28,000 Afghan troops and over 30,000 police have been trained and equipped, although their training does not focus specifically on peacekeeping activities.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries have troops operating under the international security assistance force in Afghanistan; how many troops they had deployed on 10 July; and what restrictions are in place on the use of these forces. [85093]

Des Browne: As at 10 July, the following 36 countries contribute a total of around 10,000 troops to the international security assistance force (ISAF) in Afghanistan:

Albania
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
Celand
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
FYROM
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
New Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The Netherlands
Turkey
UK
US

I am withholding details of the caveats nations may apply to the use of their armed forces in Afghanistan as this would, or would be likely, to prejudice the safety of our armed forces and those of our allies. The nations deploying to ISAF stage 3 in the south well understand the challenging operational environment there, and the need for robust rules of engagement.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of *(a)* the number of Intelligence Corps personnel based in Helmand province and *(b)* the resources provided to the Intelligence Corps in Afghanistan. [85774]

Des Browne: The force package deployed to Afghanistan is that recommended by the Chiefs of Staff as the right force for the task.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what facilities are available for the detention of military detainees in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [86700]

Des Browne *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* UK armed forces have temporary holding facilities available in the south. NATO and UK policy is that detainees should either be transferred to the Afghan authorities within 96 hours, or released.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of British forces in Afghanistan's counter-narcotics campaign. [87198]

Des Browne: Troops deployed as part of the NATO-led international security assistance force (ISAF)—including British forces deployed as part of the Helmand Task Force—are authorised to provide support to Afghan counter-narcotics forces, including training, and they will help the Afghans create a secure environment in which economic development and institutional reform—both essential to the elimination of the opium industry—can take place.

Armed Forces Salaries

22. **Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints his Department has received about the administration of salaries of British armed forces personnel paid through the joint personnel administration system. [87206]

Mr. Watson: The initial roll out of joint personnel administration for pay and a wide range of other administrative services has been to the Royal Air Force only, and formal complaints about aspects of the system have been received in the form of 19 items of ministerial correspondence, and some 236 complaints via the internal complaints procedure of the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency. None has been received under the formal Royal Air Force redress of complaints procedure. However, the errors have reduced from 1,100 in May to 485 in June.

Africa

23. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government are taking to promote peace and security in Africa. [87207]

Mr. Ingram: The Government are supporting the building of African conflict prevention and conflict management capacity at continent, regional and national level, in line with our wider G8 and international commitments. A key aspect of this work is UK funding and technical support for the development of an African Peace and Security Architecture under the auspices of the African Union, enhancing the capacity of Africans to lead mediation and peacekeeping within their own continent. At regional level, the Government are supporting a range of political dialogues, security sector reform programmes and civil society building initiatives designed to improve stability and security. In addition, British forces are helping develop African peace support operations capacity and are directly supporting a number of peacekeeping missions in Africa.

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87067]

Mr. Watson: The only advertising campaigns undertaken by the Ministry of Defence are Armed Forces recruitment related. The information requested is not held centrally in the format requested. Details that are available are as follows:

£ million

Financial Year	*Royal Navy*	*Royal Marines*	*Army*	*RAF*
2000-01	5.040	0.671	5.572	3.136
2001-02	4.320	2.320	5.236	2.791
2002-03	3.090	1.400	5.378	2.824
2003-04	4.693	1.060	7.750	3.130

The naval service undertakes two main bursts of advertising activity each year, one in January and one in September/October. The RAFs main campaigns were run in August/September and December/January. The Army's recruit advertising is an all year round activity.

Aerial Vehicle Technology

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made with the development of an uninhabited aerial vehicle technology demonstrator programme. [86663]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence is currently working towards contract for an Uninhabited Air Vehicle Technology Demonstrator Programme (TDP) jointly funded with industry as announced in the Defence Industrial Strategy.

Air Operations/Exercises

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that there are more sites where close air support operations and forward air control exercises can take place. [85214]

Mr. Watson: We keep the number of sites used for training exercises under constant review.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the availability of training sites for close air support operations and forward air control exercises. [86276]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence Training areas are used for close air support and forward air control training wherever possible. Private land is also used for training as are sites overseas. We keep the number of sites used for training exercises under constant review.

Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* fighter, *(b)* training, *(c)* tanker and transport, *(d)* reconnaissance and *(e)* maritime patrol aircraft were in service with the Royal Air Force in each year since 1997. [84805]

Mr. Ingram: The following table gives aircraft numbers that were planned to be in service as at the end of March in each financial year (FY) shown. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Financial Year	*Fighter*	*Training*	*Tanker and Transport*	*Reconnaissance*	*Maritime Patrol Aircraft*
1996-97	360	470	100	20	30
1997-98	360	460	100	20	30
1998-99	360	460	100	20	20
1999-2000	330	470	100	20	20
2000-01	460	460	90	20	20
2001-02	510	440	90	20	20
2002-03	420	440	90	20	20
2003-04	420	430	90	20	20
2004-05	370	420	90	20	20
2005-06	380	410	90	20	20

Notes:
1. Only provisional figures are available for FY 2000-01.
2. Training numbers include approximately 150 gliders each year.
3. Contracted fleets are not included.

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fleet tankers will be available to support each future aircraft carrier, if the in-service dates for the two new carriers are *(a)* confirmed as 2012 and 2015, *(b)* moved to 2015 and 2018 and *(c)* postponed to 2018 and 2021. [85379]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* Existing Royal Fleet Auxiliary tankers and/or those planned within the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme will support our Future Aircraft Carriers (CVF). As for all projects, the in-service dates for CVF will only be set following the main investment decision and once the dates have been approved by Ministers. As I indicated in my answer on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1579-80W, the main investment decision has not yet been taken.

Annington Homes

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the houses sold to Annington Homes have subsequently been *(a)* demolished and *(b)* sold to private buyers (i) in total and (ii) in Colchester. [86335]

Mr. Watson: Under the terms of the 1996 Sale Agreement with Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL), houses for which this Department has no further requirement are handed back to AHL. The Ministry of Defence maintains no records of how such properties are disposed of or developed. As a private company it is entirely a matter for AHL. It is believed that the majority are sold on the open market.

May I suggest that for further information the hon. Member may wish to write to the Chief Executive of AHL at the following address: Mr. J Hopkins, 1 James Street, London W1U 1DR.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Annington Homes has paid to the Government for the houses it acquired from the Ministry of Defence *(a)* in total and *(b)* for the housing stock at Colchester. [86336]

Mr. Watson: The 1996 sale of 57,428 properties in England and Wales to Annington Homes Ltd raised £1.662 billion for the Exchequer.

Some 1,400 properties in the Colchester area were included in the sale, and were sold for £34,694,122. Of these, all but 46, which were surplus to requirements at the time, were leased back by the Ministry of Defence to house service families.

Armed Forces Personnel

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the conventions are concerning armed services regular and reserve personnel having contact with hon. Members; and when they were last circulated. [86395]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* Queen's Regulations provide guidance to service personnel regarding contacts with Members of Parliament for example on handling inquiries from Members, visit requests and political activity. Queen's Regulations are publicly available and I have placed copies in the Library.

There are no service regulations restricting the right of service personnel as citizens to write to their Member of Parliament.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1436W, on injured British servicemen (treatment), how many armed forces personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the RAF and *(c)* the Royal Navy have been transferred to the NHS for continued medical care as a result of injuries sustained in (i) Iraq since 2003 and (ii) Afghanistan since 2002. [85833]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1942W, which stated that details of armed forces personnel who have been medically discharged from the armed forces as a result of a condition that can be attributed specifically to service in Iraq or Afghanistan and whose continued medical care has therefore been transferred to the NHS, could be obtained only by a search of the individual medical records of all personnel discharged from the armed forces since the beginning of those Operations. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The vast majority of serving military patients in the UK requiring secondary care are treated in NHS facilities by NHS staff. I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 288W, which set out the number of Service personnel treated since the year 2000 at those NHS hospitals where Ministry of Defence Hospitals are hosted. It is not possible to break down these figures to show the number of patients treated for injuries sustained on particular operations. Such information is not held centrally and to obtain it would require the examination of the individual medical records of every patient. These can only be viewed for non-clinical reasons with the express consent of the individual concerned, to protect patient confidentiality. To seek permission and then to extract the information from the records could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how compensation for service personnel dismissed from the armed forces on the grounds of sexuality is assessed; and if he will make a statement. [87789]

Mr. Watson: The assessment of compensation in cases where service personnel were dismissed from the armed forces on the grounds of sexual orientation depends on the facts and circumstances of each individual case, taking into account detailed schedules of loss from the claimants and the jurisprudence of the ECHR.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces who were dismissed on the grounds of their sexuality are yet to receive compensation. [87936]

Mr. Watson: There are 62 claims against the Ministry of Defence from ex-Service personnel who allege that they were dismissed from the armed forces as a result of their sexual orientation that remain to be settled.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which NATO members require their troops to pay income tax when they are on active service. [87913]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence does not hold the information and it could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Chaplains

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many chaplains are serving with the *(a)* Royal Navy and Royal Marines, *(b)* the Army and *(c)* the Royal Air Force; how many in each category are (i) Christian, (ii) Jewish, (iii) Muslim, (iv) Hindu, (v) Sikh and (vi) of other religions; and what the total cost was to public funds of providing chaplaincy services in the last year for which figures are available. [87381]

Mr. Watson: There are a total of 376 chaplains serving with the armed forces. The breakdown per service is as follows:

	Number
Royal Navy and Royal Marines	74
Army	221
RAF	76
All	[1]5
Total	376

[1] There are five chaplains who serve all three services from the following religions, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish. All are civilian chaplains and do not deploy.

The breakdown by religion is as follows:

	Number
Christian	371
Jewish	[1]1
Muslim	1
Hindu	1
Sikh	1
Buddhist	1
Total	376

[1] The Jewish chaplain is an honorary officiating chaplain.

In addition, there are 207 officiating chaplains to the forces (OCF) who are fee earners and are used by the armed forces in the United Kingdom only.

There are also three Hindu Pandits who are engaged as locally employed civilians specifically to provide pastoral care and support to Gurkhas.

The last available figures for the total cost to public funds for providing chaplaincy services to the armed forces are as follows:

	£
Uniformed Chaplains[1]	29,200,000
Civilian Chaplains[2]	240,000
OCF[3]	636,000
Total	30,076,000

[1] The figures are based on capitation rates as at October 2005.
[2] This category includes Buddhist, Hindu (including Pandits), Sikh, Muslim, and Jewish faiths. It is an estimated cost and includes travel and subsistence.
[3] Estimated costs of officiating chaplains to the forces.

Colombia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 209W, on Colombia, what his assessment is of the current level of risk to UK personnel involved in the bespoke counter narcotics training provided to Colombian law enforcement agencies. [88237]

Mr. Ingram: The risk to any personnel associated with counter narcotics activities in Columbia is potentially very high.

Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [67527]

Des Browne: Paragraph 5.28 of the ministerial code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister for Veterans will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 31 May 2006 (Ref: 03319/2006). [87936]

Mr. Watson: I wrote to the hon. Member on 21 July 2006.

Counter-terrorism

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget has been made available to support his Department's Counter-Terrorism Science and Technology Centre at Porton Down for 2006-07. [86928]

Mr. Ingram: Some £5 million has been made available in 2006-07 to support the Department's Counter-Terrorism Science and Technology Centre. Planned consumption of resources in 2006-07 will take into consideration funding already available through the MOD's research budget in support of related equipment projects to ensure value for money is achieved. Once fully established it is anticipated that the centre will attract further third party funding from other Government Departments and industry through joint projects.

Defence Planning Assumptions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a review of the Defence planning assumptions will be conducted before the forthcoming comprehensive spending review. [87182]

Des Browne: Defence planning assumptions are reviewed as part of the Department's routine strategic planning cycle. This work is about to begin and is planned to complete in spring 2008.

Defence Procurement Agency

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the piloting of the operating framework for the Defence Procurement Agency; and if he will make a statement. [86659]

Mr. Ingram: As stated in the Ministry of Defence's response of 7 July 2006 to the House of Commons Defence Committee's report on the Defence Industrial Strategy, the DPA has completed development work regarding the project and programme management element of the operating framework, drawing on industry best practice. This work will form the basis of a wider Acquisition Operating Framework encompassing all of the Department's acquisition business.

From September 2006 to February 2007 we will undertake a pilot with a number of project teams from the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation to evaluate our proposed approach to embedding project and programme best practice and to measure the benefits achieved. This will de-risk the full roll-out of the Acquisition Operating Framework which is due to commence in 2007.

Departmental Teams

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* function is and *(b)* annual cost in each of the last three years was of the departmental (i) Diversity and Work Balance Team, (ii) Ethnic Monitoring Team, (iii) Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Team, (iv) Disability Steering Committee Team and (v) Gender Panel; whether he has considered the merits of amalgamating these bodies into one unit; and what plans he has for their future. [86167]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* The function of the Diversity and Work Life Balance (DWLB) Team is to ensure the Department complies with, and reports against, the extant and emerging UK and EU legal requirements; develop and support the implementation of associated policy and guidance for the Department's 100,000 civilians; support the achievement of a work force truly representative of the community it serves; and assist the Department in being an employer of choice through contributing to the development of a contemporary employment framework. The salary and associated costs of the DWLB Team over the past three years is:

	£
2003-04	405,911
2004-05	416,320
2005-06	426,728

The Ethnic Minorities Steering Committee (Ethnic Monitoring Team (sic)), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Forum (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Team (sic)) Disability Steering Committee and Gender Panel all essentially perform the same

function. This is to support the Department taking diversity forward by providing expertise, relevant to the strand they represent, presenting an avenue for members of under-represented groups to have their issues raised and considered, and also to take the Department's message on diversity back to people within their strands. The members of the Committees, Forum and Panel are MOD employees who volunteer and perform the work in addition to their usual MOD duties, in work time. Therefore, we do not have separate cost information.

There are no plans to amalgamate these bodies into one unit. They provide an expertise relevant to their particular diversity strand and while they continue to be effective in moving the Department's diversity agenda forward, we propose to continue with their operation.

Emission Permits

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many carbon dioxide emission permits have been allocated to military establishments; and what the actual emissions were for each military establishment included in the EU Emissions Trading scheme in its first year of operation. [86470]

Mr. Watson: I can confirm 267,428 carbon dioxide emission permits were allocated to military establishments. The following table details how many carbon dioxide emission permits were allocated to each Ministry of Defence establishment, and the level of emissions during the first year (2005-06) of operation of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Ministry of Defence Site	*Annual emission permits*	*Actual emissions 2005 (tonnes Carbon Dioxide)*
RAF Lossiemouth	7,389	14,967
RAF Fylingdales	42	73
RAF Brize Norton	7,235	9,072
RAF Wyton	3,176	3,751
RAF Waddington	5,081	5,419
RAF Halton	7,835	8,350
RAF Lyneham	7,041	7,443
Turners Generation—Fylingdales	20,882	21,371
DCAE Cosford	7,445	7,519
RAF High Wycombe	2,571	2,582
RAF Marham	6,528	6,469
RAF Aldergrove	9,005	8,227
RAF Kinloss	6,135	5,588
RAF Stafford	6,975	6,352
RAF Cottesmore	4,882	4,412
RAF Honington	4,711	4,102
RAF Coningsby	4,503	3,516
RAF St. Athan	11,546	7,542
RNAS Culdrose	5,224	6,250
HMS Collingwood	6,169	7,257
RNAS Yeovilton	9,406	10,639
HMS Sultan	5,204	5,110
RMA Sandhurst	5,000	5,933
Wattisham Airfield	4,460	5,268
Prince Phillip Barracks	5,409	6,287
Colchester Garrsion	7,279	7,737
Aldershot Military Power Station	11,037	10,164
Brompton Barracks	3,307	2,930
Bicester Garrison	14,493	14,345
Donnington	9,480	15,800
HMNB Faslane Babcock Naval Services Ltd	18,568	20,041
RNAD Coulport—Babcock Naval Services Ltd	11,059	8,229
HMNB Portsmouth—Fleet Support Ltd	28,351	20,110
Total	267,428	272,855

Forces Recruitment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff were recruited by the *(a)* RAF and *(b)* Royal Navy in each year since 1997, broken down by personnel type. [85755]

Mr. Watson: Intake from civil life to the United Kingdom Regular Royal Navy and Royal Air Force broken down by Officers and other ranks and branch or trade group is shown in the following tables:

Naval Service Officer intake from civil life by branch

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Naval Service total	370	380	410	450	410	420	340	370	370
Royal Navy total	340	350	370	410	350	370	310	320	320
Warfare	220	220	220	220	230	220	180	180	190
Engineer	50	60	80	100	70	80	60	60	60
Logistics	40	30	20	30	30	30	20	30	20
Medical	20	20	30	30	20	30	30	40	30
QARNNS[1]	—	10	10	10	—	10	10	10	—
Chaplains	—	10	—	10	—	10	—	10	10
Dental	—	10	—	—	—	—	10	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Marines	40	40	40	40	60	50	40	50	50

[1] Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service.

Naval Service ratings intake from civil life by branch

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Naval Service total	4,230	4,380	4,530	4,180	4,600	4,800	3,780	3,320	3,570
Royal Navy total	3,250	3,290	3,350	3,010	3,410	3,530	2,730	2,300	2,370
Logistics	440	350	360	510	560	620	470	380	340
Engineering	1,260	1,090	990	900	1,010	1,150	1,060	930	1,000
Medical	70	100	130	40	120	130	80	70	80
QARNNS	40	20	30	30	40	50	40	30	30
Warfare	1,340	1,660	1,780	1,490	1,620	1,480	990	800	860
Warfare Support	100	80	60	40	70	100	80	80	60
Royal Marines total	980	1,090	1,180	1,170	1,190	1,280	1,050	1,030	1,190
General Service	940	1,070	1,160	1,140	1,160	1,250	1,020	980	1,160
Band	40	20	30	30	20	30	30	40	30

RAF Officer intake from civil life by branch

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total	400	430	480	440	450	460	520	290	[2]320
Pilots	90	140	160	140	160	150	170	80	[2]90
Engineering	30	40	40	40	50	60	70	40	[2]20
Administration	70	70	40	30	40	40	50	20	[2]30
Navigators	40	40	50	50	40	50	40	10	[2]20
Fighter Control	30	20	40	40	20	10	20	20	[2]20
Medical	10	10	20	20	20	20	30	30	[2]30
Air Traffic Control	30	30	30	30	30	30	20	20	[2]20
Ops Support	40	40	40	30	20	20	10	10	[2]20
Supply	10	20	20	20	30	30	30	10	[2]—
Intelligence	10	10	10	10	10	20	20	10	[2]—
PMRAFNS[1]	10	10	20	—	10	—	10	10	[2]—
Dental	—	—	—	—	10	—	10	—	[2]—
Chaplains	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[2]—
Legal	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	[2]—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	20	[2]40

[1] Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

RAF other ranks intake from civil life by trade group

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total	3,130	3,820	3,610	3,190	3,340	3,990	3,640	1,880	[2]1,110
Aircrew	50	40	70	60	60	50	70	50	[2]50
Aircraft Engineering	720	800	730	600	580	700	590	260	[2]250
Avionics	370	450	390	340	320	380	330	—	[2]—
Electronics Engineering	160	60	170	210	260	260	270	20	[2]—
General Engineering	120	180	140	180	170	140	190	110	[2]60
Transport	130	170	140	160	180	290	260	140	[2]30
Security	510	790	760	470	400	480	480	410	[2]260
Air Traffic Control	90	110	120	130	150	170	140	50	[2]40
Administration	40	50	30	40	30	50	50	20	[2]20
Intelligence	140	170	140	190	170	220	130	100	[2]140
Fighter Control	80	70	70	100	80	60	60	80	[2]40
Painters/ Finishers	70	140	100	40	110	150	150	40	[2]20
Photographer	50	80	70	70	80	100	70	40	[2]10
Medical	160	160	170	140	100	190	170	120	[2]40
Dental	10	10	30	20	20	30	20	10	[2]10
Personnel administration	150	190	100	70	140	170	140	40	[2]20

RAF other ranks intake from civil life by trade group

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Supply	200	280	320	260	300	310	260	200	[2]70
Catering	70	60	60	100	190	250	260	180	[2]40
Musicians	10	—	10	20	10	10	10	10	[2]10

[1] Zero or rounded to zero.
[2] Provisional.

UK Regular Forces includes Nursing services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

Figures include re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.

Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will answer Questions *(a)* 71152 and *(b)* 71153, on helicopter fuel tank protection, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South for answer on 12 May 2006. [85277]

Mr. Ingram: I replied to the hon. Member on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1940W.

Medical/Dental Officers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Armed Forces Pay Review Body report on service medical and dental officers to be published. [87170]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial I made today.

Military (Low Flying)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his written statement of 18 July 2006, on the Pattern of Military Low Flying Across the UK 2005-06, when he expects the 2005-06 report to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* published. [87728]

Mr. Watson: The Pattern of Military Low Flying Across the United Kingdom 2005-06 is expected to be completed and printed in early August, and will be placed in the Library during the recess. I will write to the hon. Member when that has been done.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which vehicles British service personnel have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured as a result of hostile action in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [81591]

Des Browne: 25 British servicemen have been killed as a result of hostile action while in military vehicles since the start of the conflict in Iraq. Twenty of these were travelling in armoured Land Rovers, two in unarmoured Land Rovers, two in Warrior armoured fighting vehicles and one was travelling in an unarmoured military ambulance. Ten servicemen were also killed by hostile action while flying in a military C-130 aircraft.

A further six personnel have been killed in Iraq during incidents where vehicles were present. Records do not allow us to confirm if they were in the vehicles at the time of injury. Centrally available records do not allow us to give a figure for the number of British servicemen injured from hostile action whilst in vehicles.

Two British servicemen have been killed in Afghanistan as a result of hostile action whilst in vehicles since operations began in 2001. Both were in unarmoured Land Rovers.

Between 1 January 2006 and 6 July 2006, three British servicemen have been injured as a result of hostile action whilst in vehicles in Afghanistan. A further three have been killed and five wounded during incidents where troops were involved in patrols equipped with armoured Land Rovers in Afghanistan. Centrally available records do not allow us to confirm if they were in the vehicles at the time of injury.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the relative protection afforded from improvised explosive devices by the Tempest Truck, Mine Protected Vehicle and the Force Protection Inc. Cougar joint explosive ordnance disposal rapid response vehicles employed by the US Marine Corps in Iraq. [82530]

Mr. Ingram: The in service Mine Protected Vehicle, which was originally known as Tempest although that name is no longer used, is based on an early version of the Force Protection Inc. Cougar vehicle. There are many variants of the Cougar and different nations modify them to meet their own specifications and roles. We do not comment on the relative protection as to do so would prejudice safety of allies.

Ministerial Office

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87652]

Mr. Watson: In 2001 the Ministry of Defence head office moved from the main building to temporary offices allowing for the main building PFI redevelopment project to provide a new modern working environment appropriate to the future business need of the Department. Some redecoration of the temporary accommodation was undertaken to prepare it, including for Minister's offices. In 2004 the Ministry of Defence head office

returned to the main building. There has been no redecoration of ministerial offices since this date.

Missiles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects plans for ballistic missile defence for NATO allies to be approved. [86670]

Des Browne: The NATO Missile Defence Feasibility Study was noted by the North Atlantic Council in June 2006. NATO will continue to examine the options for, and implications of, the possible acquisition of territorial Ballistic Missile Defence, but it has made no plans for such acquisition nor set a timetable for a decision.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what feasibility studies his Department has carried out on possible sites for ground based interceptors in relation to possible UK involvement in a missile defence shield. [86671]

Des Browne: None.

Mobile Phones (RAF Stations)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rules apply to the use of mobile telephones and camera telephones on RAF stations; and what the reasons are for such rules. [85308]

Mr. Watson: The use of mobile and camera telephones is governed by defence-wide security policy. A balance has to be drawn between the need to protect the Ministry of Defence information and assets and allowing the greatest possible freedom for the individual. Each RAF Station will have its own specific rules that apply to the use of mobile telephones and camera telephones. These requirements are published to staff and briefed to visitors on arrival.

This policy is intended to minimise the potential for compromise of protectively marked information and assets and is reviewed regularly to take account of changing threats and developments in technology.

Modernising Personnel Administration

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written statement of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 3WS, on modernising armed forces and veterans personnel administration, what budget has been set aside to carry out the proposed changes. [87093]

Mr. Watson: The bringing together of the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency and the Veterans Agency will incur modest costs, primarily in senior management time and in any re-badging of the new agency. These costs will be met by existing budgets within the individual agencies and are not significant enough to require a separate budget to be set aside. Any subsequent proposals for investment to improve service quality would be assessed case by case.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written statement of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 3WS, on modernising armed forces and veterans personnel administration, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* study and *(b)* consultation document. [87094]

Mr. Watson: Yes. I will place the information requested in the Library.

Nell McAndrew

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1884W, on welfare services, whether Nell McAndrew will be remunerated for her work on the confidential support line campaign with the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association. [87172]

Mr. Watson: That is a matter between the Association and Nell McAndrew. We remain greatly appreciative of the support she gives to our armed forces.

Nuclear Liabilities

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish a disaggregation by function and location of the £9,753,827,000 undiscounted costs of nuclear liabilities, set out at page 220 of his Department's Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06, HC1394, for which his Department is responsible; and if he will publish the advice provided to his Department by NIREX to which the Report makes reference. [86925]

Des Browne: A disaggregation by function and location of the £9,753,827,000 undiscounted costs of nuclear liabilities, stated in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06, is as follows:

£3,394,744,000—Costs associated with decommissioning, care and maintenance of redundant facilities (the conditioning, retrieval and storage of contaminated materials); research and development; and the procurement of capital facilities to handle the various waste streams.

Location: AWE Sites, Berkshire.

£2,132,782,000—Decontamination and decommissioning of Naval Test Reactor and waste disposal.

Location: Dounreay.

£1,052,580,000—Costs associated with the research, development and construction of the NIREX Deep Waste Repository.

Location: Not yet known.

£934,659,000—Storage of nuclear materials.

Locations: Springfields, Capenhurst and Sellafield.

£909,892,000—Nuclear Propulsion decontamination and decommissioning liabilities at various sites which conduct nuclear submarine decommissioning work on behalf of MOD.

Locations: Sellafield, Derby and mobile support equipment.

£504,144,000—Berthing and decommissioning of out of service submarines.

Locations: Rosyth and Devonport.

£332,835,000—Decommissioning of current in-service submarines.

Location: Rosyth and Devonport.

£177,259,000—Sundry provisions, the bulk of which is in respect of costs of storage of low level waste.

Location: Sellafield.

£146,401,000—Dismantlement of Warheads.

Location: AWE Sites, Berkshire.

£119,168,000—Decommissioning of nuclear submarine refit and refuelling facilities.

Location: Devonport Dockyard.

£32,299,000—Nuclear Decommissioning and Decontamination of Rosyth Dockyard on completion of the final Nuclear Submarine Project contract.

Location: Rosyth.

£10,627,000—Decommissioning and disposal of the Neptune Test Reactor.

Location: Derby.

£4,030,000—Disposal of Support Equipment which contains depleted uranium.

Location: Rosyth and Devonport.

£2,207,000—Decommissioning of a facility that processes radiological submarine effluent at HM Naval Base Clyde which is being superseded by a new Radiological Processing Facility.

Location: HM Naval Base Clyde.

£200,000—Decontamination related to low-level and small quantities of nuclear materials used in educational laboratories at the Defence Academy.

Location: Shrivenham.

The information provided by NIREX for the Department's Annual Report and Accounts is commercially sensitive. Its publication is a matter for NIREX.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 64 of his Department's Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06, HC 1394, which international legal obligations would have to be met by the United Kingdom if it was decided to use its nuclear weapons. [86930]

Des Browne: The UK would consider using nuclear weapons only in extreme circumstances of self-defence and in accordance with our international legal obligations, including those relating to the conduct of armed conflict.

Nuclear Test Veterans

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of awarding war pensions to all nuclear test veterans suffering from radiation linked disease. [86069]

Mr. Watson: All nuclear test veterans are eligible to claim, under the terms of the war pension scheme, for any disablement causally linked to service rather than for specific conditions or diseases. A war pension is also paid whenever the claimant can raise reasonable doubt, by providing reliable evidence, that the claimed disablement is causally linked to service. The War Pensions Scheme considers disablement from radiation linked disease, to include such conditions as certain thyroid and parathyroid diseases, cataracts and malignant disease and cancer. Cancers due to ionising radiation are clinically indistinguishable from those due to any other cause which are common in a population increasing with age. Based on the findings of National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) reports it is war pensions policy that entitlement is given to any type of leukaemia, other than chronic lymphatic with onset, within 25 years of participation at a nuclear test.

Therefore no estimate has been made of the cost of awarding war pensions to all veterans who might be suffering from a radiation linked disease that has arisen some time after service in nuclear test areas as it might not be linked to that service. The value of a disablement award is determined by the assessed level of all service related disablement, which can be re-assessed if there is subsequent deterioration.

Nuclear Waste

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the inventory of nuclear waste created from all the nuclear weapons programmes in the UK, including the submarine fleet; when the inventory was last updated; and what his plans are for updating the inventory. [87384]

Mr. Ingram: The United Kingdom Radioactive Waste Inventory, published periodically by NIREX and DEFRA, contains details of nuclear waste arising from the Defence programme. An electronic copy of the most recent inventory was published on 19 January 2006 and is available in the Library.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has a list of radioactive materials that are not included in the inventory of nuclear waste from nuclear weapons programmes. [87385]

Mr. Ingram: All radioactive materials employed in, or arising from, the nuclear weapons programme are either recorded in the United Kingdom Radioactive Waste Inventory or accounted for separately in accordance with statutory requirements.

Pathfinder Programme

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on *(a)* the launch of the Pathfinder programme teams and *(b)* scoping of Pathfinder programmes on through-life capability management. [86658]

Mr. Ingram: The two Pathfinder programmes—Sustained Surface Combatant Capability and Sustained Armoured Vehicle Capability—bring together representatives from the Ministry of Defence and industry to pilot new approaches to acquisition on a through-life capability basis. Team members were identified in consultation with industry. Both teams are established and are making good progress. A Pathfinder 'Industry Day' is being held on 28 July.

Private Land (Military Use)

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many privately-owned pieces of land are used by the RAF around Ledbury, Herefordshire. [85229]

Mr. Watson: No privately-owned pieces of land have been used by the RAF around Ledbury, Herefordshire.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what private land was used for close air support operations and forward air control exercises in the last three years; in what counties the land used was located; and whether rent was paid for the use of the land. [85234]

Mr. Watson: I will write to the hon. Gentleman and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid to land owners in Herefordshire for the use of their property for RAF exercises in each of the last three years. [85238]

Mr. Watson: No money has been paid to land owners in Herefordshire for use of their property in RAF exercises in the last three years.

Reserve Forces

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the studies of the demobilisation surveys for reserve forces completing operational engagements for the last five years. [85487]

Mr. Watson: We are considering whether the documents can be released in full or in part. This will require scrutiny of a considerable amount of information contained within five main reports and three follow-up reports. Once this process is complete, I will write to the hon. Gentleman and, if appropriate, place copies of the report in the Library of the House.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the studies of terminal surveys for members of reserve forces leaving the reserve forces for the last five years. [85488]

Mr. Watson: The armed forces do not currently carry out terminal surveys for members of the reserve forces. But we do conduct a larger number of focused surveys on reserves; for example a continuous attitude survey on the TA and a copy of this survey of Annex is in the Library of the House.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the manning totals were *(a)* in 2005-06 and *(b)* in the most recent period for which figures are available of (i) men and (ii) women for (A) officers and (B) other ranks in each of the reserve forces, breaking down (1) the Territorial Army by area and corps and (2) (x) the Royal Navy Reserve and (y) the Royal Auxiliary Air Force by functional category. [85503]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer14 July 2006]:* Available information on the number of male and female officers and other ranks in the Territorial Army and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force is given in the following tables:

Territorial Army personnel[1] as at 1 April 2005

Number

	Officers			*Other ranks*		
	Male	*female*	*Total*	*Male*	*female*	*Total*
All Arm/Corps	4,210	1,340	5,550	25,250	5,380	30,630
Staff	80	10	90	—	—	—
Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps	210	—	220	930	70	1,000
Royal Artillery	290	30	320	1,670	220	1,880
Royal Engineers	310	30	340	1,800	230	2,030
Royal Signals	370	100	470	2,700	690	3,380
Infantry	770	10	780	5,940	240	6,180
Army Air Corps	50	—	50	60	—	60
Royal Army Chaplain's Dept	60	—	60	—	—	—
Royal Logistic Corps	440	60	500	4,610	780	5,400
Royal Army Medical Corps	550	190	740	1,240	890	2,130
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	140	20	160	1,940	140	2,090
Adjutant General Corps (Provost)	40	10	50	220	50	270
Adjutant General Corps (Staff and Personnel Support)	90	40	130	360	420	790
Adjutant General Corps (Education Training Services)	20	—	20	—	—	—
Adjutant General Corps (Army Legal Services)	10	—	10	—	—	—
Royal Army Dental Corps	30	10	40	—	10	20
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	10	—	10	—	—	—
Intelligence Corps	80	30	100	320	70	390
Army Physical Training Corps	—	—	—	—	—	—
General List	10	—	10	—	—	—

Territorial Army personnel[1] as at 1 April 2005

	Male	Officers female	Total	Male	Other ranks female	Number Total
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	350	720	1,080	20	40	60
Unallocated	10	—	10	180	—	190
Officer Training Corps	—	—	—	3,230	1,530	4,760
Small Arms School Corps	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Service Corps	280	70	350	—	—	—

[1] Figures include Mobilised TA personnel and University Officer Training Corps but exclude Non Regular Permanent Staff and Full Time Reserve Service personnel.

Source:
DASA (Army)

Territorial Army personnel[1] as at 1 April 2006

	Male	Officers female	Total	Male	Other ranks female	Number Total
All Arm/Corps	4,120	1,270	5,400	26,260	5,740	32,000
Staff	80	10	90	—	—	—
Household Cavalry/ Royal Armoured Corps	210	—	220	960	80	1,040
Royal Artillery	290	30	320	1,710	250	1,960
Royal Engineers	300	40	340	1,890	250	2,140
Royal Signals	380	100	480	2,770	760	3,530
Infantry	750	10	760	6,520	230	6,760
Army Air Corps	40	—	50	60	—	60
Royal Army Chaplain's Dept	60	—	60	—	—	—
Royal Logistic Corps	420	60	480	4,680	840	5,520
Royal Army Medical Corps	540	190	720	1,210	840	2,050
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	140	20	160	1,960	160	2,120
Adjutant General Corps (Provost)	30	10	40	200	40	240
Adjutant General Corps (Staff and Personnel Support)	110	30	140	340	450	800
Adjutant General Corps (Education Training Services)	20	—	20	—	—	—
Adjutant General Corps (Army Legal Services)	10	—	10	—	—	—
Royal Army Dental Corps	20	10	30	10	20	30
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	10	10	10	—	—	—
Intelligence Corps	80	20	100	330	70	400
Army Physical Training Corps	—	—	—	—	—	—
General List	10	—	10	—	—	—
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	330	670	1,000	20	30	50
Unallocated	—	—	—	60	—	60
Officer Training Corps	—	—	—	3,550	1,690	5,240
Small Arms School Corps	10	—	10	—	—	—
General Service Corps	270	60	330	—	—	—

[1] Figures include Mobilised TA personnel and University Officer Training Corps but exclude Non Regular Permanent Staff and Full Time Reserve Service personnel.

Source:
DASA (Army)

Royal Auxiliary Air Force strength by gender

	1 April 2005	Number 1 April 2006
Officers	290	280
Male	230	230
Female	60	50
Other Ranks	1,190	1,180
Male	980	990
Female	200	180

Source:
DASA (Air)

Royal Auxiliary Air Force officers

	1 April 2005	Number 1 April 2006
All branches	290	280
GD	10	10
Flying Squadron Leader	—	—
Junior Officer Pilots	20	30
Junior Officer Weapons System Operator	10	10
Junior Officer Rear crew	—	—
Flying total	40	40
Operations Support (Air Traffic Control)	—	—
Operations Support (Fighter Control)	—	—
Operations Support (Intelligence)	80	80
Operations Support (Regiment)	20	20
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	30	30
Operations Support (Provost and Security)	—	—
Ops spt total	140	140
Engineer	—	—
Supply	10	10
Administration (Secretarial)	40	40
Administration (Catering)	—	—
Administration (Physical Education)	—	—
Administration (Training)	—	—
Medical	20	20
Medical Support	—	—
Dental	—	—
Chaplains	—	—
Legal	—	—
Music	—	—
Princess Mary Royal Air Force Nursing Service	20	10
Ground total	100	90

Source:
DASA (Air)

Royal Auxiliary Air Force other ranks

	1 April 2005	Number 1 April 2006
All trades	1,190	1,180
Ground trades	1,170	1,160
Engineering Technician Airframe	—	—
Engineering Technician Propulsion	—	—
Engineering Technician Weapon	—	—
Airframe Technician (Mechanical)	—	—
Airframe Technician (Avionics)	—	—
Engineering Technician (Avionics)	—	—
Engineering Technician (Aircraft Electrical)	—	—
Communication and Information Systems	—	—
Engineering Technician Electronics	—	—
Telecommunications Controller/Telecommunications Operator	20	20
Communication and Information Systems Aerial Erector	—	—
General Technician Electrical	10	10
General Technician Ground Support Equipment	10	10
General Technician Workshops	—	—
General Technician (Mechanical)	—	—
Mechanical Transport Driver	40	30

Royal Auxiliary Air Force other ranks

	1 April 2005	Number 1 April 2006
Mechanical Transport Technician/Mechanic	10	10
Royal Air Force Police	40	30
Gunner	480	500
Firefighter	—	—
Air Traffic Control	100	80
Meteorological Non Commissioned Officer	—	—
Royal Air Force Administration	—	—
Royal Air Force Physical Training Instructor	—	—
Intelligence Systems Analyst (Communications)	—	—
Intelligence Systems Analyst (Voice)	—	—
Aerospace Manager Operator/Senior Non Commissioned Officer Fighter Controller	—	—
Survival Equipment Fitter	10	—
Painter and Finisher	—	—
Photographer	—	—
Intelligence Analyst (Imagery)	50	40
Air Cartographer	—	—
Staff Nurse (Registered Mental Nurse)	—	—
Pharmacy Technician	—	—
Environmental Health Technician	—	—
Operating Theatre Technician	—	—
Radiographer	—	—
Laboratory Technician	—	—
Medical Administrator	30	30
Medical Assistant	40	40
Staff Nurse (Registered General Nurse)	40	40
Dental Nurse	—	—
Dental Hygienist	—	—
Dental Administrator/Nurse	—	—
Personnel Administrator	60	60
Data/Statistical Analyst	—	—
Supplier	60	70
Movements Controller/Operator	160	160
Chef	20	20
Catering Accountant	—	—
Mess Manager/Steward	—	—
Musician	—	—
Non commissioned aircrew	20	20
Weapons System Operator (Air Electronics)	—	—
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	—	—

Royal Auxiliary Air Force other ranks

	1 April 2005	Number 1 April 2006
Weapons System Operator (Air Engineers)	—	—
Weapons System Operator (Air Load Master)	10	—

'—' denotes zero or rounded to zero.

Note:
All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to the rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Source:
DASA (Air)

Reliable information on Royal Navy Reserve functional categories is not held centrally and can be collated only at disproportionate cost. A breakdown by units is shown as follows.

Royal Navy Reserves as at 31 March 2005

	Male	Officers female	Total	Male	Other ranks female	Number Total
All units	760	230	1,000	1,160	440	1,600
HMS Calliope	40	10	40	70	20	100
HMS Cambria	30	10	40	60	20	80
HMS Caroline	20	10	30	50	30	70
HMS Dalriada	20	10	30	50	30	80
HMS Eaglet	50	20	80	120	40	160
HMS Ferret	50	20	60	—	—	—
HMS Flying Fox	20	10	30	60	20	80
HMS Forward	30	—	30	80	30	110
HMS King Alfred	80	20	100	80	50	130
HMS President	100	30	120	110	50	160
HMS Scotia	40	10	50	90	30	120
HMS Sherwood	30	10	40	70	30	100
HMS Vivid	30	20	50	90	40	130
HMS Wildfire	30	20	40	30	30	70
Air Branch	160	10	170	190	20	200
Mine Warfare Clearance Diver	—	—	—	10	—	10
Media Relations	30	40	70	—	—	—

Source:
RNR database

Royal Navy Reserves as at 31 March 2006

	Male	Officers female	Total	Male	Other ranks female	Number Total
All units	770	210	980	1,050	360	1,410
HMS Calliope	30	10	40	70	20	80
HMS Cambria	30	10	30	40	20	60
HMS Caroline	20	10	20	50	20	70
HMS Dalriada	20	10	30	50	20	70
HMS Eaglet	50	20	70	100	30	140
HMS Ferret	50	10	60	—	—	—
HMS Flying Fox	30	—	30	50	20	60
HMS Forward	30	—	30	60	20	80
HMS King Alfred	90	20	100	70	40	110
HMS President	100	30	120	110	40	160
HMS Scotia	40	10	40	80	30	110
HMS Sherwood	40	—	40	60	30	90
HMS Vivid	30	20	50	80	30	120
HMS Wildfire	30	20	50	30	20	50
Air Branch	160	10	170	180	20	200
Mine Warfare Clearance Diver	—	—	—	20	—	20
Media Relations	40	30	70	—	—	—

Source:
RNR database

Reservists

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to compensate and support small and medium-sized enterprises with key members of staff serving as called up reservists fulfilling long-term postings; and if he will make a statement. [87914]

Mr. Watson: The Reserve Forces Act 1996 allows payments to Reservists and/or their employers when the former are called out into permanent service. The detailed regulations are set out in a Statutory Instrument (SI 859), which came into force in April 2005.

Under these regulations employers can claim up to £110 per day (approximately £40,000 per year) to cover certain additional costs arising from their employee's absence. Employers may also claim certain one-off costs such as agency fees and re-training costs.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary have been cannibalised in the past 12 months. [86998]

Mr. Ingram: Over the past 12 months, eight ships of the RFA have had items of equipment removed for installation in other ships. This process is normally used to meet high priority operational commitments and where the items in demand are not readily available from normal sources. Equipment is then refitted to donor ships when it becomes available.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary can be deployed. [86999]

Mr. Ingram: All RFA ships currently in service are deployable within the timescales set down in the current Fleet Readiness Profile.

Separated Service

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average number of separated service days was in the last recorded 30 day month rolling period for the Regular Army *(a)* infantry, *(b)* Royal Artillery, *(c)* Royal Engineers, *(d)* Royal Corps of Signals, *(e)* Royal Armoured Corps, *(f)* Household Cavalry, *(g)* Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers and *(h)* Army Medical Services. [87022]

Mr. Watson: The information is listed in the following table.

Average number of days spent on separated service by Arm/Service over 30 months using figures recorded at 1 January 2006

Arm/Service	*Number*
Infantry	270
Royal Artillery	230
Royal Engineers	245
Royal Signals	175
Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps	270
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	320
Army Medical Services	165

Notes:
1. Army Medical Services include the Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Army Dental Corps, Royal Army Veterinary Corps and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.
2. Figures are based on personnel on separated service, at any time from 1 July 2003 to 31 December 2005 inclusive.
3. Figures are for United Kingdom trained army personnel only and therefore exclude full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, The Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and Mobilised Reservists.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest number of days of separated service over the last three-year period for which figures are available was for each of the Royal Navy pinch point trades identified in his Department's annual report and accounts 2005-06. [87034]

Mr. Ingram: For the pinch points in question, separated service has only been centrally recorded since April 2004. Data are available up to the end of March 2006. The average, highest and lowest number of days of separated service recorded over this period are:

Pinch point	*Recorded separated service*		
	Average	*Highest*	*Lowest*
Air Engineering Technicians (including Mechanics and Artificers)	70	505	0
Mine Warfare Petty Officer	165	325	0
Warfare Leading Hand	185	525	0
Nuclear Marine Engineering Watchkeepers	110	380	0
Royal Marine Other Ranks—general duties	115	460	0

Notes:
1. Figures are given for those serving on the trained strength at 1 April 2006.
2. For Nuclear Watchkeepers, the population has been taken as Marine Engineering Artificers at Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer and Warrant Officer 2.
3. The Navy is currently restructuring the Air Engineering branch from the current Artificer/Mechanic career streams to a single Technician stream. For this reason, combined figures are given for these career streams.
4. Royal Marines figures exclude the band service.
5. The Navy harmony guideline for separated service is a maximum of 660 days over a 36 month period.
6. Although days spent on hospitalisation, annual leave and adventurous training are recorded by the separated service system, they do not count towards the 660 days target and are not included in the above figures.

Spare Parts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many spare parts were *(a)* available and *(b)* required for Army Air Corps (i) Apache, (ii) Lynx and (iii) Gazelle helicopter fleets in the past 12 months. [87000]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many spare parts were *(a)* available and *(b)* required for the Royal Navy (i) destroyer, (ii) frigate, (iii) mine counter vessel, (iv) patrol vessel, (v) Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel and (vi) submarine fleet in the past 12 months. [87001]

Mr. Ingram: Naval spares support is managed on a whole Fleet basis, not by class of vessel. Customers include ships, shore establishments and other services. Stock levels are set to optimise support to all customers and performance is recorded on a monthly basis. As a result, the information is not available in the format requested. Each ship has an on board allowance of spares designed to support self-sustainability for 90 days.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of his Department. [80648]

Mr. Watson: Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the code of conduct for special advisers.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85184]

Mr. Watson: The Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments has reported two statutory instruments sponsored by the Ministry of Defence for defective drafting since October 2005.

Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported.

Submarine Flotilla

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made on the establishment of a unified submarine programme management organisation within the Department; and if he will make a statement. [86665]

Des Browne: Since April 2006 submarine programme management within MOD has been unified under Director General Nuclear, who is responsible for managing delivery of the submarine programme from concept to disposal. Recent efforts have concentrated on the development of processes to support governance of the new organisation.

Sustainability Principles

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the sustainability principles set out at paragraph 77 of his Department's Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06, HC 1394, are applied by British forces deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [86931]

Des Browne: British armed forces deployed overseas apply United Kingdom policies and standards on sustainable development where reasonably practicable. In addition, we comply with relevant host nations' standards.

Swan Hunter

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to be in a position to announce the final payment to Swan Hunter following the termination of the contract for the Landings Ship Dock (Auxiliary) with that shipyard. [87049]

Mr. Ingram: Final payment to Swan Hunter will be made once all of the obligations of the settlement agreed with the company have been met.

Tavern Armoured Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tavern armoured vehicles are owned by the Ministry of Defence; and how many such vehicles are located in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* Afghanistan and *(d)* the UK. [87041]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence currently has 96 Tavern vehicles located in Northern Ireland and eight in UK. None are deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Territorial Army (Records)

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1442W, on Territorial Army (Records), (1) what the reason is for the time taken to reply to the question; [85119]

(2) for what reason information on units to which individuals are mobilised does not include subsequent mobilisation after the initial posting. [85121]

Mr. Watson: The Reserve Training and Mobilisation Centre has no authority over the posting process and therefore will not routinely know if an individual is subsequently posted to a different unit. This is the responsibility of the Integrated Mobilisation Cell who decide where members of the Territorial Army are to be posted, and the Army Personnel Centre who issue the posting order and update the individual's Record of Service.

I regret the delay in providing the answer of 10 July which was due to an administrative oversight. New procedures for recording and tracking parliamentary questions will prevent this in future.

Tour Intervals

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average tour interval of the *(a)* Corps of Royal Engineers, *(b)* Royal Corps of Signals, *(c)* Royal Logistic Corps and *(d)* Royal Electric and Mechanical Engineers has been over the last five years; [57473]

(2) how many tours each battalion of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers has undertaken in the last five years; what the *(a)* location and *(b)* length was of each; and what the length of time was between each deployment; [57475]

(3) how many regiments of the *(a)* Corps of Royal Engineers, *(b)* Royal Corps of Signals, *(c)* Royal Logistic Corps and *(d)* Royal Electric and Mechanical Engineers have achieved the harmony guideline of 24 months over the last five years. [57479]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 7 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1283W, for the information relating to the Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Signals and Royal Logistic Corps.

The location of deployments undertaken by elements of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) over the past five years can be found in the following table. Such deployments are normally conducted at sub-unit level and below, and vary in duration and composition of personnel involved, some involving a number of short visits to theatre. Information on the length of time between each element's deployment and the average tour interval that this would imply at Regimental level is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Regiment	*1 February to 31 December 2001*	*1 January to 31 December 2002*	*1 January to 31 December 2003*
1 Battalion REME	The Balkans	—	Iraq and the Balkans (company)
2 Battalion REME	—	—	Iraq The Balkans (company)[1]
3 Battalion REME	The Balkans[1]	The Balkans[1]	Iraq
4 Battalion REME	The Balkans	The Balkans (company)[1]	The Balkans (company)[1]
5 Battalion REME	—	—	Iraq (company)[1]
6 Battalion REME	—	The Balkans	—
7 Air Assualt Battalion REME	—	—	Iraq

Regiment	*1 January to 31 December 2004*	*1 January to 31 December 2005*	*31 December 2005 to 1 July 2006*
1 Battalion REME	The Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq[1]	The Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq[1]	
2 Battalion REME	The Balkans (company)[1]	Afghanistan[1]	Afghanistan[1]
3 Battalion REME	The Balkans (company)		Iraq
4 Battalion REME		The Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq	
5 Battalion REME	Iraq (company)[1]		
6 Battalion REME	Iraq (company)		
7 Air Assualt Battalion REME			Afghanistan

[1] Indicates the same tour

Trained Strength

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* actual gains to trained strength and *(b)* total target gains to trained strength are for each of the Royal Navy pinch point trades identified in his Department's annual report and accounts 2005-06; [87037]

(2) what the *(a)* total actual gains to trained strength and *(b)* total target gains to trained strength are for the Regular Army (i) infantry, (ii) Royal Artillery, (iii) Royal Engineers, (iv) Royal Corps of Signals, (v) Royal Armoured Corps, (vi) Household Cavalry, (vii) Royal Electrical Mechancial Engineers and (viii) Army Medical Services; [87038]

(3) what the *(a)* total actual gains to trained strength and *(b)* total target gains to trained strength are for each of the Royal Air Force pinch point trades identified in his Department's annual report and accounts 2005-06. [87039]

Mr. Watson: It will take a few weeks to validate the requested information to ensure accuracy and consistency. I will write to the hon. Gentleman and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House when this is completed.

Trident Replacement

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure there has been on preparatory *(a)* studies and *(b)* infrastructure development on a replacement for the Trident nuclear system. [86947]

Des Browne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 350W, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

US Missile Defence Agency

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget is for the UK Missile Defence Centre for each of the next three years. [86668]

Des Browne: The UK Missile Defence Centre was founded on 18 July 2003 with a six-year mandate. It has just begun its fourth year with an approved budget of £5.7 million; the provisional budget allocation for each of the final two years is £5 million.

Weapons Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what circumstances weapons are provided to *(a)* UK and *(b)* other civilians in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [85301]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence does not provide weapons to its civilian employees deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Environment and Heritage Service

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 12W, on the Environment and Heritage Service, what steps he takes to ensure cost-effectiveness of court cases brought on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service. [87339]

The Solicitor-General: The Public Prosecution Service conducts all cases it prosecutes, including those on behalf of the Environment and Heritage Service, in accordance with the Test for Prosecution. That test is whether there is sufficient available evidence to afford a reasonable prospect of conviction and, if so, whether it is in the public interest to prosecute. If the evidential aspect of the test is met, there is a strong presumption that prosecution is in the public interest; the more serious the offence, or its consequences, the stronger the presumption. The cost of bringing a prosecution does not weigh in that consideration. The PPS may take into account, in assessing the public interest, whether the offence is of such a nature that it is likely that the court will impose only a very small or nominal penalty.

The cost-effectiveness of prosecutions is based on the overall efficiency of the PPS. It is not connected in any way with the fines imposed following conviction. Such fines are not payable to the PPS. Following conviction, the PPS will usually ask for its costs to be paid by the defendant but whether such an order is made, and to what extent, is a matter for judicial determination.

The cost-effectiveness of the PPS and what is being done to maintain and improve efficiency is the subject of the PPS annual report and business plan, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Offences (Prosecution Consent)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will list the offences which may be prosecuted only with the consent of *(a)* the Solicitor-General and *(b)* the Director of Public Prosecutions. [87111]

The Solicitor-General: By statute, certain offences require the consent of the Attorney-General or the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in order for there to be a prosecution. The Law Officers Act 1997, section 1, provides that any function of the Attorney-General (which includes therefore the granting of consent to prosecute) may be exercised by the Solicitor-General.

It would involve disproportionate resources to produce a complete list of the many offences requiring Attorney-General's and DPP's consent to prosecute. A list of most of such offences is reproduced at appendix A of the Law Commission's 1998 report, "Consents to Prosecution".

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Solicitor-General on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [84008]

The Solicitor-General: Since June 2006 I have made six visits to the regions. These consisted of three visits to the South East, two visits to the North West and one visit to Yorkshire and the Humber. In addition I have made two visits to Northern Ireland.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85194]

The Solicitor-General: At the time that this question was asked there were 18 parliamentary questions awaiting an answer. There were two that had been waiting for two weeks and four that had been waiting for three weeks for a substantive answer. All six of these questions have now been answered.

The Attorney-General's office endeavours to provide a substantive answer on time, although there are occasions when some parliamentary questions can take slightly longer than others to draft because of the nature of the information required.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General how many public appointments are within the patronage of the Law Officers; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83171]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85176]

The Solicitor-General: None.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Homophobic Bullying

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans the Government have to tackle homophobic bullying in *(a)* schools and *(b)* the community. [88193]

Meg Munn: The Government plan to introduce regulations later this year under part 3 of the Equality Act 2006 to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities, services, education and public functions. These measures will empower individuals to challenge unacceptable prejudice in their everyday lives and will reinforce and support the work already being done in many communities by police forces and other bodies to confront and tackle homophobic bullying.

The regulations will be promoted to raise awareness of people's new rights and responsibilities under the regulations and will be accompanied by detailed guidance for service providers. The new Commission for Equality and Human Rights will play an important role in promoting and supporting the regulations when it opens its doors in October 2007.

We take the issue of homophobic bullying in schools very seriously and the Government gave an undertaking in the White Paper, "Higher Standards, Better Education for All", published last year, to issue guidance on bullying motivated by prejudice, including homophobia, providing school staff with valuable support in an area they often find challenging. The Department for Education and Skills is currently developing a programme to tackle homophobic bullying and has accepted a tender from Stonewall for the provision of guidance on homophobic bullying. The Department expects to issue that guidance early in 2007, and to follow this with a series of dissemination workshops.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House Facilities

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will review the rules governing the use by hon. Members of House *(a)* accommodation, *(b)* telephones and *(c)* stationery with a view to tightening the restrictions on their use for party political purposes. [86108]

Nick Harvey: Facilities provided for individual hon. Members under the House of Commons' administration estimate, for which the Commission is responsible, are intended for use in connection with their parliamentary and public business. The rules governing their use are kept under review by the House authorities in the light of circumstances, and also in the event of specific complaints alleging abuse. Failure to observe the rules on the use of parliamentary facilities may be a breach of the code of conduct.

Senior Staff Appointments

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 8-9W, on senior staff appointments, if the Commission will take steps to ensure that in future the appointments to the three senior posts are made by the House. [87139]

Nick Harvey: These appointments are made by the Crown. Changes would be necessary in legislation for the appointments to be made by the House. The Commission has no plans to seek such changes.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 24 July 2006

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arm's Length Management

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to measure the impact of arm's length management organisations on tenant satisfaction. [83373]

Yvette Cooper: Tenant satisfaction is one of the best value performance indicators used to measure performance by local authorities. To date there are only data available to cover the first two years of operation for the first eight ALMOs. As soon as sufficient data are available we will be able to assess the impact of ALMOs on tenant satisfaction more generally.

City of York Council

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much in *(a)* rate support grants, *(b)* business rates and *(c)* special grants the Government paid to City of York council in each year since its creation as a unitary authority (i) in cash terms and (ii) at current prices; how much will be paid in each category in 2006-07; and what the purpose was of each special grant of £50,000 or more. [86526]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the amount of revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and specific and special grants allocated to the City of York council in the period 1996-97 to 2006-07.

£ million

	Revenue Support Grant		*Redistributed Business Rates*		*Specific and Special Grants within Aggregate External Finance (AEF)*	
	Cash terms	*Current prices*	*Cash terms*	*Current prices*	*Cash terms*	*Current prices*
1996-97	36.598	46.663	41.981	53.526	3.305	4.214
1997-98	38.597	47.821	39.451	48.879	3.128	3.876
1998-99	39.274	47.454	41.267	49.862	4.113	4.970
1999-00	39.478	46.754	44.995	53.288	6.185	7.325
2000-01	36.901	43.096	51.078	59.654	10.977	12.820
2001-02	40.309	45.985	50.021	57.065	15.044	17.162
2002-03	35.89	39.715	55.16	61.039	21.172	23.429
2003-04	45.361	48.747	54.927	59.027	31.192	33.520
2004-05	51.761	54.149	50.943	53.293	31.743	33.208
2005-06	47.84	49.009	61.026	62.517	31.318	32.083
2006-07	6.011	6.011	31.140	31.140	106.983	106.983

Please note that these amounts are not comparable year-on-year due to changes in funding and function. For example, in 2006-07 support for school funding moved from formula grant (i.e. revenue support grant plus business rates) to the dedicated schools grant.

The current prices have been calculated using the GDP deflator as the measure of inflation.

The Department for Communities and Local Government does not routinely collect data on all individual special grants from other Government Departments. The purpose of the special grants is a matter for the department that provides them.

Specific grants within aggregate external finance are those revenue grants paid for councils' core services (such as schools funding), excluding funding for local authorities' housing management.

Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the chair of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights will be appointed; and if she will make a statement. [86742]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* I anticipate that the chair of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights will be appointed during the summer period.

Consultancies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1538-42W, on consultancies, if she will place in the Library a copy of document 5, the MORI Survey of Government Office for the South East partners. [86910]

Angela E. Smith: The requested document will be made available in the Library of the House.

Contaminated Land

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what are the principal purposes of the Contaminated Land: Application in Real Environments scheme; how much public funding the scheme will receive in 2006-07; when its current grant expires; and by what process future public funding levels will be determined; [86426]

(2) what is the commercial remit of the Contaminated Land: Application in Real Environments programme; and what its principal commercial activities are. [86427]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Contaminated Land: Application in Real Environments (CL:AIRE) is an independent registered charity, which organises and independently reviews demonstration projects on the remediation of contaminated land and disseminates the results in line with its charitable objectives. Details are provided in CL:AIRE's annual accounts.

CL:AIRE's board includes representatives from the private and public sectors. Some £465,000 of public funds from several sources has been agreed for this financial year, including £80,000 per year from DEFRA for this year and the next two years. Public funding is mainly for specific remedial projects, and also for dissemination of information and other activities. Funding organisations establish their individual requirements in discussions and formal arrangements with CL:AIRE, which has been encouraged to diversify its sources of income.

Council Tax

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the Greater London population paid council tax in the last year for which figures are available; and what percentage qualified for discounts. [87115]

Mr. Woolas: The number of chargeable dwellings liable for council tax in Greater London as at November 2005 was 3,108,000 of which 1,281,000 dwellings (41.2 per cent.) were entitled to a discount.

The number of chargeable dwellings and those entitled to a discount are taken from the CTB1 forms submitted to this Department by all 33 London billing authorities including the City of London.

The number of individuals liable for council tax cannot be accurately determined from these or other sources.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much council tax was raised in the last year for which figures are available. [87156]

Mr. Woolas: The council tax received by local authorities in England in 2005-06 was £18,419 million. This figure excludes amounts funded by council tax benefit and includes both arrears received for previous years and prepayment of council tax for subsequent years.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of administering the council tax system in the latest year for which figures are available. [87158]

Mr. Woolas: Net current expenditure on administering the council tax system for 2004-05 by local authorities in England is tabled as follows.

	£ million
Council tax collection	340.9
Council tax benefits administration	277.5
Total	618.4

The data are as reported by local authorities and are taken from Revenue Outturn (RO) returns for 2004-05.

Net current expenditure is defined as gross expenditure on employees and running expenses, less income from sales, fees and charges, and 'other income'.

The council tax collection figures also include any costs relating to collection of arrears of pre-1990 domestic rates and community charges.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the Valuation Office Agency's council tax people's panel reports and summaries from the last 24 months. [87348]

Mr. Woolas: The results from the Valuation Office Agency's council tax people's panels, for the now postponed council tax revaluation in England, are for input to the formulation and development of Government policy and it is not therefore appropriate to place these in the public domain.

E-Government

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have for *(a)* a single property account and *(b)* a single citizen account as part of its e-government and Government Connects programme. [88058]

Mr. Woolas: The Government recognise the strategic importance of *(a)* a single property account and issued an outline prospectus entitled "Towards the National Spatial Addressing Infrastructure" for public consultation in May last year, containing technical details and governance structures. Discussions with stakeholders regarding this initiative are currently ongoing.

The Government Connect Programme will provide local government with a single secure approach to registering and authenticating users of online services. This will include checking identity details through data matching and data sharing processes to enable joined-up or shared service provision.

In relation to *(b)* a single citizen account, a core element of the Government Connect programme is the ability to offer a 'single sign-on' to citizens, i.e. once a citizen has registered and authenticated themselves online, all subsequent transactions will use this authentication, which means that citizens will no longer be asked for the same information again and again as they use different services from different providers.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding was provided to local authorities for Implementing Electronic Government in each year since its introduction; and how much has been allocated for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [88070]

Mr. Woolas: Local authorities in England were allocated the following capital grant for Implementing Electronic Government:

	Capital grant (£)
2002-03	200,000
2003-04	200,000
2004-05	350,000
2005-06	150,000
2006-07	0
2007-08	0

The Local e-Government Programme was completed in March 2006, so no Implementing Electronic Government funding has been allocated for 2006-07 or 2007-08.

Empty Dwellings

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant homes there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Swindon. [86631]

Yvette Cooper: The information is as follows:

At October 2005 there were an estimated 723,194 vacant homes in England.

At October 2005 Swindon district council reported a total of 2,374 vacant homes.

Source:

Council Tax Base 1 (CTB1) returns.

Fair Trade Councils

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to support local authorities becoming designated as fair trade councils. [87523]

Mr. Woolas: Local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions subject to the requirements of Best Value Legislation and to the EU/UK regulatory framework. Fair trade options have to be considered by local authorities within this framework.

False Fire Alarms

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many malicious false fire alarms were attended by the fire and rescue service in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* constituency since 2004-05. [86813]

Angela E. Smith: Information provided by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) is shown in the following tables:

Malicious false fire alarms attended by London borough

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	342	158
Barnet	245	157
Bexley	119	82
Brent	312	137
Bromley	182	122
Camden	267	321
City of London	18	13
Croydon	140	165
Ealing	234	96
Enfield	327	150
Greenwich	308	152
Hackney	368	121
Hammersmith and Fulham	132	59
Haringey	390	181
Harrow	222	91
Havering	114	78
Hillingdon	169	88
Hounslow	152	61
Islington	265	95
Kensington and Chelsea	135	66
Kingston-upon-Thames	65	64
Lambeth	348	149
Lewisham	324	109
Merton	65	41
Newham	446	173
Redbridge	136	103
Richmond-upon-Thames	35	26
Southwark	385	175
Sutton	65	36
Tower Hamlets	513	219
Waltham Forest	263	154
Wandsworth	196	102
Westminster	301	196

Malicious false fire alarms attended by constituency

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Barking	177	96
Battersea	62	35
Beckenham	50	28
Bethnal Green and Bow	311	129
Bexleyheath and Crayford	49	26
Brent East	90	52
Brent North	88	33
Brent South	134	52
Brentford and Isleworth	83	30
Bromley and Chislehurst	57	35
Camberwell and Peckham	139	70
Carshalton and Wallington	37	26
Chingford and Woodford Green	37	45
Chipping Barnet	63	23
Cities of London and Westminster	231	167
Croydon Central	60	84
Croydon North	60	45
Croydon South	20	36

Malicious false fire alarms attended by constituency

	2004-05	2005-06
Dagenham	165]	62
Dulwich and West Norwood	93	38
Ealing North	82	30
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	109	47
Ealing, Southall	101	50
East Ham	179	60
Edmonton	84	45
Eltham	71	45
Enfield North	166	69
Enfield, Southgate	77	36
Erith and Thamesmead	135	53
Feltham and Heston	69	31
Finchley and Golders Green	62	47
Greenwich and Woolwich	153	68
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	154	52
Hackney South and Shoreditch	214	69
Hammersmith and Fulham	74	28
Hampstead and Highgate	51	45
Harrow East	183	76
Harrow West	39	15
Hayes and Harlington	103	44
Hendon	120	87
Holborn and St. Pancras	216	276
Hornchurch	34	28
Hornsey and Wood Green	135	86
Ilford North	46	25
Ilford South	75	63
Islington North	117	48
Islington South and Finsbury	148	46
Kensington and Chelsea	67	37
Kingston and Surbiton	61	60
Lewisham East	139	45
Lewisham West	114	42
Lewisham, Deptford	71	22
Leyton and Wanstead	88	49
Mitcham and Morden	41	27
North Southwark and Bermondsey	198	87
Old Bexley and Sidcup	19	22
Orpington	75	59
Poplar and Canning Town	290	132
Putney	42	24
Regent's Park and Kensington North	155	70
Richmond Park	12	13
Romford	48	26
Ruislip-Northwood	26	17
Streatham	85	54
Sutton and Cheam	28	10
Tooting	92	43
Tottenham	255	95
Twickenham	27	17
Upminster	35	24
Uxbridge	40	27
Vauxhall	218	75
Walthamstow	153	75
West Ham	179	71
Wimbledon	24	14

Note:
Data supplied by LFEPA.

The total number of malicious false fire alarms by constituency is slightly less than by borough because of missing geographic information.

Fire Control Centres

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place to *(a)* monitor the progress of the roll out of regional fire control centres and *(b)* ensure all functions and duties currently undertaken by fire control centres are covered in the new structure. [86044]

Angela E. Smith: The FiReControl project is managed in line with the principles of PRINCE2 methodology and Office of Government Commerce (OGC) best practice.

It is managed in stages and includes separate accommodation and technology procurements. Regional projects have been established to plan and manage the changes at regional and FRS levels. Progress is monitored and reported against the project plan. Internal reports are provided to the Project Board, and upwards to the programme executive and DCLG Board. As a mission critical project, quarterly reports are also made to OGC and subject to the Gateway Review process.

All functions and duties currently undertaken in FRS control rooms that are essential to the operation of the fire and rescue service will be done in either the new regional control centres (RCCs) or FRS HQs. Following the responses to a recent questionnaire on current control room activities, we are working with our local delivery co-ordinators in each FRS to plan the effective transition of activities.

More detailed information on our recent follow-up work on existing control room activities can be found on the FiReControl website:

www.firecontrol.communities.gov.uk

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what response she has made to the Fire Brigade Union document "Regional Control: national resilience." [86045]

Angela E. Smith: The Fire Brigade Union sent a copy of their document "Regional Control: national resilience" to the Deputy Prime Minister and requested a meeting. The Deputy Prime Minister met with the Fire Brigade Union Secretary on the 7 February 2006 to discuss their proposals, amongst other things.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the location is of each fire local control room in England, broken down by region; and how many people are employed at each. [86782]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is tabulated as follows:

Staff in post on 31 March 2005 (all persons having a fire control role)

Region	Staff (full-time equivalents)
East of England: 6 control rooms	
Kempston, Bedford	26
Huntingdon	29
Hutton (Essex)	[1]44
Hertford	26
Heathersett, Norwich	27
Ipswich	23
East Midlands: 5 control rooms	
Littleover, Derby	32
Glenfield, Leicester	27
Lincoln	24
Northampton	23
Arnold, Nottingham	28
London: 1 control room	
London SE1	111
North East: 4 control rooms	
Hartlepool	23
Durham	27
Morpeth	23
Newcastle upon Tyne	36
North West: 5 control rooms	
Winsford	24
Cockermouth	18
Swinton, Manchester	68
Fulwood, Preston	45
Bootle, Liverpool	54
South East: 9 control rooms	
Tilehurst, Reading	34
Aylesbury	21
Eastbourne	27
Eastleigh	38
Newport (Isle of Wight)	13
Tovil, Maidstone	39
Kidlington, Oxford	21
Reigate	28
Chichester	31
South West: 7 control rooms	
Bristol	34
Truro	16
Clyst St. George, Exeter	28
Dorchester	24
Quedgeley, Gloucester	21
Cheddon Fitzpaine, Taunton	21
Potterne, Devizes	24
West Midlands: 5 control rooms	
Worcester	21
Shrewsbury	17
Stone	31
Royal Leamington Spa	17
Birmingham	62
Yorkshire and the Humber: 4 control rooms	
Kingston upon Hull	29
Northallerton	24
Sheffield	38
Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire	55

[1] 2004 figure.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG.

Firefighters

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents *(a)* Merseyside Fire Service and *(b)* fire services in England experienced where booby-traps had been left to injure firemen in the course of carrying out their duties in each year for which figures are available. [88206]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not held centrally.

Fires

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many outbreaks of fire were recorded in each London borough in each of the last five years. [86797]

Angela E. Smith: Information provided by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) is tabulated as follows.

Fires attended in each London borough, 2001-02 to 2005-06

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	2,451	2,066	2,960	1,853	1,651
Barnet	1,333	1,299	1,641	1,152	1,248
Bexley	1,745	1,295	1,968	1,337	1,370
Brent	1,367	1,230	1,518	1,124	1,062
Bromley	1,870	1,702	2,130	1,544	1,794
Camden	1,467	1,479	1,303	1,159	1,027
City of London	131	115	131	127	90
Croydon	1,949	1,481	2,084	1,407	1,360

Fires attended in each London borough, 2001-02 to 2005-06

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Ealing	1,723	1,534	1,853	1,335	1,336
Enfield	1,834	1,554	2,116	1,496	1,398
Greenwich	2,766	2,285	3,270	1,892	2,092
Hackney	2,609	1,945	1,958	1,557	1,438
Hammersmith and Fulham	744	743	829	655	604
Haringey	1,569	1,402	1,426	1,192	1,107
Harrow	823	746	840	600	531
Havering	1,831	1,482	2,099	1,396	1,485
Hillingdon	1,997	1,893	2,134	1,313	1,211
Hounslow	1,875	1,589	2,112	1,219	1,187
Islington	1,797	1,701	1,707	1,127	1,177
Kensington and Chelsea	666	516	668	553	489
Kingston-upon-Thames	607	527	707	568	467
Lambeth	2,039	1,702	1,772	1,390	1,241
Lewisham	1,588	1,443	1,822	1,313	1,336
Merton	1,090	1,012	1,195	706	761
Newham	3,618	2,929	2,985	1,830	1,688
Redbridge	1,318	1,165	1,664	1,117	1,025
Richmond-upon-Thames	533	525	750	464	404
Southwark	2,740	2,341	2,523	2,026	1,737
Sutton	1,033	908	1,142	731	755
Tower Hamlets	4,008	3,162	3,531	2,761	2,602
Waltham Forest	1,301	1,289	1,779	1,115	1,165
Wandsworth	1,273	1,131	1,367	1,037	921
Westminster	1,501	1,377	1,300	1,197	1,199
Total	55,196	47,568	57,284	40,293	38,958

Note:
Data supplied by LFEPA, and include both primary and secondary fires.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary fires there were in England in each year since 1981; and how many dwelling fires there were in England in each year since 1976. [86803]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is tabulated as follows:

Primary, dwelling and secondary fires attended by fire and rescue services, England: 1976 to 2004

	Total primary fires	Dwelling fires	Thousand Secondary fires
1976	—	39.8	—
1977	—	40.1	—
1978	—	39.6	—
1979	—	48.4	—
1980	—	42.2	—
1981	113.0	44.4	112.9
1982	118.8	44.2	126.2
1983	122.4	45.0	132.6
1984	129.1	45.6	169.8
1985	131.0	48.5	125.6
1986	134.1	49.1	122.5
1987	135.0	49.4	102.9
1988	135.7	50.0	118.2
1989	144.5	50.1	194.0
1990	146.0	48.7	210.7
1991	155.8	49.4	156.3
1992	162.5	50.2	148.8
1993	160.2	50.7	168.6
1994	159.4	52.0	195.8
1995	161.3	52.2	300.2
1996	168.6	56.6	226.7
1997	164.5	57.6	189.5
1998	163.4	56.5	146.3

Primary, dwelling and secondary fires attended by fire and rescue services, England: 1976 to 2004

	Total primary fires	Dwelling fires	Thousand Secondary fires
[redacted]	178.8	57.5	180.0
	180.0	56.2	179.8
[redacted]	188.4	54.8	229.5
2002	182.6	51.6	225.9
2003	176.8	51.1	308.5
2004	150.9	48.1	192.0

Notes:
1. Data collection methods have varied over time, so categories may not be consistent throughout the period.
2. Data includes estimates for incidents not recorded in November 2002 and January and February 2003 during industrial action.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deliberate *(a)* vehicle fires and *(b)* fires there were in each London borough in each of the last five years. [86836]

Angela E. Smith: Information provided by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) is showing in the following tables:

Deliberate vehicle fires attended by London Fire Brigade by borough

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	729	478	403	275	200
Barnet	195	229	200	138	180
Bexley	362	276	254	162	137
Brent	195	170	164	123	133
Bromley	569	461	375	299	336
Camden	147	120	81	57	61
City of London	0	2	0	0	1
Croydon	389	257	252	179	198
Ealing	316	278	220	142	145
Enfield	451	326	318	210	181
Greenwich	576	462	448	332	279
Hackney	585	399	267	139	156
Hammersmith and Fulham	51	67	46	26	24
Haringey	289	281	242	140	125
Harrow	150	138	74	49	36
Havering	377	333	330	201	196
Hillingdon	645	515	345	229	171
Hounslow	417	371	283	177	176
Islington	330	222	189	67	107
Kensington and Chelsea	32	31	26	23	21
Kingston-upon-Thames	133	96	120	124	51
Lambeth	234	179	144	92	104
Lewisham	267	255	185	117	131
Merton	253	205	157	102	93
Newham	830	579	441	237	215
Redbridge	332	222	177	124	132
Richmond-upon-Thames	46	48	33	25	28
Southwark	399	310	222	171	130
Sutton	162	140	145	73	68
Tower Hamlets	624	505	357	298	252
Waltham Forest	211	194	192	114	121
Wandsworth	127	92	112	56	54
Westminster	34	41	34	17	32

Deliberate fires attended by London Fire Brigade by borough

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	1,835	1,540	2,348	1,305	1,019
Barnet	698	706	815	518	592
Bexley	1,272	920	1,420	838	756
Brent	604	547	693	507	444

Deliberate fires attended by London Fire Brigade by borough

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Bromley	1,362	1,247	1,499	1,072	1,141
Camden	664	685	585	407	341
City of London	15	16	17	20	3
Croydon	1,125	842	1,174	748	728
Ealing	1,084	847	944	619	605
Enfield	1,163	985	1,339	822	720
Greenwich	1,951	1,580	2,418	1,271	1,226
Hackney	1,871	1,249	1,083	647	585
Hammersmith and Fulham	293	314	328	187	174
Haringey	853	746	748	554	449
Harrow	477	393	408	257	206
Havering	1,317	1,061	1,525	925	880
Hillingdon	1,347	1,276	1,271	679	607
Hounslow	1,275	1,051	1,386	746	673
Islington	1,134	1,114	1,039	575	562
Kensington and Chelsea	189	129	198	153	114
Kingston-upon-Thames	307	245	347	299	198
Lambeth	932	780	806	548	468
Lewisham	866	795	980	639	619
Merton	632	577	704	346	346
Newham	2,743	2,148	1,989	1,013	856
Redbridge	841	691	823	565	515
Richmond-upon-Thames	229	254	326	197	145
Southwark	1,656	1,339	1,360	958	711
Sutton	663	564	739	404	406
Tower Hamlets	2,888	2,172	2,398	1,782	1,526
Waltham Forest	716	785	984	574	526
Wandsworth	565	472	611	419	292
Westminster	393	398	300	221	159

Note
Data supplied by LFEPA, and includes both primary and secondary fires.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many large outbreaks of fire there were in each fire authority in each of the last 10 years. [87181]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is in the following table.

Fires[1, 2] attended by five or more pumping appliances by FRS area, England: 1995-2004

Number

FRS area	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
England	1,934	1,666	1,420	1,446	2,261	1,554	1,711	1,655	1,890	1,476
England-Non-Met counties	1,132	1,015	766	663	1,314	933	1,020	1,057	1,279	970
Avon	10	46	16	23	37	36	31	37	63	34
Bedfordshire	17	20	23	0	9	25	10	1	14	24
Berkshire	28	28	12	13	40	22	1	23	30	39
Buckinghamshire	28	21	10	6	24	15	4	31	16	7
Cambridgeshire	20	23	8	5	35	16	18	16	13	19
Cheshire	51	32	24	25	33	28	12	46	50	34
Cleveland	25	14	22	4	37	17	25	29	5	27
Cornwall	16	33	17	3	17	34	10	5	1	0
Cumbria	9	7	1	10	7	15	17	11	11	9
Derbyshire	25	15	8	9	17	8	12	17	16	12
Devon	57	39	42	33	33	23	55	100	34	54
Dorset	49	29	28	28	52	63	61	62	66	41
Durham	15	1	14	5	4	7	7	8	6	9
East Sussex	22	17	11	1	29	26	16	21	26	25
Essex	58	42	33	23	67	45	69	21	72	2
Gloucestershire	13	31	4	17	13	26	3	15	22	16
Hampshire	41	44	30	33	69	65	51	34	84	39
Hereford and Worcester	33	15	18	18	17	15	30	23	24	20

Fires[1, 2] attended by five or more pumping appliances by FRS area, England: 1995-2004

Number

FRS area	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Hertfordshire	55	21	14	26	58	26	27	24	28	22
Humberside	47	48	19	20	72	24	51	68	59	12
Isle of Wight	9	3	16	3	7	6	5	0	0	0
Kent	92	116	60	45	105	90	101	115	96	65
Lancashire	20	28	34	53	78	42	43	33	46	51
Leicestershire	25	18	35	31	33	22	13	24	20	20
Lincolnshire	27	19	12	23	28	28	17	15	24	33
Norfolk	36	13	24	10	53	29	38	42	48	39
North Yorkshire	30	18	29	8	14	11	10	28	21	20
Northamptonshire	16	13	6	8	54	11	2	4	36	19
Northumberland	10	2	27	6	4	1	0	6	17	9
Nottinghamshire	26	21	6	21	37	20	16	17	30	46
Oxfordshire	15	29	27	16	49	20	25	5	39	14
Shropshire	20	21	14	14	18	5	7	20	7	7
Somerset	13	13	5	12	35	18	25	27	21	16
Staffordshire	41	26	10	14	31	22	10	25	30	28
Suffolk	46	78	18	36	16	15	39	30	48	40
Surrey	13	20	27	9	20	5	46	16	58	26
Warwickshire	21	5	15	16	5	0	13	25	13	36
West Sussex	34	27	31	18	30	40	49	23	66	55
Wiltshire	17	19	16	18	29	12	50	7	21	1
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England-Met Counties	802	651	654	783	947	621	691	598	611	506
Greater Manchester	92	58	60	66	78	50	120	95	108	75
Merseyside	50	38	31	38	69	33	22	48	28	21
South Yorkshire	10	21	12	6	30	16	20	5	20	18
Tyne and Wear	28	28	62	40	44	25	99	33	38	24
West Midlands	117	126	156	249	209	197	126	135	136	138
West Yorkshire	98	62	50	56	63	49	52	58	40	30
Greater London	409	318	283	328	455	252	252	224	242	200

[1] Including additional late call and heat and smoke damage incidents (not recorded prior to 1994).
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
Note:
Figures are based on sampled data grossed to fire and rescue service totals.
Source:
Fire and rescue service returns to DCLG

Fire Service

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of provision was during the recent Hertfordshire fire strike for interim fire and rescue cover *(a)* to tackle fire and *(b)* to assist with road accidents. [88074]

Angela E. Smith: Hertfordshire experienced three individual periods of strike action, on 20, 26 and 31 May 2006, each lasting for eight hours. The level of fire and rescue cover varied from 11 up to 16 pumping appliances, plus a specialist rescue vehicle. All pumping appliances had capability for both firefighting and road traffic accidents. The specialist rescue vehicle was for road traffic accidents. It was in service for the first two periods of strike action, but not for the last period, when the skills were available in other crews.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to ensure inter-operability and improve communications between the fire service and the other emergency services. [86977]

Angela E. Smith: The Firelink project, providing updated wide area radio communications to the fire and rescue service, will roll out from this autumn through until 2009. Firelink will provide inter-operability with police and ambulance services at strategic and tactical command levels.

Golf Courses

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many golf courses were registered on the Ratings List for business rates in England in the most recent year for which figures are available. [88077]

Mr. Woolas: The number of properties described as a golf course in the 2005 Rating List for England, at 31 January 2006, is 1,786.

Green Belt

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how she defines inappropriate development with regard to Green Belt policy. [87744]

Yvette Cooper: In deciding whether a development is inappropriate in the Green Belt the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is guided by Planning Policy Guidance note 2 (PPG2), Green Belts.

Horses

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to local authorities to deal with nuisance caused by horses *(a)* roaming wild in urban areas and *(b)* tethered on (i) public and (ii) private open space; and if she will make a statement. [85305]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

The Animals Act 1971 and the Highways Act 1980 contain provisions that relate to stray horses. Responsibility for enforcing this legislation lies with the police and local authorities.

The Protection Against Cruel Tethering Act 1988 created a specific offence under the Protection of Animals Act 1911 of causing unnecessary suffering to a horse, ass or mule by the manner or condition of its tethering. Anyone can seek to bring a prosecution where there is evidence of cruelty, either by tethering or by allowing horses to run free.

It is also an offence under the Abandonment of Animals Act 1960 to abandon an animal in circumstances likely to cause it unnecessary suffering. The maximum penalty for this offence is a fine of £5,000 or a six months imprisonment, or both.

House Prices

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price of a home was in each London borough in each of the last five years. [82898]

Yvette Cooper: Average house prices for London boroughs and local authority districts from 1996 based on data from the Land Registry are published in Table 585 on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1156110

Housing (Hounslow)

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to the London borough of Hounslow for the upgrading and repairs of council housing stock to meet the decent homes standard since 1997. [84430]

Yvette Cooper: Capital investment by the London borough of Hounslow since 1997 via the housing revenue account system is set as follows. ALMO—arm's length management organisations—allowances are included in these figures.

	£ million
1997-98	15,200,000
1998-99	12,523,000
1999-2000	12,948,000
2000-01	12,690,000
2001-02	10,028,000
2002-03	23,019,000
2003-04	38,901,000
2004-05	68,894,000
2005-06 (Planned)	68,413,000

Housing Renewal (Morecambe)

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated by English Partnerships to housing renewal in the West End of Morecambe under the West End Masterplan. [85033]

Yvette Cooper: Under the West End Masterplan for the renewal of the West End of Morecombe, English Partnerships have approved an investment of £8.6 million of which £4.5 million has been spent on land assembly and masterplanning works.

Intelligent Addressing

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use *(a)* her Department and *(b)* local authorities make of Intelligent Addressing in geographical information systems. [88069]

Angela E. Smith: The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has a development and demonstration licence with the Improvement and Development Agency to use the National Land and Property Gazetteer (NLPG) data produced under contract by Intelligent Addressing. NLPG data supports the National Register of Social Housing data collection. DCLG has previously used Intelligent Addressing directly as a contractor to perform address matching.

Local authorities access data and services provided by Intelligent Addressing through their Mapping Services Agreement.

Land Classification

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of land were classified as *(a)* urban and *(b)* suburban in each year since 1990, broken down by region. [84057]

Yvette Cooper: From the Department's statistics for Urban Settlements, the amounts of urban land in England were as follows:

	Hectares	
	1991	*2001*
North East	57,200	60,200
North West	153,100	160,300
Yorkshire and the Humber	114,100	121,000
East Midlands	92,300	100,900
West Midlands	122,700	129,200
East of England	124,200	134,900

	1991	Hectares 2001
London	130,600	130,500
South East	190,100	205,100
South West	103,000	116,700
England	1,087,200	1,158,900

Urban settlements are defined here as settlements with a population of 1,000 or more. They are based on the built-up extent and not on administrative boundaries. They are available only for census years, when there is information on population down to the necessary geographic level.

There is no standard definition of suburban areas and no information available centrally on their extent.

Land Value Tax

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the likely effects of introducing a land value tax. [88087]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not made any assessment of the likely effects of introducing a land value tax.

Local Authority Staff (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff were employed by each London borough in each year since 1997. [87277]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect this information.

Local Government

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to local authorities of complying with BS 7799 on information security. [88065]

Mr. Woolas: As part of the Implementing Electronic Government return process, local authorities were asked to provide information on compliance with BS 7799 on information security management, as an advisory good practice outcome relating to the internal organisation and management practices of the council that are required to help deliver the people, systems and service management changes necessary for e-government. No specific estimate of the costs of BS 7799 compliance has been made, as this outcome is advisory in status only. However, every local authority in England has been allocated £900,000 in capital grant to help in Implementing Electronic Government up to the end of 2005-06.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the contact administration address is for each pension scheme within the Local Government Pension Scheme. [88066]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government why the Audit Commission will not be reporting on Best Value Performance Indicator 199d for 2005-06. [88068]

Mr. Woolas: Best Value Performance Indicator 199d measures the year-on-year reduction in the number of incidents and the increase in the number of enforcement actions taken to deal with fly-tipping. The indicator was introduced in 2005-06. It will not be possible to publish data showing year-on-year changes until the indicator has been in place for two years.

Local Government Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was given to each London borough per person in the Local Government Finance Settlement in each year since 1997. [87322]

Mr. Woolas: The table shows formula grant per head for each London borough for 1997-98 to 2006-07. Formula grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula Police Grant.

Formula grant per head has been calculated by dividing the total amount of formula grant received by the authority and dividing through by the mid-year population used in the calculation of the formula grant. For 1997-98 to 2005-06, the latest population estimates were used. These relate to the period two-years before the period for formula grant. For example, in 2005-06, the mid-2003 population estimates were used. In 2006-07, the population projections relating to the period of formula grant have been used i.e. the mid-2006 population projections.

Please note that these amounts are not comparable year-on-year due to changes in funding and function. For example, in 2006-07 support for school funding moved from Formula Grant (i.e. Revenue Support Grant plus Business Rates) to the dedicated schools grant.

Formula Grant per head

Authority	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	£ per head 2001-02
City of London	18,164.52	15,852.79	16,047.26	16,256.25	14,534.16
Camden	982.61	961.99	984.95	1,004.76	1,007.84
Greenwich	897.73	927.66	979.21	1,011.24	1,031.47

Formula Grant per head

Authority	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*£ per head 2001-02*
Hackney	1,194.50	1,180.36	1,223.50	1,219.51	1,220.75
Hammersmith and Fulham	880.69	859.55	881.44	891.84	888.44
Islington	1,034.01	1,031.03	1,057.50	1,095.58	1,131.96
Kensington and Chelsea	707.27	678.37	676.28	663.68	658.17
Lambeth	931.84	925.89	947.68	942.82	955.25
Lewisham	876.35	913.88	943.20	971.95	984.69
Southwark	979.61	1,017.10	1,079.73	1,111.58	1,142.66
Tower Hamlets	1,374.95	1,445.85	1,505.97	1,529.05	1,557.43
Wandsworth	755.36	732.30	755.23	763.54	770.85
Westminster	994.83	919.91	907.86	882.24	858.16
Barking and Dagenham	723.85	788.88	860.49	895.62	939.30
Barnet	544.66	564.16	575.81	590.74	609.57
Bexley	552.35	597.26	645.43	672.22	707.46
Brent	821.59	839.38	852.72	853.46	887.18
Bromley	482.85	500.64	523.78	546.53	573.70
Croydon	565.60	590.75	610.79	635.57	664.47
Ealing	658.24	690.73	708.83	728.48	748.79
Enfield	672.87	715.91	750.44	779.80	815.67
Haringey	863.87	903.95	914.60	945.85	974.67
Harrow	519.96	549.44	564.62	583.78	604.80
Havering	497.14	527.39	551.82	578.43	606.61
Hillingdon	564.99	579.41	601.07	628.46	657.98
Hounslow	721.59	738.92	761.13	783.11	816.62
Kingston upon Thames	485.93	495.37	508.72	520.12	540.01
Merton	514.27	542.20	572.85	577.62	587.09
Newham	1,059.98	1,147.08	1,193.80	1,236.93	1,279.71
Redbridge	634.79	672.79	708.52	740.91	780.59
Richmond upon Thames	374.93	381.37	388.29	393.32	404.90
Sutton	546.11	569.83	598.98	620.89	652.49
Waltham Forest	759.34	806.74	845.99	869.86	908.69

Authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*£ per head 2006-07*
City of London	13,974.07	13,336.05	13,658.95	13,990.73	10,892.15
Camden	975.93	1,029.92	1,065.62	1,128.11	649.22
Greenwich	1,024.41	1,141.71	1,191.33	1,273.76	637.32
Hackney	1,227.81	1,349.32	1,406.90	1,529.12	926.93
Hammersmith and Fulham	881.52	933.38	960.60	1,022.59	607.79
Islington	1,144.29	1,231.86	1,276.68	1,361.13	779.20
Kensington and Chelsea	642.46	811.08	811.43	804.81	475.65
Lambeth	973.20	1,062.03	1,109.44	1,184.75	720.99
Lewisham	994.07	1,083.38	1,139.18	1,224.82	654.45
Southwark	1,187.73	1,273.47	1,330.79	1,419.22	818.59
Tower Hamlets	1,587.54	1,652.19	1,699.98	1,835.16	964.30
Wandsworth	756.02	833.61	844.45	875.22	481.47
Westminster	838.59	1,189.86	1,175.91	1,069.94	644.46
Barking and Dagenham	950.49	984.56	1,058.69	1,130.13	489.58
Barnet	586.25	684.46	700.94	735.17	240.81
Bexley	710.29	755.29	786.46	833.38	260.15
Brent	877.72	952.43	973.54	1,053.47	568.01
Bromley	551.10	611.57	630.81	661.23	184.43
Croydon	681.04	742.02	769.71	812.14	306.90
Ealing	742.43	827.53	850.90	918.79	422.17
Enfield	815.37	861.06	897.12	952.19	351.52
Haringey	990.07	1,071.42	1,086.46	1,143.28	583.70
Harrow	623.92	707.04	737.48	789.50	278.34
Havering	619.26	687.16	720.61	754.58	209.03

Authority	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ per head 2006-07
Hillingdon	647.95	749.14	786.76	844.87	286.72
Hounslow	792.16	859.34	885.70	951.47	381.50
Kingston upon Thames	522.92	585.92	616.03	662.54	208.76
Merton	588.37	648.65	675.70	731.91	307.94
Newham	1,311.56	1,396.40	1,416.75	1,514.26	742.24
Redbridge	753.08	795.06	828.45	882.46	326.06
Richmond upon Thames	412.06	503.07	512.91	537.24	126.87
Sutton	635.30	702.69	754.39	815.00	263.32
Waltham Forest	932.00	991.33	1,022.27	1,080.25	492.69

London Mayor

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much extra funding the Government plan to provide to the Greater London Authority to finance the new responsibilities of the London Mayor. [86781]

Mr. Woolas: In line with our policy of meeting net new burdens costs, the Government are committed to meeting reasonable net additional costs falling on the GLA as a result of its new responsibilities.

Mineral Extraction

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on applications for mineral extraction operations in areas of outstanding natural beauty. [88345]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment her Department has made of the impact of quarries on *(a)* residential areas and *(b)* areas of outstanding natural beauty; [87249]

(2) what her Department's definition is of an exceptional circumstance, for the purposes of Minerals Policy Statement 2, in which mineral extraction would be allowed in an area of outstanding beauty; [87250]

(3) what steps she has taken to satisfy herself that Minerals Policy Statement 2, on controlling and mitigating the environmental effects of mineral extraction in England, protects areas of outstanding natural beauty from unnecessary and damaging quarrying. [87251]

Meg Munn: Planning guidance to local authorities on planning applications in areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) is set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS)7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas. PPS7 states that AONBs confirmed by the Government have the highest standards of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Major developments (including mineral working) should not take place in these areas except in exceptional circumstances and applications for such developments should be subject to the most rigorous examination. Major development proposals should be demonstrated to be in the public interest before being allowed to proceed and will need to be assessed against the criteria set out in paragraph 22 of PPS7. However, it will be for local planning authorities to decide on a case by case basis whether exceptional circumstances exist which would allow them to grant planning permission for a minerals development in an AONB.

No recent assessment of the impacts of mineral operations on residential areas or areas of outstanding natural beauty has been undertaken by my Department. Any adverse potential impacts of quarries will need to be considered by mineral planning authorities after applications for planning permission have been submitted. Mineral operators will need to demonstrate to local planning authorities in planning applications including (where appropriate) through the preparation of environmental impact assessments that their proposals are acceptable. Minerals Policy Statement (MPS)2 "Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Minerals Extraction in England" stresses that mineral planning authorities should take account of the full range of social, community, economic and environmental issues relevant to the planning decision. Any adverse effects on local communities, environmental damage or loss of amenity must be kept to an acceptable minimum. MPS2 advises mineral planning authorities on the use of appropriate planning conditions, which must be capable of being monitored, to mitigate any environmental impacts. Where adverse environmental effects cannot be adequately controlled or mitigated through the design of proposals or the attachment of conditions, planning permission should be refused.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will visit Kettering to attend a public meeting to discuss her Department's housing expansion plans for Northamptonshire. [82864]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* We consider that Kettering plays an important part in the growth proposals for North Northamptonshire. We are kept regularly updated on development of the plans to take these forward and I chair the regular Milton Keynes and South Midlands Inter Regional Board. In addition, officials are closely involved with the borough council and other partners in bringing forward housing, growth and other agendas. There have already been a number of ministerial visits to North Northamptonshire and more are planned. DCLG Ministers are more than happy to discuss housing development in Kettering with key partners during future visits to Northamptonshire.

Multi-foil Insulation

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has commissioned on the insulating qualities of multi-foil insulation products. [86744]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government commissioned the Building Research Establishment to provide 'The thermal performance of multi-foil insulation' a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to building control officers regarding the use of multi-foil insulation products. [86749]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government issued guidance to building control officers in England and Wales on 19 June, following its circular letter on 30 March in which we mentioned UKAS accreditation. We have since understood that UKAS accreditation was not possible since there was no adopted test method, so the Department wrote to LABC Services and the Association of Consultant Approved Inspectors on 19 June and referred them instead to the Approved Documents for Part L, Conservation of Fuel and Power, and Regulation 7 which sets out ways for assessing fitness for purpose for materials.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how multi-foil insulation products are treated under Approved Document L of the Building Regulations. [86760]

Angela E. Smith: Part L of the Building Regulations and its associated Approved Documents do not refer to multi-foil insulation or any other type of insulation product. The Approved Documents indicate that the methods for calculating thermal performance and establishing the thermal properties of insulation materials must be as described in BR443 "Conventions for U-value calculations".

National Land and Property Gazetteer

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Audit Commission plans to undertake a formal audit of the probity and efficiency of public expenditure on the National Land and Property Gazetteer. [88083]

Mr. Woolas: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission. The Chief Executive of the Audit Commission has written to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

National Land Information Service

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the National Land Information Service; and if she will make a statement. [85701]

Mr. Woolas: The National Land Information Service is a community interest company, and the Government do not therefore have any formal role in assessing its effectiveness.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what stock was transferred from the Government wine cellar to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005-06. [85708]

Angela E. Smith: None.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Valuation Office Agency makes to Ordnance Survey (OS) outside the pan-government OS agreement for access to the imagery and photographic data that OS holds. [87350]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency does not take any imagery or photographic data from Ordnance Survey and consequently makes no payment for such.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures exist in Pathways to Work to assist individuals who may be continuously in and out of work due to *(a)* multiple sclerosis and *(b)* other long-term and fluctuating medical conditions. [85292]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

Our Welfare Reform Bill set out our plans to assess people based on the effects a condition has on a person's capacity to work. This is not done on the basis of a single "snapshot" assessment but over a reasonable period of time given the nature of the condition. In this way we will take account of the effects of fluctuating and long-term conditions. Personal advisers have the freedom to waive or defer a work-focused interview where a claimant is unable to participate for good reason.

We aim to have a system that can be flexible to an individual's changing condition. We will be sensitive to each person's situation and take serious consideration of any medical advice given, such as that provided by a GP. Our services are delivered by personal advisers whose key motivating factor is the help they are able to offer. These advisers receive specialist training to give them the skills, knowledge, techniques and confidence to deal with customers whose circumstances include having a health condition or disability. If someone cannot reasonably participate in back-to-work activity because of their current health condition, they will not be required to do so. It is about people meeting with an adviser to discuss their circumstances and look for ways to improve the quality of their day-to-day living and perhaps begin to chart a route back to work.

In Pathways to Work areas, our Condition Management Programmes have been effective in helping individuals with health conditions to return to work. The programmes, jointly delivered by Jobcentre Plus and NHS Primary Care Trusts, offer help to the very large proportion of people coming on to incapacity benefit who want and expect to work again but genuinely believe that they are too ill to do anything about it. The programmes are designed to assist individuals understand and manage their health conditions better, particularly in a workplace environment, and reflect current best clinical practice in the management of these conditions.

Planning (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning enforcement notices were issued in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87278]

Meg Munn: The number of planning enforcement notices issued in each London borough in each year since 1997 is presented in the following table:

Formal enforcement notices issued by London borough councils 1997 to 2005

Council name	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
City of London	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	9	5	1	5	14	15	20	12	16
Barnet	51	36	38	47	42	27	53	67	97
Bexley	24	1	15	5	10	4	6	9	15
Brent	71	64	119	103	85	104	101	117	157
Bromley	123	128	105	105	87	101	65	111	115
Camden	64	67	73	105	62	64	41	47	27
Croydon	23	19	32	11	25	30	13	14	42
Ealing	11	39	26	30	44	46	31	59	46
Enfield	46	40	42	29	27	14	18	64	88
Greenwich	19	14	54	47	38	28	34	22	41
Hackney	0	9	19	0 (3)	n/a (0)	9	24	16	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	30	25	65	48	54	45	39	52	31
Haringey	21	44	37	50	54	73	65	66	91
Harrow	43	21	27	9	13	22	13	8	10
Havering	17	14	13	8	8	11	16	22	20
Hillingdon	10	12	7 (2)	(0)	7 (3)	0	0	0	0 (3)
Hounslow	9	34	43	54	30	56	51	8	38
Islington	32	33	21	17	49	94	40	27	51
Kensington and Chelsea	58	53	53	45	34	53	66	84	38 (3)
Kingston upon Thames	13	9	10 (3)	12	20	17	23	36	13
Lambeth	12	41	18	21	32	19	31	26	43
Lewisham	7	6	2 (1)	7 (3)	3	7	18	26	28
Merton	5 (3)	5	0	8	7	7	22	20	16
Newham[1]	53	25	24	9	1	25	18	14	73
Redbridge	35	24	55	26	21	19	0	1	10
Richmond upon Thames	14	31	10	22	21	33	39	17	58
Southwark[1]	12	15	5	6	4	7	9	26	9
Sutton	13	2 (3)	14	11	9	10	20	11	19
Tower Hamlets[1]	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	28	28	39	0	27	31	4	36	45
Wandsworth	8	7	1	5	10	8	19	40	15
City of Westminster	75	37	67	102	84	104	104	164	156
Total	938	889	1,036	947	922	1,083	1,004	1,222	1,408

n/a = Not available.

[1] These councils included areas within London Dockland Development Corporation, however the statistics exclude enforcement within the LDDC. The LDDC served no enforcement notice during 1997 or 1998 when the LDDC was wound up.

Note:

The number in parenthesis indicates how many quarters were reported.

Source:

DCLG General Development Control Return, PS1.

Small Business Rate Relief

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 928W, on small business rate relief, how many small firms she estimates claimed relief in 2005-06; and if she will estimate the proportion of small firms who were eligible who claimed the relief. [88249]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not held centrally.

Sports and Leisure Facilities

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what conclusions on *(a)* the relative merits of (i) private and (ii) public sector contracts for sports and leisure facilities and *(b)* the future letting of contracts for sport and leisure facilities she drew from the Audit Commission report "Public Sports and Recreational Services". [87625]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

I agree with the report's conclusion that there is no single "best practice" model for managing local authority leisure services. The report makes clear that both the public and private sector can provide good public leisure services for local communities where councils have taken decisions based on a robust options appraisal. It is important that councils, with support from Government, continue to get better at managing their leisure provision which is why I have asked Sport England to work closely with them in taking forward the Audit Commission's recommendations.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she will take to improve strategic planning in leisure services following the publication of the Audit Commission report "Public Sports and Recreational Services". [87626]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

We want to help local authorities to revitalise their leisure facilities and to ensure that the right sports facilities are in the right places. Sport England has already developed a range of strategic planning tools to assist them. These include, among others: the Active Places database, which provides a comprehensive picture of sports facilities across the country; the National Benchmarking Service; a Facilities Planning Model; and a Sports Facilities Demand Estimator. In addition, I have charged Sport England with the task of driving forward work with local authorities to improve the quality of their sports facilities and service delivery. They are creating an Improvement Unit to deliver this.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research the Valuation Office Agency has undertaken in relation to developing *(a)* a national property database and *(b)* a National Spatial Data Infrastructure. [88092]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has maintained a national database of properties in England and Wales to enable it to discharge its statutory functions for many years.

The VOA has not researched the development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 956-57W, on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), when the VOA's communications strategy for the council tax revaluation was *(a)* submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* last (i) updated and (ii) amended by the VOA. [88282]

Mr. Woolas: The answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 956-7W, explains that a communications strategy was being drafted by the Valuation Office Agency before the postponement of council tax revaluation in England, announced on 20 September 2005.

Working jointly with the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Agency worked on a proposed strategy from late 2003. The draft was last amended in April 2005 and has not been updated since, due to the postponement.

Valuebill Database

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Government have made of whether the Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model holds sensitive personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 1998. [86834]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model (AVM) is a processing tool and does not hold data.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Accidents

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many accidents have taken place in establishments for which his Department is responsible in the last 12 months; how many court cases have arisen as a result; how much has been awarded in *(a)* damages and *(b)* settlements; and if he will make a statement. [81906]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has received three personal injury claims relating to accidents on its premises, since 1 July 2005. Two of the cases are ongoing and one was settled out of court, at a cost to my Department of £479.99 to cover costs for physiotherapy and damage to personal property.

Adoptions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children whose parents have learning difficulties were adopted in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [86340]

Mr. Dhanda: We do not collect centrally information on parents of looked-after children therefore figures are not available for the number of children adopted whose parents have learning difficulties.

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87065]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's total spend on advertising campaigns was:

	£
2000-01	29,110,000
2001-02	17,665,000
2002-03	13,790,000
2003-04	20,170,000

Campaigns over £500,000 are:

2000-01

	£
Don't Quit Now	2,700,000
New deal 50 plus	2,400,000
ICT Employability	2,011,000
Childcare Recruitment	1,821,000
Parents' Magazine	1,484,000
Disability Discrimination	1,242,000
Fast Track Teachers	1,056,000
Modern Apprenticeships	856,000
Individual Learning Accounts	612,000

2001-02

	£
Adult Basic Skills 'Get on'	5,096,143
Childcare Recruitment	2,504,000
Science Year 2001/02	1,803,000
Excellence Challenge	1,750,000
Modern Apprenticeships	1,670,000
Foundation Degree	1,325,000
Fast Track Teachers	1,250,000
Millennium Volunteers	848,000
Parents' Magazine	770,000
New Deal 25+	633,000

2002-03

	£
Adult Basic Skills	5,478,117
Childcare Recruitment	2,741,377
Aim Higher	2,649,999
Connexions	1,320,331
HE Funding	655,000
Foundation Degree	549,397

2003-04

	£
Adult Basic Skills	6,672,938
Aim Higher	4,190,018
Childcare Recruitment	2,986,659
Foundation Degree	2,813,787
Connexions	2,608,005

It is not possible, except at disproportionate expense, to provide a more detailed breakdown for actual dates for when each campaign ran, other than detailing the Financial Year within which the expenditure occurred.

The Department runs a number of campaigns in support of our key delivery priorities, in order to inform our target audiences of how they are affected by our policies. All of our campaigns follow the guidelines which govern Government information on issues of propriety and cost.

Every campaign is measured vigorously against specific communication objectives using pre- and post-campaign research, to record shifts in awareness, attitudes, knowledge or behaviour among the target audience(s).

The Department employs tracking research to monitor these shifts over time and, typically, conducts telephone surveys of respondents to advertising campaigns, to monitor satisfaction with the services offered and actions taken as a result of the campaign. It routinely tests the likely effectiveness of different creative approaches on the target audience(s) through market research, as part of the development of advertising campaigns. Lessons learnt from previous campaigns are used to inform future ones.

Autism

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps he plans to take to provide specialist teacher training for the support of children with autism in mainstream schooling; [86500]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to support specialist teacher training for the support of children with autism in mainstream schooling. [86547]

Mr. Dhanda: The framework for teacher training ensures that qualifying and newly qualified teachers, including those who support children with autism in mainstream schools, are aware of their responsibilities to children with special educational needs (SEN) and can plan effectively to meet these children's needs. Further, in-service training on particular SEN, such as autism, is a matter for schools and local authorities.

In order to be awarded Qualified Teacher Status, all trainee teachers must demonstrate that they understand their responsibilities under the statutory Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, know how to seek advice from specialists on less common types of SEN, can differentiate their teaching to meet the needs of pupils, including those with SEN, and can identify and support pupils who experience behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

The current standards for teachers are under review. Once revised, it is proposed that they will be strengthened to include a standard which requires teachers to know and comply with current legislation

on well-being of children and young people and one which requires teachers to know and understand the role of others when dealing with children who have special needs and/or disabilities.

Induction Standards require Newly Qualified Teachers to demonstrate that they can plan effectively to meet the needs of pupils in their classes with SEN, with or without a statement, and in consultation with the SEN Co-ordinator (SENCO), can contribute to the planning for individual needs.

The Department's published SEN Strategy, 'Removing Barriers to Achievement' recognised the importance of training and committed us to work closely with the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to ensure that initial teacher training and programmes of continuing professional development provide a good grounding in core skills and knowledge of SEN. We have commissioned the TDA to carry forward a range of initiatives designed to improve and strengthen the SEN skills and confidence of trainees, newly qualified and established teachers. These initiatives will be implemented over the period 2005-08 at a cost of approximately £1.1 million.

All schools receive a School Development Grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development of SEN.

In 2002 we published jointly with the Department of Health, "Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs): Good Practice Guidance" which offered a series of pointers to good practice, including pointers on in-service training. The Guidance advises that,

"all those who plan or provide for children with an ASD should have some knowledge and understanding of autism".

Many schools, local authorities and Regional Partnerships have used the Guidance to develop their autism provision. The West Midlands Regional Partnership last month published "autism spectrum disorders: training policy and framework" to ensure more consistency in ASD training by clarifying the knowledge and skills that courses are aiming to cover. This has been distributed to all the Regional Partnerships.

BECTA

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will publish the most recent review of the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency. [87360]

Phil Hope: The most recent review of BECTA was published in March 2003. Copies of the reports are lodged in the Commons Library and are also available on BECTA's website:

www.foi.becta.org.uk

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects schools in Brent to receive funding from the Building Schools for the Future programme. [87782]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my predecessor on 9 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 394W, when she was advised that Brent has been informed that it may expect to start in the programme in waves 7-9.

CAFCASS

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the timetable is for the allocation of cases in *(a)* private and *(b)* public law in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). [86962]

Mr. Dhanda: This is a matter for CAFCASS. Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Lamorna Wooderson, dated 20 July 2006:

In my capacity as Acting Chief Executive, whilst Mr Douglas is on leave, I am responding to the recent parliamentary question that you tabled.

PQ 86962 - what the timetable is for the allocation of cases in (a) private and (b) public law in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service.

CAFCASS aims to allocate all cases at the earliest opportunity. In public law we have a Key Performance Indicator, to allocate at least 70% of cases within 2 days of receipt by March 2007. At the end of May 2006 five of our ten regions are exceeding this target. The national average was 55.3%. In addition, we have a Key Performance Indicator, to allocate 98% of public law cases within 28 days of receipt. At the end of May we achieved this in 92% of cases, with 5 regions exceeding the target.

We have an internal performance indicator that there will be no more than 4% of Private Law cases unallocated. At the end of May 3% of cases were unallocated. All but 4 regions met the target as 97% of requests received had been allocated by the month end.

Child Care

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many child care places were available in Swindon in each year since 1997. [86636]

Beverley Hughes: The available information on child care places, for Swindon local authority area, is shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Number[1, 2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider, Swindon local authority area, position at 31 March each year, 1997 to 2002

Type of provider	1997[3]	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Day nurseries	n/a	n/a	1,100	1,100	1,100	n/a
Playgroups and pre-schools	n/a	n/a	1,600	1,500	1,500	n/a
Child minders	n/a	n/a	2,200	2,200	2,100	n/a

Table 1: Number[1, 2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider, Swindon local authority area, position at 31 March each year, 1997 to 2002

Type of provider	1997[3]	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Out of school clubs	n/a	n/a	550	680	840	n/a
Holiday schemes[4]	n/a	n/a	2,700	1,300	1,400	n/a
Family Centres	n/a	n/a	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	n/a

n/a = Not available.
[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 places.
[2] Data Source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.
[3] Affected by local government reorganisation on 1 April 1997.
[4] From 1999, places were counted once for each school holiday. Before 1999, places were counted once each year.
[5] Under 5.

Table 2: Number[1, 2] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age by type of care, Swindon local authority area, position at 31 March each year, 2003 to 2006

Type of care	2003	2004	2005	2006
Full day care	1,200	1,800	2,100	2,200
Sessional day care	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,200
Child minders	1,900	1,800	1,800	2,000
Out of school day care	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,400
Crèche day care	100	100	100	100

[1] Rounded to the nearest 100 places.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted.

The figures for child care places for 2003 to 2006 are not directly comparable with the day care figures for 1997 to 2001. The figures for 2003 to 2006 were derived from the Ofsted database of registered child care providers. The figures for 1997 to 2001 were derived from the Children's Day Care Facilities Survey, which was discontinued in 2001. There are no figures for 2002.

With the introduction of the National Day Care Standards and the transfer of responsibilities for registration and inspection of child care providers from local authority social service departments to Ofsted in September 2001, child care places were classified according to the type of day care provided: full day care, sessional day care, child minder, out of school day care or crèche day care. Ofsted have produced figures based on this classification on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published on 5 May 2006 in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, 31 March 2006", which is available on their website, www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications

Up until March 2001, child care providers were classified according to the type of provider: day nurseries, playgroups and pre-schools, child minders, out of school clubs and holiday schemes. Figures based on this classification were published in a series of statistical bulletins, which are available from the Department's website, www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics

Child Deaths

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Part 8 reviews into child deaths have occurred in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [84571]

Mr. Dhanda: The Child Protection Database, maintained by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, provides the data in the table on the numbers of confirmed Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), following the death of a child, in each local authority since 2000. Accurate data prior to 2000 are not available. The following table includes only those authorities where a child death has led to a confirmed SCR and provides an overall total for between 2000-05. In order to maintain the confidentiality of individual children who were the subject of a SCR, ([1]—) denotes fewer than three SCRs. The data for 2006 are not yet complete.

Responsible Council	2000-05 Number
Barking and Dagenham	[1]—
Barnsley	4
Bedfordshire	4
Birmingham	12
Blackpool UA	[1]—
Bolton	9
Bournemouth UA	3
Bradford	4
Brent	[1]—
Bristol UA	[1]—
Calderdale	[1]—
Cambridgeshire	[1]—
Camden	[1]—
Cheshire	5
Cornwall	[1]—
Coventry	4
Croydon	[1]—
Cumbria	3
Derby UA	[1]—
Derbyshire	[1]—
Devon	4
Doncaster	6
Durham	5
Ealing	[1]—
Enfield	—
Essex	5
Gloucestershire	3
Hackney	[1]—
Hartlepool UA	4
Havering	4
Hertfordshire	7
Hounslow	[1]—
Isle of Wight UA	1

2000-05

Responsible Council	Number
Islington	[1]—
Kent	[1]—
Kingston-upon-Hull UA	[1]—
Kingston-upon-Thames	3
Kirklees	4
Knowsley	[1]—
Lambeth	[1]—
Lancashire	5
Leeds	4
Leicester UA	[1]—
Leicestershire	[1]—
Lewisham	3
Lincolnshire	3
Liverpool	[1]—
Luton UA	5
Manchester	12
Medway Towns UA	[1]—
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	[1]—
Newham	8
Norfolk	[1]—
North Lincolnshire UA	5
North Somerset UA	[1]—
North Yorkshire	[1]—
Northamptonshire	11
Northumberland	[1]—
Nottingham UA	[1]—
Nottinghamshire	7
Oldham	3
Other	[1]—
Plymouth UA	3
Rochdale	[1]—
Rotherham	[1]—
Sandwell	[1]—
Sheffield	3
Solihull	[1]—
Somerset	[1]—
Somerset	[1]—
South Gloucestershire UA	[1]—
Southend-on-Sea UA	[1]—
Southwark	[1]—
St. Helens	[1]—
Stockport	[1]—
Stockton-on-Tees UA	3
Stoke-on-Trent UA	6
Suffolk	6
Sunderland	[1]—
Surrey	[1]—
Sutton	[1]—
Swindon UA	6
Tameside	[1]—
Thurrock UA	[1]—
Torbay UA	[1]—
Trafford	3
Wakefield	6
Waltham Forest	4
Warwickshire	[1]—
Westminster	[1]—
Wigan	3
Wirral	[1]—
Wolverhampton	3
Worcestershire	[1]—

[1] Fewer than three SCRs

Chinese Students

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from mainland China studied in England in each year since 1997. [86632]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table:

Students from mainland China who studied[1] in English higher education institutions in each year since 1997

Academic year	Number
1997/98	2,070
1998/99	3,040
1999/2000	4,990
2000/01	8,685
2001/02	15,265
2002/03	26,975
2003/04	36,580
2004/05	39,280

[1] Figures include both undergraduate and postgraduate students and also full-time and part-time students.

Notes:

1. Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December (excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant).
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record data.

Diplomas

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what projections he has made of the number and proportion of pupils in the fourth key stage who will opt to study for *(a)* a general diploma and *(b)* a specialised diploma in each of the first five years following their introduction; [87353]

(2) what his Department's targets are for the take-up of *(a)* academic and *(b)* vocational qualifications in each of the next five years; [87354]

(3) how many and what proportion of pupils *(a)* in the fourth key stage and *(b)* between the ages of 14 and 19 years he expects to opt for vocational qualifications in each of the next five years. [87355]

Jim Knight: Chapter 6, paragraph 18, of the 'Department's Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners', published on 8 July 2004, set out our aim to extend vocational options across all schools as part of our commitment to strengthening choice and the personalisation of the curriculum. To support this aim, the Strategy stated that we will dramatically increase the number of 14-16 year olds studying vocational subjects in schools, colleges and training providers to just over 180,000 by 2007-08.

The Department published its projections for 14-16-year-olds' take up of specialised Diplomas in the 14-19 Implementation Plan, Chapter 1, page 20, figure 1.3. A copy of the Implementation Plan is in the Library. Figure 1.4 shows the estimated participation of 16-18-year-olds in education and work-based learning over the period 2002/03 to 2014/15. We expect the numbers of young people participating to increase as more

learning options become available to them. We also expect the balance of provision to shift towards specialised Diplomas as these come onstream.

Young people wishing to do just GCSEs will be able to do so. They will also be eligible for award of the General Diploma when this is introduced in 2009.

Electronic Children's Database

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1384W, on the Electronic Children's Database (1) what plans he has to prevent accidental loss or theft of data stored in the index; [86889]

(2) what plans there are *(a)* to link and *(b)* to enable data-sharing between the Information Sharing Index and the National Identity Register; [86890]

(3) what rights *(a)* children, *(b)* their parents and *(c)* children on the index who have reached adulthood will have to view their personal data stored on the Information Sharing Index; [86891]

(4) what legal requirement there will be permanently to delete information from the Information Sharing Index once *(a)* the child reaches adulthood and *(b)* a set period of time has passed; [86892]

(5) whether the Information Sharing Index will hold *(a)* fields and *(b)* information for Audit Trail log files on which organisations or individuals have been examining or amending individual records; [86901]

(6) what the differences are between the Information Sharing Index database and Integrated Children's system database; [86902]

(7) what plans he has to introduce offences for the misuse or abuse of the database; [86903]

(8) whether he plans to establish the statutory limitation on what data the Information Sharing Index will hold and which public sector bodies can access the database by means of *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* secondary legislation. [86978]

Beverley Hughes: In relation to questions 86889 and 86903, the Information Sharing Index will be designed to ensure a high level of physical and environmental security to protect against natural hazards that could interrupt service. Arrangements will be in place to enable operations to continue effectively, notwithstanding any system component failures. There will be an effective and tested contingency plan that would, for example, ensure that a back-up system is in place.

We see no need to introduce specific offences as there are already measures in criminal law which impose penalties for theft or misuse of data or unauthorised access to computer records. Mandatory training for all users and operators of the index will stipulate that the Data Protection Act provides that a serious offence, with a penalty of a fine up to the statutory maximum, will be committed where personal data is unlawfully obtained or disclosed without the consent of the data controller. The Computer Misuse Act 1990 provides that unauthorised access, or attempted unauthorised access to a program or data held on a computer may be punishable by imprisonment.

In relation to question 86901, all index use will be monitored through the creation of an audit trail record. Users will be required to supply a valid reason when searching for and viewing an index record. All access to any record will be recorded and reviewed regularly for suspicious patterns of access. Misuse of the index will therefore be detected and dealt with through internal disciplinary procedures or the criminal measures referred to.

In relation to question 86890, the index will not be linked to the National Identity Register, nor are there plans for data-sharing between them.

In relation to questions 86892 and 86891, the Children Act 2004 provides that records of children and young people will remain on the index until they reach age 18. There is also provision for records of young people who receive additional services—for example, care leavers and those with learning disabilities—to remain on the index, with their consent, up to age 25 in order to provide continued support in the transition to adult services. We will be consulting over the autumn on draft regulations that will, among other issues, propose a period of time during which records will be kept in a secure archive before permanent destruction.

Children, young people, and parents when acting on their behalf, have rights under the Data Protection Act to see the data that is held about them on the index and to request that incorrect data is corrected or removed.

In relation to question 86902, the Information Sharing Index is a central database containing a basic record on all children in England, with contact details of practitioners working with them. There will be no case information on the index record. The Integrated Children's System (ICS) is not a database. ICS is a framework that provides a set of principles for case record management by local practitioners working with individual children in need (as defined under the Children Act 1989) and looked-after children. ICS is not itself an IT system, but it is IT-enabled to help practitioners carry out their key tasks effectively.

In relation to question 86978, section 12 of the Children Act 2004, and affirmative resolution regulations to be made under section 12, will set out the information that must or may be included on the index and specify the types of practitioner whose role would make it appropriate for them to have access. Consultation on the draft regulations will run over the autumn.

Examinations

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils under the age of 18 years sat *(a)* SATs *(b)* GCSEs, *(c)* GNVQs and *(d)* A-levels in each year since 1997. [86446]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* The information required is in the following table.

Pupils under the age of 18 entered for tests or exams

Thousand

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Key Stage1[1]									
Reading task[2]	589.2	604.1	603.7	583.0	581.4	568.6	557.9	—	—
Reading test[3]	488.3	499.8	512.3	503.9	505.2	495.3	487.6	—	—
Writing task[2]	572.0	585.6	587.4	569.0	570.0	558.5	545.2	—	—
Key Stage 2[4]									
English	546.5	568.7	593.9	589.0	601.0	608.9	604.8	580.5	579.8
Mathematics	553.2	574.6	599.4	595.2	606.5	613.7	609.1	585.5	584.6
Science	554.2	577.2	602.5	598.3	610.4	619.2	617.3	594.0	592.0
Key Stage 3[4]									
English	491.2	500.1	524.0	527.9	539.7	561.4	551.6	544.7	569.0
Mathematics	520.0	518.9	543.2	550.7	565.0	582.5	579.2	586.0	595.1
Science	514.4	519.0	542.9	548.5	559.9	578.3	578.0	582.8	595.0
GCSE	551.6	545.1	553.3	554.1	577.4	581.5	597.3	618.2	618.1
GNVQ	3.7	7.0	11.7	14.2	9.3	64.5	123.7	67.0	79.6
GCE/VCE A-level	231.3	236.0	236.0	231.4	241.0	257.9	268.7	265.3	263.6

[1] The 2004 and 2005 figures have not been made available as they are not directly comparable to figures prior to and including 2003. This is to reflect the following:
in 2004 a trial took place in which some local authorities (LAs) were asked to only submit teacher assessments to the Department, and the remaining LAs continued to submit both.
in 2005, for the first time, schools were only required to report teacher assessments.
[2] Figures are calculated as pupils eligible for assessment less those who were absent (A), disapplied (D) and "working towards" level 1 (W).
[3] Figures are calculated as pupils eligible for assessment less those who were absent (A), disapplied (D) and not require to be entered for the reading tests (X).
[4] Figures are calculated as pupils eligible for assessment less those who were absent (A), working below the level of the test (B) or disapplied/unable to access the test (A/T).

Foreign Language Teaching

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children are taught at least one foreign language. [87493]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect data on the number of primary school children learning languages. However, in January 2005 the findings of Headspace, a survey of head teachers by Education Guardian and Edcoms, indicated that 56 per cent. of all primary schools in England were planning for or implementing language learning programmes to their pupils. *(b)* In 2005, the percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4 attempting any modern foreign language examination was 59 per cent. (375,300 pupils out the cohort of 633,400).

Further Education Colleges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1984W, on further education colleges, from which providers' prospectuses he found evidence of these types of courses. [86896]

Bill Rammell: Information about tarot card reading, stand-up comedy and various forms of cake decorating courses is available on the learndirect website (http://www.learndirect.co.uk/) or the London Floodlight website (http://www.floodlight.co.uk/). The websites provide course information plus details of those colleges and other providers which offer the course.

GCSE/A-levels

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students re-sat at least one examination at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level in each of the past five years. [86862]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many completed examination papers at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level were lost in each of the past five years. [86870]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) collected data on the number of GCSE, AS and A-level examination scripts missing on results day in 2004 and 2005; comparable data is not available for previous years. More than 20 million exam scripts circulated in summer 2005 across all awarding bodies. The number of scripts missing prior to marking was as follows:

	Missing scripts	
	2004	*2005*
GCSE/GNVQ		
Total for AQA, Edexcel and OCR	3,411	3,054
AS, A-Level and Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE)		
Total for AQA, Edexcel and OCR	3,235	2,204

Gifted Pupils Register

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the creation of a gifted pupils' register; and what assessment he has made of the merits of such a proposal. [86950]

Jim Knight: The National Register is a key part of our programme to support gifted and talented learners in our schools. The National Register will help schools to identify these learners, as requested in the Schools Census, including those aged 11-19 who are eligible for membership of the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth. It will enable schools and local authorities to target interventions where necessary to help pupils at risk of underachieving to fulfil their potential. We are also exploring whether higher education institutions might use data from the register to assist with their widening participation strategies.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Home Department on protection of children on the internet and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill. [85737]

Mr. Dhanda: My right hon. Friend and I have been informed of the content of discussions between DfES and Home Office officials and representatives of the industry about the provisions in the Bill for vetting chat room moderators. My hon. Friend the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety wrote to the Moderation Sub-Group of the Home Secretary's Taskforce for Child Protection on the Internet setting out the two Departments' response to the concerns raised by the group. Discussions are continuing with a view to clarifying how the requirements in the Bill will work alongside the "Good Practice Guidance for the Moderation of Interactive Services for Children", which the taskforce published in November 2005. There is ongoing discussion at official level on matters arising from the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill which impact upon both Departments as and when they occur as well as a range of other areas concerning child protection on the internet. The taskforce child protection measures sub group has, for example, set up a working group, of which DfES is part, to look at the safety issues for children caused by the development and growth of social networking sites.

School Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if his Department will take steps to ringfence schools spending to ensure the appropriate level of investment is allocated to providing ergonomic, height adjustable furniture in schools; and if he will make a statement. [87415]

Jim Knight: The Government believe that schools are best placed to decide how to deploy the resources available to them through their delegated budgets and allocations of devolved formula capital and to decide on the appropriate level of investment to maintain the fixtures and fittings of their schools, including ergonomic furniture.

School Sport

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have a playing field or playground where students can practise sports and participate in physical education lessons; and how much land was in use as school playing fields in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [86872]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* Data on areas of school playing fields and external spaces were supplied to my Department by local education authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, the completeness and quality of the data are not good enough accurately to assess the proportion of schools that have playing fields or playgrounds where students can practice sports and participate in physical education lessons. Nor can the data provide information on the total area of land in use as school playing fields.

Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 was introduced in October 1998 to stop the indiscriminate sale of school playing fields. Local authorities and governing bodies of all maintained schools now need the Secretary of State's consent before they can dispose of a playing field or any part of a playing field.

Since 1998, 175 applications to sell an area of school playing field capable of forming at least a small sports pitch have been approved. Of these, 73 related to playing fields at closed or closing schools. In every case the sale proceeds were used to provide new or improved sports or educational facilities.

School Toilets

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have toilets fitted with (i) hippos, (ii) cistern and flush controls and (iii) other water saving devices. [87376]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on how many schools have fitted cistern displacement devices (such as hippos), cistern and flush controls and other water saving devices. However the Water Regulations (Water Regulations Advisory scheme 2005) require automatic controls to be fitted to all new or refurbished urinal flushing cisterns. Comprehensive guidance on the fitting of water saving devices in schools is available in a new free publication "Sustainable water management in schools[1]".

[1] Publication reference CIRIA W12, 66 pages, available for free download from http://www.ciria.org/downloads.htm

Sign Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which colleges offered a British Sign Language course for the academic years *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07; which colleges expect to offer such a course in 2007-08; and what public funding supported or is planned to support such courses in each year. [86912]

Bill Rammell: Data on the particular courses offered by colleges are not held centrally. However, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) holds information on which FE providers have at least one LSC-funded learner taking a British Sign Language course for 2003/04 (336 providers in total) and 2004/05 (312 providers). A list of these FE providers will be placed in the House of Commons Library. Full year figures for 2005/06 are not yet available as the academic year which spans 1 August to 31 July has not finished, but an initial list based on enrolments at 1 October 2005 will also be provided in the House Library. Full-year information for 2005/06 is likely to be available in December 2006.

FE college planning data for 2006/07 or 2007/08 at the level of individual courses are not required by the Learning and Skills Council. The Learning and Skills Council plans provision with FE providers at a higher and more aggregated level i.e. Full level 2 achievements, etc.

In 2004-05 the LSC funded 641,000 learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities at a cost of around £1.5 billion. Continuing investment in this provision remains a priority, which was confirmed in our 2006-07 Grant Letter to the LSC and the LSC has in turn made clear in its strategic planning guidance the priority it attaches to this provision.

Speech and Language Development

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what guidance is available to children's trusts on joint working between agencies responsible for supporting children with communication disabilities; [86773]

(2) what professional support is available to assist early years practitioners to assist children with communication disabilities; [86774]

(3) what assessment the Department has made of the long-term impact for children with a speech and language disability; [86776]

(4) what steps he has taken to improve parental awareness of Government support for children with communication disabilities; [86777]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of implementing a national unitary framework for special educational needs. [86778]

Mr. Dhanda: The Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework for Children, Young People, and Maternity Services, published in March 2006, aims to help local partners to put in place a unified planning and commissioning system which will put improved outcomes at the centre of their thinking, will create a clear picture of what children and young people need, will make the best use of resources, and will join up services so that children and young people with multiple needs experience a seamless service.

To assist the process of joint working, the Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Health have commissioned a study of good practice in the provision of speech and language therapy services to children and young people with special educational needs in the age range 0 to 19. A research team from Christ Church College Canterbury is carrying out this study and the fieldwork is currently under way.

The Department recognises that early identification of need, early intervention and early co-ordinated support are key in improving outcomes for children with communication difficulties. As part of a major new £250 million investment in improving the quality of the early years work force, the Department has identified training to support practitioners working in private, voluntary and independent sector settings in meeting the needs of disabled children and their families as one of four priority areas. This is new money and complements the training resources already available to local authorities through the General Sure Start Grant. The Department has also funded the development in partnership with 45 partnership areas of a wide range of practical resources and training materials through the Early Support Programme.

The Department is supporting a longitudinal study by the university of Warwick looking into the learning needs of a group of children with specific language and communication difficulties, the characteristics of the current provision made for them and its impact, their aspirations for the future and the ways in which services can best support them. The results of the study are due to be published in autumn 2006.

Parental awareness of speech and language difficulties is of course very important. In 2005 the Department published a detailed and well received information booklet for parents on speech and language difficulties under the Early Support Programme. This resource was produced in close collaboration with specialist organisations in the voluntary sector and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. It explains how children normally develop communication, language and speech, how adults can help in this, the difficulties that can arise and how to seek help from professionals.

In the report of their inquiry into special educational needs published on 6 July 2006, the Education and Skills Select Committee make recommendations concerning the possible shape and nature of a national framework on SEN. We are considering the Select Committee's report very carefully and will respond in due course.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what advisory support services *(a)* are provided by his Department and *(b)* the Department funds the voluntary and community sector which offer information and support to children identified as having communication disabilities; [87151]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of implementing a national delivery model for schools and other educational settings to support children's speech and language development; [87152]

(3) what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of speech and language skills in England; and if he will make a statement. [87153]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not itself provide advisory support services for children with communication disabilities. We have however published a detailed information booklet for parents on speech and language difficulties under our Early Support

Programme and we continue to look for opportunities to work in collaboration with relevant voluntary sector organisations. We have, for example, given grants for particular projects to the Association For All Speech Impaired Children (AFASIC), I CAN, the Aiding Communication in Education Centres and the Selective Mutism Information and Research Association (SMIRA).

The Primary and Secondary National Strategies provide a range of support and guidance to schools and childcare settings on the teaching of English and the development of speaking and listening skills, including frameworks to help teachers meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. The primary framework for teaching literacy is currently being revised, and we are developing a statutory framework for care and learning for children aged between birth and five—the Early Years Foundation Stage. Both of these documents will emphasise the importance of supporting children's development of speaking and listening skills from an early age. We have also rolled out a national training programme—Communicating Matters—for practitioners in early years settings, dealing specifically with children's language acquisition. This training, which relates closely to the curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage, includes a module focused on support for children with additional needs.

Speech and language skills are assessed by teachers on an ongoing basis in all key stages including the Foundation stage. Speaking and listening is an explicit element of the overall subject level for English and it is reported within the overall subject level for English at the end of each key stage; it is not reported separately. In the Foundation Stage, it is reported within communication, language and literacy in the Foundation Stage Profile.

The Department has also indirectly assessed levels of speech and language development in Sure Start Local Programme areas to monitor progress towards its targets in this area. This has been collected using the Sure Start Language Measure (SSLM), a parental report tool used to measure change in the language skills of two year old children in Sure Start Communities. SSLM data collected by Sure Start local programmes has shown that between 2001-02 and 2004-05 the proportion of children in Sure Start areas with a high word count score at age two and whose parents were not worried about their development rose from 70 per cent. to 74 per cent.

Student Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of graduates were paying back income-contingent student loans in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [84697]

Bill Rammell: Borrowers enter repayment status in the April after they leave their course as they are, in principle, eligible to repay their loans. However, borrowers only make repayments when they are earning over £15,000 and those earning less are not required to make any repayments.

The following table shows the number in repayment status and the numbers who made a repayment in each financial year. Full data is not yet available for more recent financial years.

	Financial year			
	2003-04	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*
Total in repayment status	568,500	298,300	100,000	35,500
Total who made a repayment[1]	270,900	132,600	42,600	14,500
Percentage making a repayment	48	44	43	41

[1] Figures include those who made a repayment but who are not in repayment status.

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

The repayment system is still relatively young. The table shows an increasing proportion repaying each year as older cohorts earn more and pass the threshold. However, full cohorts did not enter repayment until 2002-03 onwards. These larger, new cohorts have a negative impact on the percentage repaying compared to the positive impact of the older, but smaller, cohorts. This 'drag' effect will become less evident as more cohorts move into repayment and the system reaches a steady state.

Student Loans

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimates he has made of the average time graduates in each year since 1990 will take to pay off *(a)* mortgage-style student loans and *(b)* income-contingent student loans; and if he will make a statement. [86072]

Bill Rammell: The currently estimated average times for loans to be fully repaid are *(a)* around eight years for mortgage-style loans and *(b)* around 13 years for income-contingent loans. There is no evidence available to suggest that there is any difference in time taken to repay between particular borrower cohort years.

In both cases, the average number of years is counted from the statutory repayment due date, which is the April following the year of graduation.

Sure Start

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places are available on Sure Start schemes in Swindon; and what percentage of eligible children are on each scheme. [86637]

Beverley Hughes: There are three Sure Start children's centres up and running in Swindon offering services, including 56 child care places, to 2,739[1] children under five and their families. These build on the earlier Sure Start Local Programme set up in 2001 to offer services to 804 children under four. Information on numbers using children's centres' services is not available yet, however information for the month of March, 2005 (the latest available) shows 28 per cent.[2] of children in Swindon had significant

contact (that is, a home visit or attendance at a centre-based activity) with the Penhill and Pinehurst Sure Start programme.

[1] 2,739 children include 804 children previously served by the 1 SSLP in Swindon that has become a children's centre.

[2] *Source:*

Sure Start Local Programme data returns March 2005.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children have participated in Sure Start schemes in each constituency since its introduction. [87377]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested by constituency is not collected centrally. Between 1999 and 2003, 524 Sure Start local programmes were approved to deliver services to 400,000 children aged under 4 and their families in disadvantaged areas. The latest information available (for March 2005) shows an average of 23 per cent. of children had significant contact (that is a home visit or at a centre-based activity) with their local Sure Start programme. We expect all of these to become children's centres providing services to children aged under 5 and their families. The first children's centres were approved in 2003. By the end of September 2006 we expect children's centre services to be offering services to 893,977 children. By March 2008 we expect this to rise to 2,132,279 children across England, including all those living in the 30 per cent. most deprived areas.

Translation

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what interpretation and translation service provision his Department makes for people *(a)* visiting his Department, *(b)* telephoning his Department and *(c)* visiting his Department's website. [87379]

Mr. Dhanda: The procedure for visitors and telephone calls is to use the DfES internal network services. The network provides information on officers who are native or fluent in a language and can be called upon when required.

The Department provides official languages for its website in association with official language bodies. It does not provide translation in any other language at present. It should be noted however that our website is being moved in 2007 to a new technical infrastructure that will allow multiple language capability.

DfES operates a Welsh Language scheme in accordance with section 21(3) of the Welsh Language Act 1993. Although the Department has limited responsibilities in Wales, any telephone helplines, or similar facility we set up to give information, services or support in Wales, to the public, we would provide a Welsh language service.

Truancy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the levels of truancy in secondary schools in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [85944]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold data on pupils recorded as truant. However, the figures for the proportion of half days missed due to unauthorised absence (of which truancy forms a part) in maintained mainstream secondary schools in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997 are given in the table as follows:

Percentage of half days missed in maintained mainstream secondary schools[1] due to unauthorised absence[2]

	Rural areas	*Non-rural areas*
1997/98	0.6	1.2
1998/99	0.6	1.1
1999/2000	0.6	1.1
2000/01	0.7	1.0
2001/02	0.64	1.16
2002/03	0.64	1.14
2003/04	0.70	1.20
2004/05	0.76	1.31

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Figures are only available to 1 decimal place prior to 2001/02.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Tuition Fees

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster are exempt from tuition fees. [87636]

Bill Rammell: The number of students in Barnsley and Doncaster local authority making no contribution to their tuition fees in 2004/05 was 970 and 1,430[1] respectively.

Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

From 2006/07 upfront fees are abolished and full-time students will be eligible for tuition fee loans of up to £3,000. In addition, we expect around 30 per cent. of students to receive a maximum maintenance grant of £2,700 and an HE institution bursary of at least £300. Overall, we expect around half of all eligible students to receive at least some maintenance grant.

[1] Numbers rounded to the nearest 10 students.

Under-25s

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people under the age of 25 years were not in education, employment or training in *(a)* Hyndburn and *(b)* England in (i) the last year for which figures are available and (ii) 1997. [86234]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the percentage of 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training for Hyndburn constituency, Lancashire LEA and England. Figures are for 2004 and are the latest available; figures for 1997 are not available.

Geographic area	*Percentage of 16 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training, 2004*[1]
Hyndburn	16
Lancashire	12
England	14

[1] To reduce the margin of error, figures have been produced by combining information from the Local Labour Force Survey for 2002, 2003 and 2004. However, sample sizes for Hyndburn and Lancashire are still small and are subject to sampling variability. Care should be taken when interpreting the figures.

University Admissions

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received from university admissions tutors on the relative value of A-levels and the International Baccalaureate in admission assessments; and if he will make a statement. [85961]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* I am not aware of any such representations. Higher education institutions are autonomous organisations and are entirely responsible for their own admission assessments, entry requirements, and decisions.

University Staffing Costs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the staffing costs were of each *(a)* university and *(b)* former polytechnic in (i) 1976-77, (ii) 1979-80, (iii) 1985-86, (iv) 1996-97, (v) 1997-98, (vi) 2001-02 and (vii) 2004-05; and how many full-time equivalent students there were at each university in each year. [85290]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the following tables. Information for the former polytechnics for the years prior to 1996-97 is not held centrally. Figures for 1979-80 were not published; figures for 1978-79 are given instead.

Expenditure on total staff costs and student full-time equivalent numbers Universities in England

	1976/77		*1978/79*		*1985/86*	
Institution name	*Staffing costs (£000)*	*Full-time equivalent student load*	*Staffing costs (£000)*	*Full-time equivalent student load*	*Staffing costs (£000)*	*Full-time equivalent student load*
Aston	6,483	5,076	9,110	5,554	14,329	3,599
Bath	4,456	3,734	6,335	3,835	15,722	3,799
Birmingham	16,739	8,527	20,124	8,975	48,439	8,939
Bradford	6,553	4,553	8,650	4,994	16,410	4,436
Bristol	12,548	6,746	16,028	6,804	38,395	7,099
Brunel	4,286	2,642	5,567	2,898	15,026	3,196
Cambridge	18,896	11,633	25,196	11,968	61,614	12,567
City	4,720	2,546	6,056	2,977	14,305	3,326
Durham	5,045	4,278	6,670	4,269	17,643	4,996
East Anglia	4,155	3,507	5,808	3,883	16,213	4,383
Essex	3,036	2,523	4,024	2,860	10,834	3,082
Exeter	4,932	4,333	6,844	5,165	15,825	4,943
Hull	5,157	4,616	6,804	5,227	15,318	4,862
Keele	3,158	2,725	4,125	2,983	8,715	2,759
Kent	3,732	3,329	5,035	3,868	12,149	4,230
Lancaster	4,871	4,232	6,742	4,610	16,095	4,530
Leeds	16,317	10,058	20,990	10,451	52,903	10,374
Leicester	6,140	4,214	8,174	4,478	22,330	4,729
Liverpool	12,616	7,656	16,208	7,859	39,631	8,144
London Graduate School of Business Studies	883	327	1,116	334	3,070	363
London University	103,830	42,922	133,518	45,333	329,325	44,908
Loughborough	5,325	4,001	8,059	5,284	23,045	5,295
Manchester Business School	740	143	948	144	2,656	259
Manchester University	18,895	10,765	24,706	11,385	55,337	11,539
Manchester Institute of Science and Technology	7,295	3,874	9,711	3,899	26,996	4,019
Newcastle	11,988	6,915	15,716	7,610	38,754	7,769
Nottingham	10,199	6,359	13,741	6,704	34,485	7,364

Expenditure on total staff costs and student full-time equivalent numbers Universities in England

	1976/77		1978/79		1985/86	
Institution name	*Staffing costs (£000)*	*Full-time equivalent student load*	*Staffing costs (£000)*	*Full-time equivalent student load*	*Staffing costs (£000)*	*Full-time equivalent student load*
Oxford	20,259	12,503	27,296	12,946	68,695	13,139
Reading	8,356	5,435	10,695	5,972	24,413	5,563
Salford	6,231	4,545	7,874	4,714	16,764	4,143
Sheffield	12,300	7,702	15,736	7,996	35,416	7,960
Southampton	10,748	5,805	14,710	6,119	36,235	6,502
Surrey	5,095	3,069	6,537	3,542	19,629	3,336
Sussex	7,133	4,251	8,693	4,274	18,370	4,532
Warwick	4,770	4,203	7,459	5,099	23,431	5,697
York	3,884	2,918	5,203	3,216	13,220	3,606

Source:
University Grants Committee.

Expenditure on total staff costs and student full-time equivalent numbers Universities, former Polytechnics and University Colleges in England

		Expenditure (£000)[1]				*Student FTE numbers*[2]			
	Institution	*1996/97*	*1997/98*	*2001/02*	*2004/05*	*1996/97*	*1997/98*	*2001/02*	*2004/05*
0047	Anglia Ruskin University	35,325	34,593	49,083	54,321	14,020	13,805	17,555	18,330
0108	Aston University	22,415	24,060	31,178	42,011	4,670	5,070	5,920	6,880
0048	Bath Spa University	8,002	8,467	11,388	16,455	2,560	2,920	3,930	5,335
0109	The University of Bath	41,169	42,790	58,270	72,411	6,390	6,735	8,525	10,380
0127	Birkbeck College	19,335	18,886	28,904	37,839	6,500	6,385	6,880	7,060
0110	The University of Birmingham	115,107	114,025	154,316	181,401	17,530	17,835	21,765	23,100
0049	The University of Bolton	15,944	16,694	16,664	22,766	5,335	5,250	4,770	4,920
0050	Bournemouth University	21,072	21,567	31,106	38,871	9,250	9,540	11,105	12,190
0111	The University of Bradford	39,383	39,629	44,745	51,696	8,340	8,600	8,105	8,795
0051	The University of Brighton	37,642	38,468	49,000	62,081	12,565	12,940	14,420	15,350
0112	The University of Bristol	99,949	101,727	129,578	165,195	12,055	11,940	14,260	15,715
0113	Brunel University	43,502	43,484	51,925	61,817	11,535	12,040	11,695	12,540
0009	Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College	17,687	18,538	24,230	30,024	7,190	6,995	7,320	7,125
0203	The University of Buckingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	575
0114	The University of Cambridge	151,581	159,109	227,791	334,764	16,010	15,990	18,015	18,395
0012	Canterbury Christ Church University	17,927	19,366	27,862	40,702	7,025	7,220	9,305	10,365
0052	University of Central England in Birmingham	44,911	45,842	58,509	74,183	17,845	17,200	16,735	17,925
0053	The University of Central Lancashire	38,788	37,109	56,738	77,228	14,490	14,900	17,220	19,365
0129	Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School	21,308	—	—	—	970	—	—	—
0011	University of Chester	10,193	10,392	15,581	29,621	3,540	3,530	5,330	7,750
0082	University of Chichester	7,173	8,293	9,514	12,861	3,110	3,915	3,605	4,100
0115	City University	39,223	40,580	55,117	74,446	7,395	7,730	10,210	12,870
0056	Coventry University	37,133	38,868	50,942	60,044	13,080	13,800	13,470	13,530
0002	Cranfield University	50,524	50,424	63,850	71,515	2,455	2,590	2,720	2,985
0068	De Montfort University	63,475	63,619	68,347	74,807	20,305	20,110	19,235	18,690
0057	University of Derby	25,449	26,481	37,742	43,841	10,540	11,025	10,070	10,885
0116	University of Durham	52,847	54,589	72,872	93,288	10,495	10,445	12,000	14,200
0117	The University of East Anglia	40,935	42,328	56,657	72,599	5,385	9,420	9,075	11,095
0058	The University of East London	34,129	33,040	38,244	46,792	10,040	10,065	10,430	12,190
0118	The University of Essex	29,742	30,209	41,217	54,506	5,500	5,805	6,980	8,440
0119	The University of Exeter	44,306	42,906	53,238	77,711	8,730	8,855	9,805	11,350
0017	University College Falmouth	3,241	3,516	5,769	8,353	1,045	1,115	1,425	1,895
0054	University of Gloucestershire	17,288	17,059	21,985	28,842	5,935	5,730	7,515	6,635
0131	Goldsmiths College	20,328	21,200	28,289	32,960	5,145	5,565	5,870	5,875
0059	The University of Greenwich	51,394	51,275	55,969	58,673	13,215	13,375	13,900	16,175
0018	Harper Adams University College	5,068	5,341	7,297	8,863	1,530	1,535	1,610	1,425
0060	University of Hertfordshire	44,822	45,304	58,530	73,777	14,225	15,000	15,775	19,325
0061	The University of Huddersfield	31,532	31,206	40,605	46,393	12,035	13,225	12,935	13,360
0120	The University of Hull	44,671	45,849	58,012	68,444	9,530	9,440	12,555	13,365
0132	Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	121,073	179,096	220,671	268,439	7,715	9,605	10,540	11,595
0133	Institute of Education	14,085	14,905	21,213	28,673	2,270	2,290	2,310	2,970
2001	Institute of Psychiatry (associated with King's College London)	16,997	—	—	—	355	—	—	—
0121	The University of Keele	31,489	31,690	40,749	49,150	7,935	8,415	7,255	7,850
0122	The University of Kent	39,991	39,347	47,323	58,893	8,105	7,905	9,975	12,215

Expenditure on total staff costs and student full-time equivalent numbers Universities, former Polytechnics and University Colleges in England

		Expenditure (£000)[1]				Student FTE numbers[2]			
	Institution	1996/97	1997/98	2001/02	2004/05	1996/97	1997/98	2001/02	2004/05
0134	King's College London	85,974	109,074	201,075	225,984	11,225	11,895	15,690	17,200
0063	Kingston University	42,362	42,540	55,450	72,477	12,015	11,930	13,895	16,755
0123	The University of Lancaster	44,231	40,978	52,603	69,903	8,345	8,455	9,200	10,825
0064	Leeds Metropolitan University	43,786	42,496	63,450	83,788	14,005	15,105	17,120	20,770
0124	The University of Leeds	129,829	130,309	175,116	213,023	20,775	21,225	25,510	28,655
0125	The University of Leicester	62,721	64,689	84,422	103,176	11,145	11,195	12,640	12,365
0062	The University of Lincoln	23,878	23,131	31,391	35,504	11,995	11,830	9,585	10,175
0023	Liverpool Hope University	10,728	11,351	16,118	22,249	3,705	4,105	5,910	6,030
0065	Liverpool John Moores University	51,405	52,196	60,352	77,552	15,165	16,270	16,925	17,930
0126	The University of Liverpool	92,843	94,865	118,847	143,661	13,735	13,665	15,595	16,825
0024	University of the Arts, London	39,903	41,693	55,476	73,314	8,415	8,320	9,845	11,760
0135	London Business School	14,634	15,135	27,645	37,167	870	940	1,315	1,655
0151	University of London (institutes and activities)	54,310	55,908	41,336	47,718	1,145	955	700	305
0055	London Guildhall University	23,825	23,377	32,935	—	9,165	9,805	10,130	
0202	London Metropolitan University	—	—	—	92,354				20,645
0076	London South Bank University	47,213	47,353	58,650	62,294	14,560	16,390	13,825	13,810
0137	London School of Economics and Political Science	34,243	36,226	56,609	72,745	6,310	8,310	6,725	7,520
0138	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	16,511	16,956	25,956	30,377	930	640	770	800
0152	Loughborough University	53,532	55,124	71,069	87,271	9,325	9,665	11,280	13,070
0026	University of Luton	27,248	23,738	28,685	24,688	11,820	13,325	8,365	8,110
0153	University of Manchester	139,582	142,790	181,833	—	20,910	20,890	22,270	—
0165	The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology	47,631	49,238	63,179	—	6,850	6,860	6,465	—
0066	The Manchester Metropolitan University	73,247	73,406	82,828	102,994	25,045	24,975	24,690	27,080
0204	The University of Manchester	—	—	—	311,796	—	—	—	32,525
0067	Middlesex University	46,332	48,262	61,801	71,575	18,595	18,715	17,790	20,920
0154	The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	92,946	93,190	127,992	142,721	12,655	12,950	14,770	16,635
0070	The University of North London	31,556	32,193	41,112	—	11,610	11,660	11,975	—
0027	The University of Northampton	22,738	23,362	26,740	33,446	8,015	8,880	9,210	8,640
0069	The University of Northumbria at Newcastle	55,965	53,775	70,485	83,077	15,690	16,085	17,930	19,740
0071	The Nottingham Trent University	56,895	57,686	73,169	84,605	21,585	21,420	21,655	22,770
0155	The University of Nottingham	106,574	108,897	147,037	186,114	15,330	15,645	20,465	24,715
0001	The Open University	121,001	119,270	175,537	197,976	63,335	57,710	66,185	64,130
0072	Oxford Brookes University	35,811	36,629	53,868	70,095	9,520	10,035	12,165	14,450
0156	The University of Oxford	153,306	158,426	209,869	268,808	16,000	16,250	17,100	18,400
0073	The University of Plymouth	48,823	49,438	66,427	80,434	17,275	17,480	18,875	21,410
0074	The University of Portsmouth	48,935	48,941	53,745	70,720	14,140	15,010	14,875	17,915
0139	Queen Mary and Westfield College	78,455	76,344	87,665	106,077	7,485	7,805	8,190	9,865
0157	The University of Reading	65,302	66,597	81,270	93,194	10,525	10,195	10,795	11,095
0031	Roehampton University	18,670	18,464	24,035	28,100	5,530	5,880	6,305	7,260
0140	Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine	19,273	20,334	—	—	685	710	—	—
0141	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	27,996	28,752	37,975	47,858	5,115	5,575	5,390	6,630
0142	Royal Postgraduate Medical School	30,671	—	—	—	295	—	—	—
0143	The Royal Veterinary College	9,924	10,346	14,852	21,250	620	640	865	1,285
0145	St. George's Hospital Medical School	28,814	29,744	39,568	44,443	1,365	1,230	1,890	2,365
0158	The University of Salford	57,039	56,615	68,509	83,573	13,760	14,760	16,610	16,220
0146	The School of Oriental and African Studies	16,173	17,227	21,592	26,731	2,575	2,660	3,220	3,555
0147	The School of Pharmacy	4,613	4,754	5,966	8,721	575	580	730	930
0075	Sheffield Hallam University	61,893	57,315	75,775	91,132	19,980	19,265	21,900	22,755

Expenditure on total staff costs and student full-time equivalent numbers Universities, former Polytechnics and University Colleges in England

		Expenditure (£000)[1]				Student FTE numbers[2]			
	Institution	1996/97	1997/98	2001/02	2004/05	1996/97	1997/98	2001/02	2004/05
0159	The University of Sheffield	106,958	112,319	143,339	183,631	20,320	19,625	20,965	22,340
0037	Southampton Solent University	25,245	25,870	33,010	34,050	13,750	11,500	9,630	9,490
0160	The University of Southampton	87,938	93,325	127,332	166,246	13,030	14,565	16,305	19,090
0077	Staffordshire University	35,762	35,309	44,811	48,601	12,870	13,025	12,580	10,820
0078	The University of Sunderland	31,284	32,256	39,539	45,613	12,270	12,155	10,060	11,620
0161	The University of Surrey	49,139	52,876	69,028	90,740	7,300	7,695	8,715	9,870
0162	The University of Sussex	42,522	42,991	53,808	68,471	8,965	8,535	9,120	9,210
0079	The University of Teesside	28,533	29,397	38,253	51,413	10,090	9,820	11,120	12,525
0080	Thames Valley University	35,109	34,967	36,530	68,785	15,155	13,325	12,130	13,690
0148	United Medical and Dental Schools, Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals	49,898	49,560	—	—	2,220	2,270	—	—
0149	University College London	177,929	185,224	273,137	325,512	13,475	13,860	15,300	17,190
0163	The University of Warwick	71,865	74,440	99,539	145,850	12,200	11,925	13,645	16,150
0081	University of the West of England, Bristol	55,809	54,769	72,633	89,741	19,265	19,750	20,330	23,020
0083	The University of Westminster	37,651	38,440	54,933	71,835	12,670	13,045	14,805	15,960
0021	The University of Winchester	9,258	9,430	10,486	14,158	3,965	4,125	3,950	3,955
0085	The University of Wolverhampton	45,697	45,473	55,332	71,199	16,485	17,995	15,855	16,265
0046	University of Worcester	9,110	10,025	12,502	18,175	3,195	3,395	4,435	5,030
0164	The University of York	44,395	46,345	65,092	87,240	6,680	7,115	9,145	9,685

Notes
— indicates
No separate finance record was collected for that institution in that year.
No Student Record was collected separately for that institution in that year.
Source
Higher Education Statistics Agency's Finance and Student records 1996-97,1997-98,2001-02, 2004-05
Students FTES have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Visual Impairment

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what support is provided by his Department for partially-sighted and blind pupils in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary, *(c)* further and *(d)* higher education; [86542]

(2) how much funding has been allocated by his Department for the provision of appropriate literature and equipment for partially-sighted and blind students in *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary, *(c)* further and *(d)* higher education in (i) Somerset and (ii) England in each year since 1997. [86543]

Mr. Dhanda: The special educational needs (SEN) code of practice provides advice to local authorities and schools on their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for children who have special educational needs, including children who are blind or partially sighted. The code sets out a graduated approach to providing support. Many children who are blind or partially sighted will have statements of SEN. All statements are reviewed at least annually. The purpose of the review is to consider a child's progress, to ensure they are achieving desired outcomes and, if necessary, to amend their statements to reflect newly identified needs and provision.

Children with SEN, including those who are blind or partially sighted, benefited from the substantial increase of £1,170 in the funding per pupil from £2,940 in 1997-98 to £4,110 per pupil in 2005-06 (a rise of nearly 40 per cent.) and from the increase in local authorities' budgeted expenditure on the education of children with SEN from £2.8 billion in 2001-02 to £4.5 billion in 2006-07. £300 million was also made available from 2003-04 through the schools access initiative to improve access to mainstream schools for disabled pupils. Recently a further £100 million per annum has been announced for both 2006-07 and 2007-08. Funds can be used for improving physical access, including adaptations for sensory disability such as improved colour schemes; access to the curriculum; access to written information in alternative formats. This encompasses information, communication technology equipment (both hardware and software).

Decisions about the support provided for children in Somerset are a matter for the local authority, taking into account its statutory duties.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has a responsibility under the Learning and Skills Act to support young people and adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including learners with visual impairments. Overall, in 2004/05 the LSC supported more than 640,000 learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities which accounted for nearly £1.5 billion.

Disabled students' allowances (DSAs) are available to help students in higher education with the extra costs they may incur on their course as a direct result of a disability (or specific learning difficulty).

DSAs are paid in addition to the standard student support package; they are not means-tested and do not have to be repaid.

In academic year 2004/05 (the latest for which figures are available) 64,200[1] DSAs were awarded in England and Wales totalling £74.1 million. In addition there were over 2,600 OU students with DSAs worth around £3.5 million.

[1] The total number of students in receipt of DSAs involves an element of double-counting since a student can have more than one allowance.

York Schools

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much capital expenditure there has been on schools which come under York local education authority in each year since 1986. [86524]

Jim Knight: Records are not maintained centrally of local authority capital expenditure on schools, as this is decided in accordance with local asset management plans and will depend upon local authorities' total sources of available funding. The Department has maintained records of capital allocations to local authorities for schools since 1996, and those for York city council and schools in its area are set out in the following table:

	£ million
1996-97	0.8
1997-98	1.3
1998-99	1.8
1999-2000	4.5
2000-01	7.4
2001-02	4.8
2002-03	25.5
2003-04	9.7
2004-05	9.4
2005-06	8.7
2006-07	28.3

The large allocations in 2002-03 and 2006-07 result, respectively, from a PFI allocation of £15.4 million and successful Targeted Capital Fund bids of £22.2 million.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much per child was spent on *(a)* (i) pre-school, (ii) primary school and (iii) 11 to 16-year-old secondary school pupils in York schools and *(b)* sixth formers (A) in York schools and (B) at York College in each year since 1996-97 (1) in cash and (2) at current prices. [86525]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold any comparable expenditure information for pre primary pupils and it is not possible to distinguish figures for sixth formers from 11 to 16-year-old secondary pupils. The Department does not collect figures for York College. The available information is contained in the following tables:

School based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,4,5] and combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil[1,6] since 1996-97[7,8,9]

£ cash terms[10,11]

	Primary school based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,4]	*Pre-primary and primary school based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,4]*	*Secondary school based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,5]*	*Combined LA and school based expenditure per pupil[1,6]*
				£
1996-97	—	1,540	2,210	2,500
1997-98[7]	—	1,600	2,350	2,590
1998-99[7]	—	1,730	2,460	2,690
1999-2000[8,9]	1,760	1,800	2,430	2,710
2000-01	1,860	1,870	2,640	2,850
2001-02	2,180	2,260	2,830	3,130
2002-03	2,390	—	3,080	3,270
2003-04	2,560	—	3,330	3,740
2004-05	2,680	—	3,660	3,900

£ real terms (2005-06 prices)[10,11,12]

	Primary school based expenditure perpupil[1,2,3,4]	*Pre-primary and primary school based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,4]*	*Secondary school based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,5]*	*Combined LA and school based expenditure per pupil[1,6]*
				£
1996-97	—	1,920	2,760	3,110
1997-98[7]	—	1,940	2,840	3,130
1998-99[7]	—	2,040	2,900	3,170
1999-2000[8,9]	2,030	2,080	2,810	3,130
2000-01	2,120	2,130	3,010	3,250
2001-02	2,430	2,510	3,150	3,480
2002-03	2,580	—	3,330	3,530

£ real terms (2005-06 prices)[10,11,12]

	Primary school based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,4]	Pre-primary and primary school based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,4]	Secondary school based expenditure per pupil[1,2,3,5]	Combined LA and school based expenditure per pupil[1,6]
2003-04	2,680	—	3,490	3,920
2004-05	2,740	—	3,740	3,980

[1] The expenditure data to 1998-99 are drawn from the annual 'RO1' spending returns which local authorities submitted to the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. Figures for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are drawn from section 52 (table 3) outturn statements which local authorities submitted to the DfES. Figures for 2002-03 onwards are taken from section 52 (table A) outturn statements. The change in sources is shown by the blank rows.

[2] School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by local authority maintained schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. The pupil data are drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[3] From 2002-03 onwards the school based expenditure calculation is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses, while from 2002-03 only the schools element of these categories is included. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil of the England total, while the schools element of these categories accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the England total in 2002-03. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03 and would therefore be excluded from the school based expenditure calculation, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

[4] Figures for the primary sector alone were not available until the inception of section 52 in financial year 1999-2000. The pre-primary figures are not sufficiently robust to use in this reply.

[5] Secondary school based expenditure includes all expenditure incurred directly by local authority maintained secondary schools. It is not possible from existing sources to distinguish this expenditure between expenditure on 11 to 16-year-olds and expenditure on 6th form pupils attending maintained secondary schools.

[6] Combined local authority and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in local authority maintained establishments and pupils educated by the authority other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under fives funded by the authority and being educated in private settings (only available from 1999-2000), pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and any other local authority maintained pupils. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[7] Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

[8] Figures prior to 1999-2000 exclude any expenditure on service, strategy and regulation.

[9] The expenditure data for 1999-2000 onwards reflect the return of grant maintained schools to local authority maintenance.

[10] '—'denotes figures are not available or have not been scored on a consistent basis.

[11] Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

[12] Cash figures are converted to 2005-06 prices using the 30 June 2006 gross domestic product (GDP) deflators.

Note:

As reported by York local authority as at 17 July 2006.

PRIME MINISTER

Casinos

Mr. Swire: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have held meetings in the last 12 months with casino operators interested in securing licences under the Gambling Act 2005; where each meeting took place; and what was discussed; [83362]

(2) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with (i) Mr. Philip Anschutz and (ii) representatives of Anschutz Entertainment Group; [84905]

(3) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with Anschutz Entertainment Group on its development of the millennium dome site and surrounding land. [84906]

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will list the meetings he has had with representatives of the Anschutz Entertainment Group and associated companies since 1997; [85660]

(2) what meetings he has had with *(a)* casino developers, *(b)* representatives of Kerzner International and *(c)* representatives of the Anschutz Entertainment Group in the last five years. [86852]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

I also refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 10 November 2004, *Official Report*, column 696W.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Prime Minister when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 6 June about whaling and global warming. [87934]

The Prime Minister: My Office had no record of receiving this correspondence at the time this question was tabled. However, my Office has since received copies of the letters. These have been forwarded to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for reply.

Declaration of War (Parliamentary Vote)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister whether it is his policy that in future the House will be asked to vote before the UK declares war on another country; and if he will make a statement. [87599]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 15 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2033W.

Gifts

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Prime Minister where he purchased the sweater recently given as a gift to the President of the United States; how much the item cost; and where it was made. [87265]

The Prime Minister: It would not be appropriate to disclose this information.

Intelligence and Security Committee

Lynne Jones: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to Paragraph B of the Government's Response to the Intelligence and Security Committee's Annual Report 2005-06, Cm 6865, what arrangements are in place under the Joint Intelligence Committee Chairman which are intended to ensure the opportunity for challenge and dissent at all levels across the intelligence community. [87535]

The Prime Minister: At each stage in the preparation of Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) Assessments (the drafting of a paper, its consideration by the Current Intelligence Group, its review prior to circulation to the JIC, in discussion at JIC itself), there is careful testing of assumptions, inferences and judgements and encouragement of active debate about them. The challenge function within the Assessments staff itself has been strengthened.

Middle East

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make to the (i) Government of Lebanon, (ii) Government of Syria, (iii) Government of Iran and (iv) United Nations about the honouring of the agreement brokered by the United Nations to protect the Northern Border of the state of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [87340]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to my statement of 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 151-54, and to the debate in the House on International Affairs on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 510-67.

Millennium Dome

Mr. Swire: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with *(a)* the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* officials from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in relation to the sale of the millennium dome. [86021]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when the Cabinet Sub-Committee on the sale of the millennium dome was *(a)* created and *(b)* dissolved; [85661]

(2) which Minister chaired the Cabinet Sub-Committee on the sale of the millennium dome. [85662]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the then Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Robin Corbett) on 19 December 2000, *Official Report*, column 108W. The Ministerial Group on the Millennium Dome (MISC10) was dissolved in September 2003.

Ministers (Criminal Inquiries)

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Prime Minister what his policy is on informing the House when a Minister is questioned by the police in connection with a criminal inquiry. [86577]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my Official Spokesman on Friday 14 July. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Code

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make is his policy to strengthen the ministerial code to ensure that Ministers' taxation declarations and assessments are up-to-date. [87588]

The Prime Minister: Ministers' personal taxation declarations and assessments are subject to the same rules as other citizens.

Ministerial Payments

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to ensure that a public register is maintained of all ministerial payments to charity in respect of free or subsidised overnight accommodation which is made available to them or their families. [87586]

The Prime Minister: Hospitality received by Ministers, including when a charitable donation has been made, is declared in the Register of Members' Interests as appropriate.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Swire: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he had *(a)* to visit America in July 2005 and *(b)* to visit Mr. Anschutz's ranch in Colorado. [86285]

The Prime Minister: None.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to visit the Middle East. [87122]

The Prime Minister: For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Prime Minister which constituencies the Prime Minister has visited since 1997; and on how many occasions in each case. [88199]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1385-1387W.

Official Gifts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister how *(a)* the Segway transporter, *(b)* jewellery, watches and costumery, *(c)* the electric Ferrari, *(d)* the two daggers, *(e)* wine and *(f)* the archaeological artefacts gifted to his Office by the State of Israel and listed on the Donated Asset Reserve are displayed. [87597]

The Prime Minister: The arrangements for the handling of gifts are set out in chapter 5 of the Ministerial Code.

Privy Council

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister what the mechanism is by which Ministers may sponsor potential candidates for the Privy Council; and if he will make a statement. [87595]

The Prime Minister: I submit nominations to the Queen seeking her approval.

Red Tractor Day

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Prime Minister who provided the tractor that the Prime Minister used to launch Red Tractor Day, in Downing Street on 20 April; and where it was manufactured. [87421]

The Prime Minister: The Red Tractor Day launch was organised by Assured Food Standards (AFS), who administer the Red Tractor logo.

Sir David Varney

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister whether he was consulted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the appointment of Sir David Varney as a senior adviser on Transformational Government. [88216]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87051]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department for Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment, and the Employment Service. Information prior to 2001 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The dates and costs are given as follows.

(a) Dates of activity	*(b) Annual cost (£000)*
Age Positive	
2001-02	6
2002-03	706
2003-04	70
2004-05	29
Council Tax Benefit	
2003-04	556
2004-05	674
Direct Payment	
2002-03	858
2003-04	11,095
2004-05	8,379
Disability Discrimination Act	
2001-02	2,882
2002-03	50
2003-04	40
2004-05	1,992
Future pensioners/Informed choice	
2001-02	4,740
2002-03	2,878
IB Reforms Pilot	
2003-04	113
2004-05	106
Inherited SERPS	
2002-03	646
Jobcentre Plus Customer Marketing	
2003-04	1,401
Jobseeker's Direct	
2003-04	1,632

(a) Dates of activity	(b) Annual cost (£000)
Lone Parent Leaflet Promotion	
Marketing	
2004-05	216
Minimum Income Guarantee	
2000-01	3,365
National Employer Campaign	
2003-04	1,158
National Vacancy Campaign	
2004-05	390
New Deal	
2003-04	5,678
New Deal 25 Plus	
2001-02	613
New Deal for Disabled People	
2001-02	350
New Deal for Musicians	
2002-03	33
Pension Service Awareness	
2003-04	906
Pension Credit	
2003-04	9,907
2004-05	4,388
State Pension Deferral	
2004-05	115
Second State Pension	
2002-03	489
2003-04	216
Targeting Benefit Fraud	
2001-02	8,039
2002-03	35
2003-04	8,383
2004-05	6,017
Winter Fuel Payments	
2001-02	475
2002-03	627
2003-04	625
2004-05	515

Notes:
1. The table does not include the following as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost. Spend by non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing businesses recruitment or procurement advertising.
2. The figures in the table refers to media spend only, excluding production and other costs.
3. All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
4. All figures are exclusive of VAT.

Age Positive Campaign

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent per head of population in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales on the Age Positive campaign in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; and how much has been spent in 2006-07. [78876]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Age Positive campaign operates nationally, covering England, Scotland and Wales. Costs for Scotland and Wales are not available separately. The approximate spend on the campaign was £646,000 for 2004-05, £913,000 for 2005-06 and up to the end of May 2006 £94,000 for 2006-07.

The campaign is aimed at employers, not individuals, and aims to raise awareness amongst employers of the business benefits of employing older workers in a mixed age workforce. It is not appropriate therefore to express the amount spent on the campaign per head of population.

The funding has enabled attendance at regional, sector and national events and exhibitions, has sponsored a number of age diversity awards, provided support materials; and overall had helpful the campaign to generate media coverage estimated to be worth £11.8 million since January 2004.

Benefit Applications

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to improve the training received by health care professionals involved in the application process for benefit assessments in respect of *(a)* multiple sclerosis and *(b)* other long-term fluctuating conditions. [86236]

Mrs. McGuire: All Medical Services doctors who carry out benefit assessments receive training in disability assessment medicine, which is constantly evaluated and improved. The training includes the need to take account of long-term fluctuating conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, and how these conditions affect a person over a period of time.

They are supported in their work by evidence-based protocols that provide up to date guidance on disabling conditions and their effects.

Doctors are also required to undertake continuing professional education on topics relevant to disability assessment.

Benefits

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas entitled to but not claiming state pension in each year since 1997; and what proportion this figure represents of all those entitled to state pension. [85924]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available. However, the proportion of pensioner units in receipt of some state pension income in Great Britain is shown in the table. The 2 per cent. without state pension income may include those not entitled as well as those deferring their state pension or misreporting their income when asked.

	Percentage
1997-98	98
1998-99	98
1999-2000	98
2000-01	98
2001-02	98
2002-03	98
2003-04	98
2004-05	98

Notes:
1. Results are for all pensioner benefit units, where a pensioner couple is defined as a couple where the man is at or above state pension age.
2. State pension income includes income from other contributory benefits for the elderly including widows' benefits and incapacity benefit.
3. Results are based on survey respondents' identification of different elements of benefit income, and are therefore subject to misreporting.
Source:
Table 3.3, Pensioners Income Series 2004/05 which is based upon data from the Family Resources Survey.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate *(a)* the total amount of (i) incapacity benefit, (ii) income support, (iii) jobseeker's allowance, (iv) pension credit, (v) council tax benefit and (vi) housing benefit erroneously paid to prisoners in each year since 1997 and *(b)* the number of prisoners involved in each case. [77993]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available for incapacity benefit, council tax benefit, and housing benefit. The available information on the amount of income support, jobseeker's allowance, and pension credit overpaid due to fraud or customer error is in the table.

There are no estimates available for how many prisoners would have been involved.

Estimates of benefit overpaid to prisoners through fraud or customer error

£ million

Incorrectness	Income support	Jobseeker's allowance	Pension credit
2004-05			
Fraud	6	0	0
Customer error	0	1	0
2003-04			
Fraud	2	0	0
Customer error	2	0	0
2002-03			
Fraud	2	0	0
Customer error	0	0	0

Notes:
1. All overpayments estimates rounded to the nearest £1 million.
2. Estimates are based on sampling exercises. Benefit paid incorrectly to prisoners form a small proportion of total overpayments. Estimates for them are based on reviews of small numbers of cases and so are subject to large sampling errors and other uncertainties. Sampling uncertainty is expressed in the form of confidence intervals - these have not been provided in these tables.
3. Estimates for overpayments to prisoners were not reported separately for earlier years.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people entitled to but not claiming *(a)* housing benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit, *(c)* winter fuel payments, *(d)* disability living allowance, *(e)* incapacity benefit, *(f)* income support, *(g)* jobseeker's allowance and *(h)* child support in each year since 1997-98, broken down by (i) rural areas and (ii) non-rural areas; what estimate he has made of the amount of unclaimed benefit in each case; and if he will make a statement. [84616]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates for the main income-related benefits—income support/minimum income guarantee, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and income-based jobseeker's allowance—for eligible private household population in Great Britain, are available in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take- Up". Copies of the latest publication, which describes patterns in take-up since 1997-98, together with past reports, are available in the Library.

Most people who qualify for a winter fuel payment do not need to make a claim because they are paid automatically from DWP records. Some people aged 60 or over who are not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP do need to claim. Many men aged 60-64, for example, fall into this category and need to claim. However, we do not have any estimate for how many eligible people have not claimed.

Currently it is not possible to estimate take-up rates for disability living allowance and attendance allowance. Following a recommendation in "Meeting DWP's long-term information needs on disability: a feasibility report", (DWP Research report number 267), the Department is commissioning research to test two possible approaches to establish whether it is possible to estimate take-up rates for these benefits. Results will be available in 2007.

No estimates are available for incapacity benefit.

Child support is not a benefit.

Carers Allowance

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of carer's allowance in *(a)* Barnsley East and Mexborough, *(b)* Barnsley and *(c)* Doncaster. [86381]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of carer's allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people are in receipt of carer's allowance in *(a)* Barnsley, East and Mexborough *(b)* Barnsley and *(c)* Doncaster.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The information requested is in the following table:

Carer's allowance recipients as at November 2005

	Number
Barnsley, East and Mexborough parliamentary constituency	1,130
Barnsley local authority	2,490
Doncaster local authority	3,240

Definitions and Conventions:
"-" nil or negligible;
"." not applicable;
Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and expressed in thousands. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Notes:
1. Only cases in payment are shown (those with underlying entitlement but not actually receiving payment have been excluded).
2. Government office region, local authorities and parliamentary constituencies have been allocated using the ONS postcode directory.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

I hope you find the information helpful.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people are in receipt of carer's allowance in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Great Britain; and how many there were in each year since its inception; [85867]

(2) how many people over the age of 60 have been registered as carers in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [85868]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of carer's allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 24 July 2006:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people are in receipt of a Carer's Allowance in (a) Jarrow constituency (b) South Tyneside (c) the North East and (d) the UK; and how many there were in each year since its inception; and (2) how many people over the age of 60 have been registered as carers in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

You have kindly confirmed that your second question referred specifically to how many people over the age of 60 are in receipt of Carer's Allowance in your constituency and in the UK.

Prior to 2001, reliable figures for the number of people in receipt of Carer's Allowance are not available because data available then did not distinguish between those in payment and those with underlying payment.

The information available is provided in the attached Appendix.

I hope you find the information helpful.

Appendix:

Number of Carer's Allowance recipients as at November[1] of each year from 2001 to 2005

	Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency	South Tyneside LA	North East GOR	Great Britain
2005	850	1,520	25,810	443,990
2004	840	1,480	25,630	431,580
2003	810	1,430	24,840	406,140
2002	800	1,430	25,180	403,370
2001	760	1,330	23,870	376,210

Number of Carer's Allowance recipients aged 60 and over, as at November[1] of each year from 2001 to 2005

	Jarrow Parliamentary Constituency	South Tyneside LA	North East GOR	Great Britain
2005	70	100	2,140	42,570
2004	60	100	2,070	40,070
2003	60	110	1,910	35,760
2002	70	120	1,980	36,320
2001	50	110	1,840	33,110

Definitions and Conventions:
"—" Nil or Negligible; "." Not applicable; Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
[1] Only cases in payment are shown (those with underlying entitlement but not actually receiving payment have been excluded).
Notes:
1. Figures are only available for GB because the Department for Social Security Northern Ireland (NI) is responsible for NI statistics.
2. 2001 and 2002 figures are as at December. 2003, 2004 and 2005 figures are as at November.
3. Government Office Region, Local Authorities and Parliamentary constituencies have been allocated using the ONS postcode directory.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study for 2003-2005 and 100% samples for 2001-2002.

Child Poverty

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of children in *(a)* Houghton and Washington, East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area have been lifted out of poverty since 1997. [87365]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information below regional level is not available.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty in *(a)* Brent, East and *(b)* Brent in each year since 1997. [87424]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information below regional level is not available.

Command Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the unnumbered Command Papers produced by his Department in each session since 1976; how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81658]

Mrs. McGuire: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to Explanatory Notes to Treaties, Explanatory Memorandum to Statutory Instruments and some Treasury Minutes. All other documents are published in the numbered Command Papers series.

A complete list of unnumbered Command Papers can only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Copies of all unnumbered Command Papers are made available via the Vote Office.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letter of 5 May from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on overpayment of benefits. [78039]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer on 16 June 2006]*: I replied to the hon. Member on 8 June 2006.

Crisis Loans

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many telephone lines are available in Crewe and Nantwich that are dedicated lines to the North West call centre for crisis loans; how many missed calls were recorded per day on average in the last period for which figures are available; how many complaints have been received about those lines in the last 12 months; and how crisis loans can be accessed if his Department's local office is closed; [83787]

(2) where the officials answering calls to the telephone lines dedicated to applicants for crisis loans in the North West are located. [84396]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 July 2006:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many telephone lines are available in Crewe and Nantwich that are dedicated lines to the North West call centre for crisis loans; how many missed calls were recorded per day on average in the last period for which figures are available; how many complaints have been received about those lines in the last 12 months; how crisis loans can be accessed if the Department's local office is closed and where the officials answering calls to the telephone lines dedicated to applicants for crisis loans in the North West are located. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Social Fund Unit in Hartford House, Northwich is one of 13 such units in the Jobcentre Plus North West Region, which process applications for Crisis Loans. This unit covers more than one individual site. Customers can apply for a Crisis Loan by telephone (Crisis Loan Direct) or opt for a face-to-face interview.

The Northwich unit administers the Social Fund for the area covered by the Cheshire and Warrington Jobcentre Plus District. Customers within this District are able to access the Crisis Loan team in Northwich by telephone, or by the freephone facility at their local Jobcentre. Nantwich Jobcentre has one telephone programmed for Social Fund customers and Crewe Jobcentre has four. Applications for Crisis Loans for the rest of the North West are processed in the following sites: Mitre House, Lancaster; Marton Mere, Blackpool; Barry House, Preston; Rusholme, Manchester; Graeme House, Chorlton; Park Road, Toxteth; Hordan House, Birkenhead; Edendale House, Huyton; Webster House, Kirkby; Eastbank House, Southport; Gregson House, St Helens; Kingsway House, Widnes; Newgate House, Rochdale; Elizabeth House, Bolton; Beech House, Hyde; and Brun House, Burnley. Overall, there are 110 dedicated telephone lines for Crisis Loans throughout the North West Region.

I regret that I am unable to provide you with reliable data on the numbers of missed calls, as the current telephony system does not record this.

The Northwich team receive an average of sixty-five Crisis Loan applications each day. In the last twelve months a total of fifty-five complaints have been received concerning the difficulties experienced by customers in accessing this service. A number of those complaints followed a period between October and November 2005 during which the telephony system experienced extensive service interruptions and suspensions. Jobcentre Plus is currently investing in an enhanced telephony and IT system, to improve customer service as part of our programme to transform Social Fund delivery.

From April 2008 all Social Fund functions, including Crisis Loan Direct, for customers in our Cheshire and Warrington District will be delivered from a specialist unit in Belle Vale, Liverpool. Until then, Northwich will continue to administer Crisis Loan Direct.

Those customers who need a Crisis Loan when our offices are closed (i.e. outside normal working hours) can access the "Out of Hours Service" (OOHS), by contacting their Local Authority, Social Services or the police. The Pension Service can also make a referral to the OOHS on a weekday night up to 20.00. These contacts have details of the OOHS dedicated telephone numbers.

I am extremely concerned that your constituents have continued to experience difficulties in accessing the Crisis Loan service in Northwich, and can assure you that both my Regional and Local Social Fund Managers are taking action to address these capacity issues. I am confident that, as staff gain greater experience, with the introduction of a number of streamlined processes, and with improvements to the telephone service, we should be able to resolve these problems.

Both Bill Marks, NW Region Benefit Delivery Manager and Angela Keith, NW Region Social Fund Manager, will be more than happy to discuss any further concerns you may have, and I have also asked that they arrange an early meeting with the appropriate Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on crisis loans for people in each London borough in each of the last five years. [87117]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Departmental Complaints

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* advice agencies and *(c)* the public in each of the last 24 months. [41822]

Mrs. McGuire: The following annexes provide details of complaints received in DWP in 2004 and 2005.

I am unable to provide exactly the same information across all our businesses because, historically, the different agencies of the Department have counted complaints in different ways. This is an issue that we are now addressing, as part of work to bring a consistent approach to complaints handling across the Department.

Complaints from advice agencies are not recorded separately from those for members of the public. However, the Appeals Service started recording them separately in April 2005, and, from that date, complaints from advice agencies are included in the overall figure, and shown in brackets alongside.

Complaints from members of the public and advice agencies

	Jobcentre Plus	*The Pension Service*	*Disability and Carers Service*[1]	*Child Support Agency*[2]	*Appeals Service*[3]	*Compensation Recovery Unit*
2004						
January	[4,5]4736	[6]—	[7]1130	3248	54	5
February	[5]—	[6]—	[7]—	3340	58	11
March	[5]—	[6]—	[7]—	3901	59	10
April	1317	2347	[8]1685	3363	45	10
May	1430	2931	[8]—	3759	59	12
June	2728	3627	[8]—	4091	67	26
July	2890	3346	[9]1596	3985	52	4
August	3460	2462	[9]—	3845	56	17
September	3477	1954	[9]—	4108	44	5
October	3112	1540	[10]1358	3742	53	4
November	3332	1535	[10]—	4081	54	6
December	2604	1109	[10]—	3009	36	10
2005						
January	3234	1517	[11]1293	3395	56	0
February	3164	1532	[11]—	3877	63	0
March	3682	1520	[11]—	3988	77	6
April	2273	1741	[12]902	4287	54 (14)	3
May	2506	1307	[12]—	3370	47(5)	0
June	2488	1218	[12]—	3705	45(12)	0
July	2840	1623	[13]917	3340	61 (13)	8
August	3062	1945	[13]—	3589	67(10)	3
September	2887	1942	[13]—	3727	63(18)	3
October	2928	1979	[14]997	3671	49(13)	2
November	3104	2257	[14]—	4110	56(15)	5
December	428	1464	[14]—	3156	40(7)	1
2006						
January	516	1899	[15]1112	3965	66(13)	5
February	755	1980	[15]—	3932	43(9)	5
March	537	2110	[15]—	4324	72(13)	7
April	483	1331	n/a	3078	[16]—	4
May	541	1346	n/a	3484	[16]—	2

[1] Figures recorded only on a quarterly basis
[2] Figures are for First Stage of the complaints process, Treat Official and Chief Executive complaints, some of which may come from MPs
[3] Until April 2005, the Appeals Service included all complaints in one count
[4] Figures recorded on a quarterly basis until April 2004
[5] Total
[6] Figures could not be retrieved within the required timescale
[7] Total
[8] Total
[9] Total
[10] Total
[11] Total
[12] Total
[13] Total
[14] Total
[15] Total
[16] The Appeals Service moved to the Department for Constitutional Affairs in April 2006.
n/a=Not yet available.

Complaints from Members of Parliament

	Jobcentre Plus	*The Pension Service*	*Disability and Carers Service*	*Child Support Agency*[1]	*Appeals Service*[2]	*Compensation Recovery Unit*
2004						
January	165	208	[3]—	428	—	1
February	126	199	[3]—	551	—	0
March	203	247	[3]—	569	—	0
April	144	191	163	566	—	0
May	132	161	263	499	—	1
June	160	169	269	592	—	0
July	224	181	319	723	—	0
August	144	145	293	755	—	0
September	168	193	315	722	—	1
October	170	207	290	755	—	0
November	198	217	368	891	—	0
December	125	180	305	705	—	1
2005						
January	148	204	289	714	—	0
February	180	213	352	962	—	0
March	235	201	328	987	—	6
April	165	196	185	793	6	3
May	106	97	185	719	2	0
June	216	127	292	789	4	0
July	230	134	290	814	3	8
August	296	98	199	754	6	3
September	232	121	210	798	9	3
October	208	101	230	820	11	2
November	238	132	242	1001	4	5
December	192	119	218	814	4	1
2006						
January	199	58	207	717	4	1
February	227	73	250	873	6	0
March	335	90	296	837	6	0
April	227	83	233	649	[4]—	0
May	299	79	250	780	[4]—	0

[1] Figures are for MP complaints to business units; MP complaints to Chief Executive are included with other Chief Executive complaints in Annex 1
[2] Until April 2005, the Appeals Service included all complaints in one count
[3] Figures could not be retrieved within the required timescale
[4] The Appeals Service moved to the Department for Constitutional Affairs in April 2006.

Debt Management did not keep separate statistics for complaints and general correspondence, with all letters received being logged as correspondence regardless of content, until the roll out of the new Debt Management Complaints Process on 1 July 2005. Complaints statistics were then maintained separately from correspondence as shown.

Debt Management

	Source of Complaint		
	Customer	*MP*	*3rd Party*
2005			
July	48	10	13
August	49	15	23
September	38	23	19
October	57	18	29
November	98	19	78
December	72	14	87
2006			
January	118	17	132
February	134	8	131
March	208	7	174
April	162	6	89
May	141	7	49

Notes:
The "3rd party" category includes next of kin, appointees and executors as well as welfare rights organisations.
The "Customer" category includes both written and verbal complaints by the customer.
The table reflects figures across Debt Management, including the Enforcement Initiative.

The Rent Service

The Rent Service has provided figures for the period January 2004 to April 2006.

They received 73 letters of complaint from the public, and one letter of complaint from an MP.

Health and Safety Executive

Figures for the Health and Safety Executive are not provided as they do not deal directly with customers.

Departmental Staffing

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are made within the Department and its agencies for maintaining in its employment those *(a)* over 50 years and *(b)* with a disability in circumstances of (i) a period of sickness absence and (ii) local staff restructuring. [86040]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not discriminate on grounds of age. From October 2006 staff below Senior Civil Service grades will no longer have a mandatory retirement age in DWP. This means that once they have reached the minimum pension age of 60, staff themselves decide when to retire.

Where staff incur a period of sickness absence the Department provides extensive support to all staff through its Occupational Health Service contract, Employee Assistance Programme and generous sick leave provision if an employee is sick or has an incapacity.

The Department considers reasonable workplace adjustments in all cases where the Disability Discrimination Act could apply. These ensure the employee is not placed at a disadvantage in comparison to other employees. The Department takes seriously its responsibilities for managing attendance and has developed a supportive policy and procedures for managing sickness absences. The policy was commended by the National Audit Office (NAO) as meeting best practice.

Disabled people are included in all restructuring plans in the same way as other employees. They are guaranteed interviews in selection exercises if they meet the minimum criteria for the post. All applicants are offered reasonable adjustments at all stages of the selection exercise. When a disabled person is successful at the selection exercise our Human Resources teams work closely with occupational health to ensure that any adjustments needed, to either the workplace environment or the post, are put in place quickly to enable the person to commence work without delay. Workplace adjustments are given priority to facilitate moves. Should volunteers be called for to move jobs, or compulsory moves required, the same adjustments are made for any disabled people included in these moves.

Disability Awareness

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which voluntary and private sector organisations have been contracted by his Department to deliver *(a)* disability awareness and *(b)* other training to Jobcentre Plus staff. [83328]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Voluntary and private sector organisations have been involved with Jobcentre Plus since its inception to design, develop, deliver and quality assure the training provided to their staff.

Details of the providers available to Jobcentre Plus staff for support on the diversity agenda and for learning and development across the business have been placed in the Library.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Lancashire include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate. [82756]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 24 July 2006:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many households in Lancashire include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The information available is in the following tables:

Recipients of disability living allowance with learning difficulties by rate of care award as at November 2005 in Lancashire parliamentary constituencies

		Care component		
	Total with care component	*Highest rate*	*Middle rate*	*Lowest rate*
Blackpool, North and Fleetwood	410	140	70	200
Burnley	410	120	80	210
Chorley	430	140	50	240
Fylde	330	110	50	170
Hyndburn	490	140	80	260
Lancaster and Wyre	280	90	40	150
Morecambe and Lunesdale	410	150	60	200
Pendle	350	100	40	200
Preston	450	150	90	220
Ribble Valley	340	120	40	180
Rossendale and Darwen	340	110	60	170
South Ribble	360	100	70	190
West Lancashire	370	150	50	170

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. The parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Figures are based on the care component condition only.

Source:
DWP, WPLS 100 per cent. data.

Recipients of disability living allowance with learning difficulties by rate of care award as at November 2005 in Lancashire local authorities

		Care component		
	Total with care component	*Highest rate*	*Middle rate*	*Lowest rate*
Lancashire total	4,630	1,510	710	2,410
Burnley	410	110	80	210
Chorley	430	140	50	240
Fylde	250	80	40	130
Hyndburn	460	130	70	250
Lancaster	540	190	80	270
Pendle	350	100	40	200
Preston	560	190	90	280
Ribble Valley	200	80	20	110
Rossendale	240	80	40	120
South Ribble	410	110	80	230
West Lancashire	410	160	60	180
Wyre	370	120	60	190

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. The local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Figures are based on the care component condition only.

Source:
DWP, WPLS 100 per cent. data.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled staff within his Department *(a)* received equipment and adaptations through the Access to Work scheme up to 2003 and *(b)* receive equipment and adaptations paid for by his Department. [79935]

Mrs. McGuire: Any Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) employee requiring equipment and adaptation support up until March would have received the necessary support with costs attributed to the national Access to Work budget. However, Jobcentre Plus Access to Work did not collect the numbers of departmental disabled staff accessing adaptations and equipment support at that time.

Currently any DWP employee requiring equipment and adaptations continues to receive the necessary support, and costs are attributed to the individual local budgets relevant to the individual employee. Prior to the introduction of our new resource management system, we are collecting clerical statistical data on numbers of reasonable adjustments undertaken each quarter, the information is shown in the following table.

Quarter ending	*Number of reasonable adjustments undertaken*
August 2005	492
December 2005	545
March 2006	321

Draft Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the draft Bills produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were examined or are planned to be examined by *(a)* a Departmental Select Committee or a combination of Select Committees and *(b)* a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [81656]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department of Work and Pensions has produced no draft Bills since October 2005.

Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Family Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of families with three or more children were living in poverty in each county in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England and *(d)* Northern Ireland in the most recent year for which figures are available. [87736]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information below National or Government Office regional level is not available.

Financial Assistance Scheme/Pension Protection Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest payment has been under the financial assistance scheme to former Allied Steel and Wire workers living (i) in and (ii) outside Wales; and if he will make a statement. [64131]

James Purnell: The financial assistance scheme will provide a qualifying member with assistance that will top-up their scheme pension to a level broadly equivalent to 80 per cent. of their expected pension. Payments are subject to a de minimis level and a cap.

FAS payments to former Allied Steel and Wire workers living in Wales

	Gross (£)
Average	205.11
Highest	629.84
Lowest	50.08

Under the Data Protection Act it is inappropriate to reveal such

"data which relate to a living individual who can be identified from those data".

As there is only one former ASW member receiving a payment living outside of Wales, I cannot comment on payments that may have been made to this individual.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Financial Assistance scheme has paid out to members of schemes that wound up before 6 April 2005 with insufficient funds to cover all pension entitlements; and if he will make a statement. [89095]

James Purnell: The Financial Assistance scheme has paid a total of £707,121.93 (gross) to members of pension schemes that had completed wind up or were in the winding up process before April 6 2005.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he next plans to review the level of funding for *(a)* the Financial Assistance Scheme and *(b)* the Pension Protection Fund. [62312]

James Purnell: Following the recent review, on 25 May we announced that we will extend eligibility for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to members of qualifying pension schemes who were within 15 years of their scheme's normal retirement age on 14 May 2004.

Those within seven years of their scheme's normal retirement age on 14 May 2004 will benefit from the FAS topping up their pensions to around 80 per cent. of their expected core pension. Those between seven and 15 years from their scheme's normal retirement age who can more reasonably be expected to supplement their retirement income will be considered for a top-up to around 65 per cent. of their expected pension if they are between seven and 11 years from scheme pension age, and 50 per cent. between 12 and 15 years.

We estimate that this will require funding of £2.3 billion. This is £1.9 billion more than the £400 million over 20 years that we allocated in May 2004.

The Pension Protection Fund is an independent body governed by a board. It is funded in two ways; through the assets of schemes for which it assumes responsibility and by charging an annual pension protection levy on the pension schemes eligible for entry to the PPF. The PPF is responsible for setting the levy and has estimated a levy of £575 million for 2006-07 following wide consultation with industry.

Provisions in the Pensions Act 2004 prevent the PPF from increasing its levy by more than 25 per cent. each year, up to an overall maximum ceiling. If the PPF wish to raise a levy beyond the ceiling then it must undertake consultation before asking Secretary of State to increase the levy ceiling.

Fuel Direct

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for Fuel Direct for *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity by eligible consumers were approved by his Department but declined by an energy supplier in (i) each region of England, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales in the last full year for which figures are available. [84378]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Fuel Direct is part of the DWP Third Party Deduction (TPD) scheme. This is a system of last-resort protection available to the most vulnerable of our customers and is designed to shield a minority of people on income-related benefits from the consequences of getting into debt with essential household outgoings.

The scheme works by deducting a prescribed amount at source from someone's weekly benefit, currently £2.90, and paying it direct to the creditor until the debt is cleared. In fuel and water cases an amount is also deducted to cover current consumption costs preventing further debt accruing. The scheme is regulated under Schedule 9 of the Social Security (Claims and Payment) Regulations 1987 No. 1968. These allow for either a benefit customer or a supplier, to make an application for TPD. However, only the DWP Decision Maker can decide whether or not the application is accepted.

Funeral Payments

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he next plans to increase funeral payments made by the Social Fund. [86730]

Mr. Plaskitt: Funeral Payments from the social fund cover the cost of certain necessary charges in full; these include fees levied by burial authorities and crematoria. An additional sum of up to £700 is allowed for other funeral expenses, which give the person arranging the funeral the freedom to select items or services they consider appropriate.

Although there are no plans to make changes to the Funeral Payment scheme at this time the level of help is kept under review.

Government Employment (St. Annes)

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to reduce employment levels at the Government office site at Heyhouses Lane in St. Annes; and which business areas will be affected; [87606]

(2) what plans he has to relocate staff presently employed at the Government office site at Heyhouses Lane in St. Annes to other department locations within the Fylde area; [87607]

(3) when he expects to announce the outcome of his Department's estates review. [87608]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department intends to make an announcement to staff on the position of its non-London Headquarters estate by the end of July.

Change to the size and shape of the Department's estate will not automatically lead to a reduction in staff numbers. However, as set out in the 2004 Spending Review, the Department is currently managing a major efficiency programme which involves reducing staff numbers by 30,000 by March 2008. These reductions are being made in all parts of the Department and across all of the country.

Harassment Complaints

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of *(a)* bullying and *(b)* sexual harassment have been investigated in the Department in each of the last three years; and how many complaints have been upheld. [63529]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions records complaints relating to bullying and sexual harassment that are formally investigated by the Department. The following table contains information about the number of complaints that were formally investigated in the years 2003 to 2005. The figures in the table relate to the Department and all its businesses.

	Bullying		Sexual harassment	
	Number of investigations started	Number upheld	Number of investigations started	Number upheld
2003-04	215	73	Less than 5	Less than 5
2004-05	191	72	24	15
2005-06	119	24	25	8

Hinkley Point B

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what response he has made to the safety assessment made by the Nuclear Safety Directorate of Hinkley Point B, Somerset of 3 April 2006; and what action he plans to take. [84450]

Mrs. McGuire: None. Accountability for the safety of the civil nuclear industry rests with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Safety Directorate is the independent nuclear safety regulator and I am satisfied that it will respond appropriately with regard to its own safety assessments.

Housing Benefits

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many under 25-year-olds are in receipt of the shared room rate of the local housing allowance in each of the pathfinder areas. [85609]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Under 25-year-olds in receipt of the shared room rate of the local housing allowance in each of the pathfinder areas

Pathfinder area	Number of recipients
Blackpool	200
Brighton	150
Conwy	50
Coventry	100
Edinburgh	100
Leeds	200
Lewisham	200
Teignbridge	[1]—
All Pathfinders	1,100

[1] A number less than 25.

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 50 and as such components may not sum to total.

Source:
Administrative data, February 2006.

Identity Cards

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will publish the feasibility reports on identity cards following the Information Commissioner's decision reference FS50083103. [84989]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department has appealed against the Information Commissioner's decision to an Information Tribunal and we await the outcome.

However, we have previously confirmed in replies to earlier parliamentary questions that a study on identity fraud by the Cabinet Office, published in 2002, estimated that up to £50 million per year of benefit fraud occurred as a result of identity fraud. This figure was derived from the Regional Benefit Review data collected from Jobseekers Allowance and Income Support claims. The introduction of an identity card would have a significant impact by removing the bulk of this loss.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1589W, on incapacity benefit, how many claimants sought help from his Department to find work during the period October 2003 to February 2006. [85719]

Mrs. McGuire Information on the number incapacity benefit claimants seeking help from this Department to find work during the period October 2003 to February 2006 is not available. Data are not held on the type of inquiries made by clients.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures his Department has taken to help into work those in rural areas receiving incapacity benefits; and if he will make a statement. [85879]

Mr. Jim Murphy: All services that are available to all incapacity benefits claimants are available to clients in both rural and urban areas.

We produce an internal annual Rural Proofing Report for the Countryside Agency; this includes examples of how the Department has addressed service delivery issues in rural areas. A copy of the Countryside Agency's Rural Proofing Report for 2004-05 is available in the Library.

The Department has developed more flexible ways of delivering services through working in partnership with national and local organisations. For example, Jobcentre Plus advisers provide advice and information sessions through partners premises and in some areas mobile offices have been introduced to take the service on the road. Advances in technology are also being used to develop innovative ways of delivering services to customers, particularly for those in rural areas. We are also piloting our successful "Pathways to Work" programme in a range of different geographical locations, including areas such as Somerset in England and Argyll and Bute in Scotland which are significantly rural in character. The programme will be offered nationally by 2008.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants there have been in West Suffolk in each year since 2000. [85500]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table:

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants, in the Suffolk West parliamentary constituency: each November 2000 to 2005

	Number of claimants
2000	2,490
2001	2,560
2002	2,670
2003	2,650
2004	2,680
2005	2,610

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 2. "Claimant" figures include all incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, including incapacity benefit credits only cases.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial savings were achieved by Jobcentre Plus in 2005-06 against budget; and if he will make a statement. [86039]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what financial savings were achieved by Jobcentre Plus in 2005-06 against budget. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The financial figures for 2005-06 are currently being audited. The unaudited position for 2005-06 shows an overall saving of £94 million against budget, as set out in the table below.

	Budget	Outturn	£ million Saving/ (Overspend)
Resource DEL			
Staff costs	1,786	1,797	(11)
Non-staff costs	2,007	984	23
Net programme costs	1,088	1,076	12
Total resource DEL	3,881	3,857	24
Capital DEL	356	286	70
Total Jobcentre Plus	4,237	4,143	94

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the waiting time is for jobseeker's allowance claims to be processed in *(a)* the South-West and *(b)* Somerset from (i) contacting the contact centre and being given an appointment for interview and (ii) interview to receipt of benefit; and if he will make a statement. [63378]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In June 2006, the average clearance time for jobseeker's allowance claims in the south-west region was 17 days, and for Somerset claims was 17 days. The average time taken for the contact centres to return a customer's call was within the target 48 hours within the region. The average time between contacting the contact centre and the claim being taken in the Jobcentre was two days.

We recognise that the delivery of jobseeker's allowance in the south-west and Somerset are not as we would want and that is why we have put additional measures in place to improve performance. These include the recruitment of additional staffing and increased telephony capacity. These measures along with closer working within Jobcentre Plus have resulted in an improvement in average clearance time for the south-west and Somerset. Jobseeker's allowance claims are now being actioned on the day of receipt in all processing centres. We anticipate the improving trend to continue.

We are also operating a fast track system for those customers in urgent need. Details of this have been shared with local stakeholders.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what special considerations are given to women wearing the veil regarding their suitability for employment when they apply for jobseeker's allowance; and if he will make a statement. [85016]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are no special considerations given to a woman's suitability for employment when wearing a veil or any other specific item of clothing.

Means Testing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to ask the Government Actuary's Department to make an assessment of the assumptions underlying the projections of *(a)* public spending and *(b)* the extent of means testing in Cm 6841; and if he will make a statement. [83807]

James Purnell: The assumptions and modelling techniques underpinning the analysis contained in Security in Retirement: towards a new pensions system (Cm 6841) have been developed and refined over a number of years through a process of regular contact and validation with a range of expert organisations. In the past year these have also been scrutinised by the independent Pensions Commission who found them to be broadly comparable with their own analysis.

As part of the consultation process on Cm 6841 we will continue to engage with such organisations, including the Government Actuary's Department, to set out and explain in detail the analysis it contained, including our projections on future public expenditure and eligibility for pension credit. We also intend to publish, prior to the introduction of legislation, the research on which our proposals are based.

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with no recourse to public funds because of their immigration status have national insurance numbers. [84346]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new national insurance numbers were issued in the Peterborough city council area in the 12 months to 31 March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [86882]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he was informed that national insurance numbers were being issued to *(a)* illegal immigrants, *(b)* immigrants with false papers and *(c)* immigrants whose visas had expired; when the review into this matter was begun; and if he will make a statement. [75917]

Mr. Plaskitt: National insurance numbers (NINOs) are only ever allocated when an individual has proved their identity. Individuals who present false documentation would not be allocated a NINO as we would not be satisfied as to their identity.

In May 2006 DWP undertook a review of the NINO allocation rules to see whether DWP systems could be tightened to protect the security of the NINO.

As a result of this review on Monday 5 June 2006 I announced changes to improve the NINO allocation process. These changes were introduced during July 2006 and will introduce a "right to work" pre-condition for employment-related NINO applications. This will prevent illegal workers being allocated a NINO.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 287W, on national insurance numbers, how many national insurance numbers in issue are allocated to *(a)* deceased people, *(b)* those in receipt of benefit outside the UK and *(c)* others who are abroad. [76025]

Mr. Plaskitt: In order to maintain the integrity of the system (and for benefit purposes) national insurance numbers (NINOs) are not removed. For example, they are retained after a person dies or moves abroad. This is because individuals who move abroad may at some point have a call upon contributions paid while in the UK. In the case of deceased individuals, a partner may make a claim for a contributory benefit, which is dependant on the contribution record of the deceased individual.

The information is in the table.

Allocation of NINOs to deceased people, those in receipt of benefit outside the UK, and others who are abroad

	Million
NINOs in issue to deceased people	16.5
NINOs in issue to those in receipt of benefits outside the UK	1
NINOs in issue to others abroad	5.5

Note:
These figures are from 2003 and relate to the total number of NINOs in issue at the time.

New Deal

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on travel passes for young people on the new deal in each year since 1997; how many passes were issued in each year; and if he will make a statement. [85468]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The New Deal Reduced Rail Fare Scheme was established in 1997 and, in England and Wales, is jointly operated by Jobcentre Plus and the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC). The scheme was set up to provide new deal participants with reduced travel costs whilst on the New Deal programme.

New deal participants are advised about the availability of the Reduced Rail Fare Scheme either in their first invitation letter or at the initial gateway interview. Rail fare reductions can be made available, at adviser discretion, to eligible new deal for young people participants travelling in England and Wales throughout their time on new deal, on all trains participating in the scheme. In addition, ATOC have agreed to provide further reductions for the first three months of rail travel once participants have left new deal for a sustained job. In this instance, all travel tickets must be bought whilst the participant is on the new deal programme.

In Scotland, First ScotRail, SPT, GNER and Virgin Trains offer free and reduced rate travel to all new deal customers in certain geographical locations. This provision is available to new deal customers from their first day on the programme until their first wage is received.

Local agreements are also in operation with some bus companies for the provision of reduced rate fares for new deal customers and, in certain circumstances, travel costs are paid through other sources such as the Adviser's Discretion Fund or the Travel to Interview Scheme.

Data is not held on the number of travel passes issued, and expenditure has not been accounted for at the level of detail required to separately identify the costs of the New Deal Reduced Fare Scheme, or the costs of funding travel for new deal customers through other sources. However, no subsidy is paid to train or bus companies by Jobcentre Plus for the Reduced Fare Scheme and the only costs incurred by the Department are the administrative costs involved in managing any necessary paperwork.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent in each year since 1998 on the nationwide network of mentors to advise young people on getting back into work; how many advisers were employed in each year; and how many young people they assisted into work in each year. [85550]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Mentoring was introduced into new deal provision to help those people who may need additional support to that offered by their new deal personal adviser. New deal mentoring is available at

Jobcentre Plus District Manager's discretion, depending on the needs of the local labour market, and can supplement and complement new deal personal adviser support given to new deal participants.

Young people on new deal for young people can access mentoring support on a voluntary basis. It is provided by independent volunteers who use their skills, experience and expertise to help unemployed people break down the barriers preventing them from working. Young people with a health condition or disability who are participants on New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) may also access mentoring support if their NDDP job broker identifies this as being appropriate in helping them into employment. Mentoring support is also available to eligible lone parents and partners.

Information is not available on the number of people providing independent mentoring support, or on the number of young people they assist into work each year. Information is also not available on the cost of providing mentoring support as new deal financial data is not broken down in that way.

Occupational Pensions

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions why he applied for a temporal limitation procedure in relation to the Amicus-Community trade union European Court of Justice occupational pensions case. [78019]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* The Government's position is that the United Kingdom's interpretation of article 8 of directive 80/987/EEC is consistent with the text of the directive, the legislative history, the case law of the European Court of Justice and, until recently represented, the view of the European Commission.

In the event of the European Court's judgment being that article 8 requires a higher level of protection than provided in the UK, the Government asked the Court, in the interests of legal certainty, to consider imposing a temporal limitation on its judgment.

It is usual practice to ask for a temporal limitation on the judgment in a case such as this, where the relevant criteria that the Court has set down for imposing a temporal limitation are met.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85209]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department received 4,124 ordinary, named day and Lords parliamentary questions in the 12 month period to 30 June.

A total of 190 parliamentary questions to the Department of Work and Pensions were awaiting answer on 10 July 2006, of which 10 had been outstanding for more than two weeks but less than three weeks and 85 were outstanding for more than three weeks.

The reasons for delay in each case are not collated centrally and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Department endeavours to answer named day questions on the day named and to reply to ordinary written questions within a working week.

Pension Credit

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1171W, on pension credit, why production of the pension credit wallets ceased. [85915]

James Purnell: Production of the pension credit plastic wallets ceased because there was sufficient stock to meet likely demand.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all pensioners are entitled to have their pension credit paid into a Post Office card account. [86066]

Mr. Plaskitt: Pensioners who satisfy the terms and conditions set by Post Office Ltd. for opening a Post Office card account can have their pension credit payments made this way.

In order for pensioners to make an informed choice about the type of account they should have their pension credit paid into, they are being advised that the contract which supports the Post Office card account ends in March 2010 and that if they choose to be paid into a Post Office card account now, they will need to switch to a different type of account at some point in the next few years.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual beneficiaries of pension credit there were in each ward of Newcastle upon Tyne in November *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005; and what the average weekly payment was in each case. [86859]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table.

Pension credit individual beneficiaries and average weekly payments for wards in Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central

	November 2003		November 2004		November 2005	
Ward name	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Average weekly payments (£)*	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Average weekly payments (£)*	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Average weekly payments (£)*
Blakelaw	850	38.68	1,030	38.93	1,050	39.34
Fenham	775	39.28	955	37.92	970	39.68
Jesmond	275	42.18	305	44.32	300	43.37
Kenton	635	43.28	770	41.10	770	42.37

Pension credit individual beneficiaries and average weekly payments for wards in Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central

	November 2003		November 2004		November 2005	
Ward name	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Average weekly payments (£)*	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Average weekly payments (£)*	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Average weekly payments (£)*
Moorside	630	47.01	735	44.38	740	47.66
Sandyford	660	43.46	775	40.64	770	43.58
South Gosforth	245	40.24	290	38.41	305	38.04
Wingrove	400	49.20	470	48.29	520	48.44
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central constituency total	4,440	42.80	5,300	41.30	5,380	42.76

Notes

1. The number of recipients are rounded to a multiple of five and average payments to the nearest penny therefore ward totals do not always sum to area totals.
2. Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
3. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source

DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

Pensioners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of benefits by pensioners was in each year since 1997. [85549]

James Purnell: Take-up of retirement pension cannot be calculated accurately. However, 98 per cent. of pensioner benefit units were in receipt of some state pension in 2004-05. Those not receiving may include pensioners deferring their state pension or misreporting their income when asked.

Estimates of take-up of pension credit and minimum income guarantee administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), as well as local authority administered housing benefit and council tax benefit, can be found in the DWP publication series entitled: "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up". Latest estimates of pension credit relate to the year 2004-05; the most recent take-up results for all the other benefits relate to 2003-04. Copies of the latest publications, which describe patterns in take-up since 1997-98, together with past reports, are available in the Library.

Information on the take-up of other benefits is not available.

Pensions Act

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* sets of regulations and *(b)* codes of practice under the Pensions Act 2004 due to take effect from 6th April 2006 have not yet been published in final form. [48096]

James Purnell: The information is as follows:

(a) 16 sets of regulations implementing the Pensions Act 2004 and due to take effect from April 2006 have been made and laid on behalf of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

These are listed as follows:

Regulations that came into force on 28 March 2006:

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Cross-Border) Regulations 2006 (amendment).

Regulations that came into force on 1 April 2006:

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Pension Protection Levy and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2006

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Fraud Compensation Levy) Regulations 2006

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Levies) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

The Pension Protection Fund (Valuation of the Pension Protection Fund) Regulations 2006.

Regulations that came into force on 6 April 2006:

The Pension Protection Fund (Administration of Compensation) Regulations 2006

The Pension Protection Fund (Compensation) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

The Pension Protection Fund (Entry Rules) (Amendments) Regulations 2006

The Pension Protection Fund (Assumption of Responsibility, Discharge of Liabilities and Equal Treatment) Regulations 2006

The Pension Protection Fund (Reviewable Matters) and (Review and Reconsideration of Reviewable Matters) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

The Pension Protection Fund (Provision of Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Member Nominated Trustees and Directors) Regulations 2006

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Modification of Subsisting Rights) Regulations 2006

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Trustees' Knowledge and Understanding) Regulations 2006

The Occupational and Personal Pensions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2006

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Payments to Employer) Regulations 2006.

The draft Occupational Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations, which were published for consultation in September 2005, have not yet been laid.

In the light of comments received during consultation on the draft Occupational Pension Schemes (Exemption) Regulations 2006, we have decided not to proceed with those regulations.

Regulations on the subject of contracting out have been taken forward in a HM Revenue and Customs Order.

(b) The following codes of practice, issued by the Pensions Regulator in respect of the Pensions Act 2004, are in force from 30 May 2006:

Late Payments (Money Purchase)

Late Payments (Personal Pension)

Trustees Knowledge and Understanding

Reasonable Periods in Disclosure

Early Leavers

Member Nominated Trustees/Member Nominated Directors was laid in its final form on 13 July 2006.

The following codes of practice are currently being developed:

Modification of Past Rights

Internal Controls.

Pensions White Paper

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the total number of pensioners who would receive savings credit under the current system but will not under the proposals in the White Paper security in retirement, towards a new pensions system in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2030, *(d)* 2040 and *(e)* 2050. [78004]

James Purnell: Under our reforms, more people will be receiving state pensions based on their national insurance records, and there will be a more generous basic state pension due to the restoration of the earnings link. This provides a solid foundation for private saving. Incentives are further enhanced by reducing the growth of the savings credit.

The following table shows the difference between the number of pensioner households projected to be receiving savings credit in each year requested under the current system projected forward and under the proposals contained in the White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system". These figures do not take into account the effects of introducing personal accounts, which should lead to lower proportions of older people being eligible for pension credit.

Table 1: Projected numbers of pensioner households in selected years that may receive savings credit under the current system projected forward, and that may receive it under the white paper proposals

	Number of pensioner households that may receive savings credit under the current system projected forward (million)	*Number of pensioner households that may receive savings credit under the white paper proposals (million)*	*Difference*
2010	2.40	2.05	0.35
2020	3.00	1.85	1.15
2030	4.00	1.60	2.40
2040	5.05	1.60	3.40
2050	6.15	1.70	4.45

Notes:

1. Projections of numbers receiving savings credit in the future are subject to a range of uncertainties and a number of factors including policies on uprating different benefits, and assumptions on rates of take-up.
2. The assumptions applied here are consistent with those that underpin published long-run expenditure projections, and are applied to projections of the number of pensioner households estimated to be eligible for the savings credit.
3. The projections of recipients of the savings credit under the current system and the reform proposals are calculated by applying assumed rates of take-up, care should be taken when interpreting these projections. In particular data deficiencies make it difficult to be confident in the split between the number of people who may be in receipt of only the guarantee credit and those who may be in receipt of both the guarantee credit and the savings credit. Also the projections are sensitive to the assumed take-up rates.
4. Estimates of the proportion of pensioner households eligible to the savings credit are the mid-points of projections taken from two separate micro-simulation models. Modelling of the reform proposals does not assume any increase in private saving from the introduction of personal accounts, which would further reduce the numbers eligible for the savings credit.
5. The projections of the number and proportion of pensioner households eligible for the savings credit are sensitive to modelling assumptions and to projected changes in the distribution of pensioner incomes.
6. The projections of the number of pensioner households eligible for the savings credit are derived from the projected proportions eligible and projections of the number of pensioner households in Great Britain.
7. The reform projections assume: continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee credit; the savings credit maximum is uprated by earnings from 2008 and then by prices from 2015; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension described in the White Paper.
8. The projections under the current system assume that basic state pension is uprated in line with prices and the standard guarantee credit with earnings each year. It should be noted that there is a government commitment to uprate the standard guarantee credit with earnings until 2008. Treasury projections for the current system assume price uprating of the standard guarantee credit beyond 2008.
9. Estimates are calibrated to the mid-points of the 2004-05 National Statistics range estimates of non-eligibility to pension credit, which adjust 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. Although the estimates here are not presented as ranges, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
10. The projections are rounded to the nearest 50,000. Totals are rounded separately so components may not sum to totals.

People Living in Poverty

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were estimated to be living in poverty in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and what each figure represents per 1,000 population. [85942]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The following table shows the number of all individuals living in households which are situated in either rural or urban areas of England and with household incomes below the 60 per cent. threshold of the contemporary median. The threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income. The figures are on a before and after housing costs basis for the years 1996-97 to 2004-05. The urban/rural marker information is not available on a consistent basis on the data for Scotland and Wales.

Number of all individuals falling below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income, by urban/rural: England, 1997-98 to 2004-05

	Before housing costs		*After housing costs*		*Total number of all individuals (million)*	
	Urban	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*
1997-98						
Number (million). Below 60 per cent. median	6.5	2.2	8.7	2.7	[1]33.8	[1]14.0
Number per 1,000. Below 60 per cent. median	190	150	260	200	[1]—	[1]—
1998-99						
Number (million). Below 60 per cent. median	6.4	2.2	8.6	2.8	[2]34.5	[2]13.6
Number per 1,000. Below 60 per cent. median	190	160	250	210	[2]—	[2]—
1999-2000						
Number (million). Below 60 per cent. median	6.4	2.1	8.6	2.7	[3]34.5	[3]13.7
Number per 1,000. Below 60 per cent. median	180	150	250	200	[3]—	[3]—
2000-01						
Number (million). Below 60 per cent. median	6.1	2.0	8.3	2.6	[4]34.4	[4]14.0
Number per 1,000. Below 60 per cent. median	180	140	240	190	[4]—	[4]—
2001-02						
Number (million). Below 60 per cent. median	6.1	2.0	8.1	2.5	[5]34.9	[5]13.7
Number per 1,000. Below 60 per cent. median	170	150	230	180	[5]—	[5]—
2002-03						
Number (million). Below 60 per cent. median	6.2	2.0	8.1	2.4	[6]34.9	[6]13.9
Number per 1,000. Below 60 per cent. median	180	140	230	180	[6]—	[6]—
2003-04						
Number (million). Below 60 per cent. median	6.0	2.1	7.7	2.7	[7]33.8	[7]15.2
Number per 1,000. Below 60 per cent. median	180	140	230	180	[7]—	[7]—
2004-05						
Number (million). Below 60 per cent. median	5.9	1.9	7.5	2.4	[8]34.2	[8]15.0
Number per 1,000. Below 60 per cent. median	170	130	220	160	[8]—	[8]—

[1] Total
[2] Total
[3] Total
[4] Total
[5] Total
[6] Total
[7] Total
[8] Total

Source:
Households Below Average Income (HBAI). The main source for HBAI is the Family Resources Survey (FRS).

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were living in poverty in (i) England, (ii) Peterborough constituency and (iii) the Peterborough city council in each year since 1997. [85971]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding low income for Great Britain is detailed in "Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 1994-95 to 2004-05", which is available in the Library. The main source for HBAI is the Family Resources Survey (FRS).

The standard measurement of low income is a household with income below 60 per cent. of the GB median.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust estimates below a regional level. Therefore estimates for numbers of adults or children living in low income in the Peterborough constituency or the Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997 are not available.

Percentage of adults living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, years 1995-96 to 2004-05; England

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
1995-96 to 1997-98	16	22
1996-97 to 1998-99	16	22
1997-98 to 1999-00	16	21
1998-99 to 2000-01	16	21
1999-2000 to 2001-02	16	20
2000-01 to 2002-03	16	20

Percentage of adults living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, years 1995-96 to 2004-05; England

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
2001-02 to 2003-04	16	19
2002-03 to 2004-05	15	19

Note:
Figures are provided using a three-year moving averages, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year on year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time.
Source:
FRS

Percentage of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, years 1995-96 to 2004-05; England

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
1995-96 to 1997-98	23	32
1996-97 to 1998-99	24	33
1997-98 to 1999-00	24	32
1998-99 to 2000-01	22	32
1999-2000 to 2001-02	21	31
2000-01 to 2002-03	20	29
2001-02 to 2003-04	20	29
2002-03 to 2004-05	20	28

Note:
Figures are provided using a three-year moving averages, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year on year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time.
Source:
FRS

Safety at Work

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of workers who suffered from occupational exposure to *(a)* methyl bromide and *(b)* sulphuric acid in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [85606]

Mrs. McGuire: Available information via reports to HSE under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) in 2004-05 revealed 19 injuries to workers where reports mentioned the term "sulphuric acid" but no injuries mentioning "methyl bromide". Of these injuries, 13 were recorded as burns and four as asphyxiations or poisonings. This information from RIDDOR is limited by significant under-reporting of relevant cases to HSE and local authorities.

Since 2000, there have been a small number of reports of cases of ill health resulting from occupational exposure to sulphuric acid or methyl bromide by consultant occupational and NHS physicians reporting to The Health and Occupation Reporting (THOR) network, a voluntary reporting scheme for work-related illness sponsored by the Health and Safety Executive. These are described in the following table. THOR will record only those cases where the individual has access to an occupational physician or which are serious enough to be referred for hospital assessment. Many clinicians reporting to the network do so only one month in twelve, meaning that only a proportion of all cases will be recorded.

THOR 2000 onwards: cases of injury and illness attributed to sulphuric acid and methyl bromide

Agent	Illness or injury	Number of reported cases
Sulphuric acid	Asthma	3
	Cough	1
	Inhalation accident	1
	Burn	1
Methyl bromide	"Poisoning"	3

Seasonal Unemployment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures his Department has taken to tackle short-term seasonal unemployment in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [85922]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1609W.

Stakeholder Pensions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Government plan to spend on promoting stakeholder pensions in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [86259]

James Purnell: We will continue to provide public information in order to help individuals make informed choices about saving for a pension, including information about stakeholder pensions.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85191]

Mrs. McGuire: On three occasions in the Committee's fourth, twenty-second and twenty-fifth reports.

Sure Start Maternity Grant

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland have received the Sure Start maternity grant since 2001. [87971]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the tables.

Sure Start maternity grants for England

	Number of awards
2001-02	172,130
2002-03	199,010
2003-04	204,310
2004-05	203,480
2005-06	205,750
2006-07 to 30 June	49,890

Sure Start maternity grants for Tees Social Fund District

	Number of awards
2001-02	2,930
2002-03 to 31 October	1,980

Sure Start maternity grants for area covered by Tees Valley Jobcentre Plus District

	Number of awards
2002-03 from 1 November	1,610
2003-04	4,140
2004-05	3,840
2005-06	4,060
2006-07 to 30 June	990

Notes:
1. Data is not available by parliamentary constituency but only by Jobcentre
Plus District, and, before Jobcentre Plus Districts were used for the administration of the social fund, by social fund district.
2. Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency used to be part of Tees social fund district and is now part of Tees Valley Jobcentre Plus District. The latter was formed in November 2002 by merging part of Durham social fund district with Tees social fund district. Thus data in the third table is not comparable with that in the second table.
3. Figures are for all awards, irrespective of whether the award was made to the mother or her partner.
4. Some women will have received more than one sure start maternity grant since 2001-02.
5. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Unclaimed Benefits

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he estimates are not claiming benefits to which they are entitled, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* sex and *(c)* region; what his estimate is of the total sum involved; and what steps he is taking to reduce that number. [87318]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down below national level. For the available information I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for North Tyneside (Mr. Byers) on 3 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1034W.

We are keen that everybody claims the benefits to which they are entitled. The Department for Work and Pensions works closely with local authorities and other organisations to ensure that people understand their entitlement and claim the appropriate benefits.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Background Reading

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what publications have been provided by civil servants as background reading for his ministerial duties since taking office; and if he will make a statement. [87590]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I am provided with the publications necessary to enable me to fulfil my ministerial duties.

Casinos

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Anschutz Entertainment Group is a casino developer. [86964]

The Deputy Prime Minister: On the company's website, AEG are described as "sports and entertainment presenters."

Gambling (Government Policy)

Anne Main: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role he has in relation to Government policy on *(a)* gambling and *(b)* planning. [84719]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 302.

Ministerial Meetings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what meetings he has had in the last five years with *(a)* Margaret Hotchkiss, *(b)* John Allison, *(c)* Tobin Prior and *(d)* Howard Kerzner. [85548]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created in June 2002. Information prior to this time is not available. Since that time, I have not had any meetings with the persons named.

Ministerial Office and Staff

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 788-89W, on his ministerial office and staff, how many members of staff have *(a)* resigned, *(b)* been made redundant and *(c)* been dismissed from his private office since May. [85058]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* None.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87651]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My office in 26 Whitehall has not been decorated since I moved into it in September 2002.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what responsibilities he has in relation to the implementation of Government policy on *(a)* the international slave trade and *(b)* the commemoration of the abolition of slavery. [85559]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I do not have any responsibility for the implementation of policy in relation to the international slave trade. However, the hon. Member may be aware that I chair the 2007 Bicentenary Advisory Group, which brings together stakeholders from across the cultural, faith and community sectors to discuss how best we can maximise their organisations' contributions to the bicentenary.

Ministerial Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83976]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The number of visits I have made to each of the English regions in the past 12 months is shown in the table.

	Number of visits
North West	3
North East	1
Yorkshire and the Humber	6
East Midlands	2
East of England	1
West Midlands	0
South East	1
South West	4
London	4

Nuclear Waste

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the disposal of nuclear waste; and if he will make a statement. [87085]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to such discussions, including Cabinet and its committees, is generally not disclosed, as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Official Visit

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what purpose he visited the Star City Casino in Sydney on 28 November 2004. [85696]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 301W.

Planning

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role he has in relation to Government policy on planning. [87138]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Responsibility for planning policy rests with the Department for Communities and Local Government.

I chair the Cabinet Committee on Housing and Planning. The chair of a Cabinet Committee must act in a neutral way if the system is to work effectively. Departments' views are represented by their own Ministers who attend the meetings.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Charities Commissioners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the Northern Ireland Charities Commissioners office to be fully functional. [87127]

Mr. Hanson: On 17 July I launched a public consultation about proposed new Northern Ireland charities legislation which will, inter alia, set up a Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The 12 week consultation process will close on 13 October 2006. Following this the responses will be considered and where feasible account will be taken of these but we must ensure that we put in place adequate regulation and governance arrangements.

It is then the intention to present the draft Order for consideration by Parliament in November 2006. It is intended subject to the will of Parliament:

to have legislation approved early in 2007;

to enable the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland to be established by mid-2007;and

to enable the Northern Ireland Register of Charities to reach initial operational capability by end-2007.

Concessionary Fares

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department plans to extend the Department for Regional Development's concessionary fares scheme for pupils returning to school in the sixth form. [86571]

David Cairns: The Northern Ireland concessionary fares scheme currently provides half fare travel on public transport for all children up to the 30 June after they become 16, that is, until the end of their period of compulsory attendance at school. On 26 June 2006, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland launched a review of the scheme. This review will consider the feasibility and desirability of options for extending the provision of concessionary travel to additional categories, such as pupils returning to school in the sixth form.

Departmental IT Systems

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on IT systems in each year since 1997; what the purpose of each system is; what the outturn against planned expenditure of each system was; and what the outturn time for implementation against planned time was. [41314]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives information on IT projects costing in excess of £1 million within the Northern Ireland Office Core, its agencies, the Bloody Sunday Inquiry and the Northern Ireland legal offices (Director of Public Prosecutions and Crown Solicitors Office).

	Project	*Purpose*	*Amount spent (£ million ex. VAT)*	*Cost of over run (£ million ex. VAT)*	*Time of over run*
1997	—	—	—	—	—
1998	—	—	—	—	—
1999	OASIS Y2K Refresh	To upgrade NIO departmental infrastructure and make it Y2K compliant	2.2	None	None
1999	COMPASS (to 2002)	To provide an e-human resources system for the Northern Ireland Prison Service	5	0.06	3 months
2000	TARIFF (to 2004)	To provide office automation and an electronic claim processing system for criminal injuries compensation in Northern Ireland	2	0.2	1 year
2001	PRISM (to spring 2006)	To provide a prisoner record system for the Northern Ireland Prison Service	7	Project ongoing	Project ongoing
2002	(CAUSEWAY (PPP project to 2013)	A joint enterprise by criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland to share information electronically	45	Project ongoing	Project ongoing
2003	DPP INFRASTRUCTURE	To implement a modern ICT infrastructure for the DPP NI.	1.2	None	None
2003	FLAX (to 2005)	Replace NIO IT infrastructure, provide Internet and intranet and meet electronic document and records management targets	8.5	None	None
2004	—	—	—	—	—
1998	Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry.	1.1	None	None
1999	Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry	1.6	None	None
2000	Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry	7.2	None	None
2001	Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry	5.8	None	None

	Project	Purpose	Amount spent (£ million ex. VAT)	Cost of over run (£ million ex. VAT)	Time of over run
2002	Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry	7.1	None	None
2003	Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry	5	None	None
2004	Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry	2.6	None	None
2005	Bloody Sunday Inquiry-Londonderry and London	Implementation of IT systems to support the work of the Inquiry	3.7	None	None

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* EU foreign nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals have been employed in (i) each department in Northern Ireland and (ii) the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last five years; what vetting procedures are in place for each category of staff; and whether this includes liaison with foreign law enforcement agencies. [68005]

Mr. Hanson: Recruitment Service of the Department of Finance and Personnel has responsibility for providing a vetting service for all employees appointed to the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS).

The vetting process for all prospective appointees to the NICS includes a number of levels which will be determined by the nature of the duties the appointee is required to carry out. Approximately 95 per cent. of all appointees are required to satisfy a Basic Check level which consists of an identification check as well as a Criminal Record Check (CRC). The CRC, which is undertaken by the Criminal Records Division of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), identifies all instances where an individual has either been convicted of an offence or where a criminal case is pending.

A small number of posts within the NICS may require enhanced vetting. In addition to those checks carried out under Basic Check, enhanced vetting, which is undertaken by the NI Security and Vetting Unit of the NIO, includes an assessment of an applicant's credit and pecuniary history and an assessment of the individual as a security risk.

Recruitment Service does not have any direct links, or liaise in any way, with foreign law enforcement agencies, when vetting prospective recruits.

The figures for those employed by Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments within the years and the categories specified are contained within the following table.

Financial Year	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Classification	EU	Non-EU	EU	Non-EU	EU	Non-EU	EU	Non-EU	EU	Non-EU
Department										
DARD	6	2	11	1	15	4	27	8	13	1
DCAL	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
DE	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
DEL	5	2	3	0	4	0	0	0	1	0
DETI	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
DFP	12	4	11	3	10	4	11	4	4	3
DHSSPS	2	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	1
DOE	0	0	3	2	7	2	21	3	11	2
DRD	5	1	13	1	11	2	8	0	1	1
DSD	18	8	15	3	15	2	18	3	11	3
OFMDFM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
NIO	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0
Total	53	18	60	11	69	16	89	20	46	11

Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the simulated average effective tax rate that would notionally have been levied on domestic rates bills in respect of the *(a)* district and *(b)* regional rate in (i) Northern Ireland as a whole and (ii) each district in Northern Ireland in 2006-07. [86816]

Mr. Hanson: The simulated average district rate for 2006-07 is 0.00258 or £2.58 per £1,000 of capital value, while the regional rate is simulated to be 0.00340 or £3.40 per £,000 of capital value. This gives an overall average rate of 0.00598 or £5.98 per £1,000 of capital value. This estimate simulates what domestic rates would have been in 2006-07 had capital values been in place. Individual district rates are shown in the table.

Simulation of domestic capital value rates for 2006-07

	District rate (pence)	*Regional rate (pence)*	*Total rate (pence)*	*Total rate per £1,000 of CV*
Antrim	0.00282	0.00340	0.00622	6.22
Ards	0.00241	0.00340	0.00581	5.81
Armagh	0.00305	0.00340	0.00645	6.45
Ballymena	0.00258	0.00340	0.00599	5.99
Ballymoney	0.00257	0.00340	0.00598	5.98
Banbridge	0.00293	0.00340	0.00634	6.34
Belfast	0.00234	0.00340	0.00575	5.75
Carrickfergus	0.00280	0.00340	0.00620	6.20
Castlereagh	0.00178	0.00340	0.00518	5.18
Coleraine	0.00239	0.00340	0.00579	5.79
Cookstown	0.00237	0.00340	0.00578	5.78
Craigavon	0.00322	0.00340	0.00662	6.62
Derry	0.00320	0.00340	0.00660	6.60
Down	0.00275	0.00340	0.00615	6.15
Dungannon	0.00221	0.00340	0.00561	5.61
Fermanagh	0.00200	0.00340	0.00540	5.40
Larne	0.00307	0.00340	0.00648	6.48
Limavady	0.00300	0.00340	0.00640	6.40
Lisburn	0.00223	0.00340	0.00563	5.63
Magherafelt	0.00214	0.00340	0.00555	5.55
Moyle	0.00303	0.00340	0.00643	6.43
Newry and Mourne	0.00267	0.00340	0.00607	6.07
Newtownabbey	0.00274	0.00340	0.00615	6.15
North Down	0.00213	0.00340	0.00554	5.54
Omagh	0.00308	0.00340	0.00648	6.48
Strabane	0.00287	0.00340	0.00627	6.27
Northern Ireland	0.00258	0.00340	0.00598	5.98

Notes:
1. Based on VLA domestic revaluation data at 26 May 2006.
2. Missing or zero capital values are omitted.
3. Rates based on 2006-07 rate revenues.
4. Simulates what domestic rates would have been in 2006-07 had capital values been in place.
5. For example, the average bill for a domestic property valued at £112,000 would be: 112,000 x 0.00598 = £669.80.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the latest estimate is of the average domestic rates bill per dwelling that will be paid in 2007-08 in *(a)* Northern Ireland as a whole and *(b)* each district in Northern Ireland. [86819]

Mr. Hanson: The average rate bill for domestic properties in Northern Ireland in 2007-08 is estimated at £705. This figure takes into account the planned 6 per cent. increase in the regional rate between 2006-07 and 2007-08, but also assumes that the district rate set by councils will also increase by an average of 6 per cent. during this time.

The following table the information for each district council in Northern Ireland. Again, these assume that both regional and district rates will increase by 6 per cent. in 2007-08.

Average domestic rate bills (projected) 2007-08

	£
Antrim	736
Ards	789
Armagh	724
Ballymena	678
Ballymoney	655
Banbridge	721
Belfast	699
Carrickfergus	661
Castlereagh	719
Coleraine	747
Cookstown	680
Craigavon	635
Down	771
Fermanagh	589
Larne	625

Average domestic rate bills (projected) 2007-08

	£
Limavady	668
Lisburn	737
Derry	668
Magherafelt	641
Moyle	776
Newry and Mourne	755
Newtownabby	687
North Down	901
Omagh	661
Strabane	564
Northern Ireland	705

It should also be noted that none of the estimates given take account of those households which will be in receipt of any of the domestic rate reliefs which will be available, such as housing benefit, the new rate relief scheme or transitional relief.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average domestic rates bill per dwelling was in *(a)* Northern Ireland as a whole and *(b)* each district in Northern Ireland in 2006-07. [86820]

Mr. Hanson: The average domestic rate liability for properties in Northern Ireland in 2006-07, combining both regional and district rates, is estimated at £668.

The following table provides the information for each district council in Northern Ireland.

These estimates show only the average rate liability for properties, as information is not available on the level of housing benefit that each household may receive.

Average domestic rate liability 2006-07 (£)

Antrim	667
Ards	672
Armagh	689
Ballymena	663
Ballymoney	651
Banbridge	721
Belfast	580
Carrickfergus	671
Castlereagh	604
Coleraine	700
Cookstown	601
Craigavon	665
Down	690
Dungannon	563
Fermanagh	533
Larne	623
Limavady	662
Lisburn	667
Derry	661
Magherafelt	606
Movie	705
Newry and Mourne	658
Newtownabbey	670
North Down	761
Omagh	650
Strabane	571
Northern Ireland	668

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the latest estimate is of the net revenue to be raised from domestic rates in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [86821]

Mr. Hanson: Domestic rates consist of two elements, the Regional Rate, set by the Secretary of State on a uniform basis across Northern Ireland, and the district rate, set separately by each district council relevant to the location of the property The current estimates of total revenue to be raised from domestic rates in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are detailed in the table as follows.

Total estimated domestic rate revenue

£ million

	[1] Regional rate	[2] District rate
2006-07	248.7	197.4
2007-08	269.9	Not yet available

[1] Based on domestic Regional Rate increases of 19 per cent. in 2006-07 and 6 per cent. in 2007-08 as set out in Northern Ireland Priorities and Budget 2006-08.

[2] District councils set their rate in February of the preceding year so figure for 2007-08 not yet available.

These estimates will be subject to revision as information is updated.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the expected change in the regional domestic rate levy is for 2007-08; and what the change was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2005-06. [86844]

Mr. Hanson: The expected change in the regional domestic rate levy for 2007-08 is £21.2 million. The estimated changes in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2005-06 are £42.1 million and £26.3 million respectively.

Driving Tests

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time a person waited to sit a driving test at each test centre in Northern Ireland was in the last period for which figures are available. [86301]

David Cairns: Average waiting times for practical driving tests during week ending 15 July 2006 for each test centre are shown in the following table.

Test centre	*Average waiting time (weeks)*
Armagh	5
Ballymena	5
Belfast	2
Coleraine	6
Cookstown	6
Craigavon	4
Downpatrick	8
Enniskillen	7
Lame	10
Lisburn	5
Londonderry	2
Newry	8
Newtownards	8
Omagh	10
Overall average	6

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have sat and *(a)* failed their first driving test and *(b)* passed first time at each centre in Northern Ireland in the last three years. [86302]

David Cairns: Information on the number of individual candidates involved is not available. However, details of the number of tests conducted in the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006 are as follows.

Centre	Tests conducted	Failed first test	Number Passed first test
Armagh	4,329	2,870	1,459
Ballymena	11,441	9,060	2,381
Belfast (Balmoral Road)	12,243	9,680	2,563
Belfast (Dill Road)	8,203	6,510	1,693
Coleraine	9,686	7,042	2,644
Cookstown	10,665	7,446	3,219
Craigavon	12,147	8,328	3,819
Downpatrick	6,077	3,722	2,355
Enniskillen	4,728	2,897	1,831
Larne	11,499	9,147	2,352
Lisburn	7,315	5,855	1,460
Londonderry (New buildings)	2,057	1,343	714
Londonderry (Waterside House)	9,864	7,733	2,131
Newry	8,278	5,410	2,868
Newtownards	8,829	6,098	2,731
Omagh	7,881	5,319	2,562

Drug-related Offences

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been charged with the intention to supply *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* crack cocaine and *(d)* other drugs in the Province in the last three years, broken down by Westminster constituency. [86296]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided as follows. The Police Service of Northern Ireland collates information according to district command unit and cannot supply information broken down by Westminster constituency.

	Persons charged for intent to supply:								
	(a) Cannabis			(b) Cocaine			(c) Crack cocaine		
DCU	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Antrim	2	1	11	3	3	0	2	1	7
Ards	11	4	8	0	0	1	8	5	7
East Belfast	10	5	5	1	0	5	6	3	3
North Belfast	8	14	8	1	1	5	3	3	5
South Belfast	7	7	8	1	2	4	3	9	6
West Belfast	3	5	5	0	1	0	0	0	4
Carrickfergus	8	3	1	3	2	0	2	3	2
Castlereagh	13	8	1	0	1	1	5	0	3
Larne	9	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	3
Lisburn	16	26	7	3	2	1	9	13	8
Newtownabbey	9	4	8	3	0	0	6	1	1
North Down	14	15	8	4	1	0	7	5	5
Urban	110	92	71	19	13	17	55	44	54
Armagh	3	4	8	1	0	1	5	1	6
Banbridge	9	4	1	0	0	0	5	2	1
Ballymena	11	7	11	0	0	2	4	11	8
Ballymoney	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	13	10	12	0	1	3	13	15	17
Cookstown	4	1	0	0	4	0	7	11	2
Craigavon	6	7	2	0	4	2	6	4	2
Dungannon	4	2	1	2	0	3	1	1	3
Down	5	1	9	0	0	1	1	5	3
Fermanagh	14	5	6	0	0	2	4	6	3
Foyle	5	5	6	1	2	5	7	10	10
Limavady	4	5	12	0	0	0	5	6	4
Magherafelt	2	7	1	0	0	1	2	2	1
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newry and Mourne	6	1	4	0	1	3	1	1	3
Omagh	4	7	5	0	0	0	1	4	3

	Persons charged for intent to supply:								
	(a) Cannabis			(b) Cocaine			(c) Crack cocaine		
DCU	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Strabane	4	1	3	0	0	2	2	3	1
Rural	95	70	82	5	12	25	64	82	67
Northern Ireland[2]	205	162	153	24	25	42	119	126	121

[1] (c) One person was charged with intent to supply crack cocaine in Antrim DCU in 2003-04.
[2] As one person can be charged for supply of several different drug types, the total number of persons charged with intent to supply cannot be derived by adding the totals for cannabis, cocaine and others together.
Note:
Please note other includes Amphetamine, Steroids, Benzodiazepines, Heroin, LSD, MDMA (Ecstasy), Methadone, Morphine, Psilocin (Magic Mushrooms) and Stanozolol. Should a person be charged with intent to supply more than one of these drug types, they are only included once.

Environmental Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81188]

David Cairns: The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy, published on 9 May 2006 identifies the implementation of environmental management systems as a mechanism that will reinforce progress made, and being made, in the improvement of the sustainable development profile of the Northern Ireland Government Estate.

Sustainable Development Action Plans are currently being developed by Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office in line with a commitment made in the Sustainable Development Strategy. Each department will set out in its action plan with regard to the implementation of environmental management systems.

It will be for each department to decide which of the available standards such as ISO 14001, EMAS, the European eco audit scheme, etc. is most appropriate for the management of its own estate. A number of Departments have environmental management systems in place, some of these accredited to ISO 14001 and some to other standards.

Greyhounds

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action he plans to take to promote the welfare of greyhounds in the Province. [87994]

David Cairns: Under the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, all animals are protected from unnecessary cruelty or suffering, although there are no specific provisions on the welfare of racing greyhounds.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (NI) officials are currently finalising a review of animal welfare legislation aimed at identifying measures needed to strengthen powers to deal with animal welfare abuses and will consult stakeholders on proposals for new animal welfare legislation shortly. It is anticipated that the consultation document will include proposals to better regulate the animal welfare aspects of greyhound racing, and stakeholders will be asked to consider what, if any, specific issues might be included in any new legislation to protect the welfare of racing greyhounds.

Language Support

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the range and nature is of language support services available to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Northern Ireland; and how much was available for language support services in each Education and Library Board area in each of the last four academic years. [86564]

Maria Eagle: The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) are responsible for ensuring that appropriate support arrangements are in place for children who have significant difficulty with English as an additional language (EAL). The range and nature of language support services available to both primary and secondary schools varies within each ELB area. Some ELBs provide peripatetic teaching staff, some offer schools the opportunity to "buy in" peripatetic services, whilst others provide support through advisers. In addition, some Boards make available interpreting services in certain languages.

The Department of Education provides earmarked funding, which must be used solely for English as an Additional Language (EAL) provision, to the Education and Library Boards. This funding was originally distributed equally across the five Boards but since 2004-05 funding has been distributed on a per capita basis for each EAL pupil recorded in the school census. The funding by ELB by financial year is shown in the following table:

	Allocation			£
Board	2003-04	2004-05 (Allocated gradually)	2005-06	2006-07
BELB	80,000	110,000	159,000	160,000
NEELB	80,000	72,000	92,000	96,000
SEELB	80,000	85,000	112,000	96,000
SELB	80,000	85,000	153,000	177,000
WELB	80,000	58,000	54,000	52,000
Total	400,000	410,000	570,000	581,000

Since 2005-06, funding, additional to that provided to the ELBs, is given direct to schools through the Common Funding Formula. This funding, which is not earmarked, includes an EAL factor that targets resources directly to schools with EAL pupils. The cash value for each EAL pupil identified in the school census was £864 in 2005-06 and £912 in 2006-07. The funding by ELB by financial year is shown in the following table:

Allocations to schools

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
BELB[1]	73,000	129,000	432,000	614,000
NEELB	—	—	287,000	441,000
SEELB	—	—	344,000	379,000
SELB	—	—	462,000	885,000
WELB	—	—	162,000	218,000
Total	73,000	129,000	1,687,000	2,537,000

[1] BELB were the only funding authority to distribute resources to schools from an EAL factor within its Local Management Schools formula, prior to the introduction of Common Funding from 2005-06.

In addition, £100,000 has been allocated in 2006-07 and £75,000 in 2007-08 within the Children and Young People's Package for regional interpreting and translation of documents services for teachers, EAL pupils and their parents.

The Department is working with the ELBs to develop a comprehensive policy and a proposal for a regional EAL service.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the remuneration is for the chief executives of local councils in Northern Ireland; and what remuneration is proposed for the new chief executive posts. [86946]

David Cairns: The remuneration for chief executives of district councils is negotiated by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Executives Northern Ireland. Currently their salary scales range from £64,185 to £109,503, however, actual salary costs are not held centrally. The issue of remuneration for the new local government chief executive posts will be considered as part of the process of implementing the Review of Public Administration.

Newly Qualified Teachers

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recently qualified teachers in Northern Ireland have failed to gain a post one year after qualifying; and if he will make a statement. [86309]

Maria Eagle: Destination of Leavers from higher education data are collected by HESA six months after graduation but not thereafter, therefore no data are available one year after graduation. Of the 704 teachers who qualified from Northern Ireland higher education institutions in 2004-05 and had Destination of Leavers data returned to HESA, 104 had not gained a teaching professional post six months after graduation.

Out-of-classroom Education

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what barriers he has identified to effective out-of-classroom education in secondary schools in Northern Ireland; and what steps he is taking to overcome them. [86917]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education has not carried out any formal assessment of the barriers to effective out-of-classroom education in secondary schools in Northern Ireland. Delivery of the curriculum, including out-of-classroom learning, is a matter for schools to determine, with the support of the Education and Library Boards.

As part of the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy, Government have already committed to promoting the use of the Education and Library Boards' "Education for Sustainable Development Good Practice Guide" in all schools. This guide includes information on education outside the classroom.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will issue guidance on out-of classroom education as part of the Northern Ireland secondary school curriculum; [86918]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that every secondary school child in Northern Ireland has the opportunity to experience out-of-classroom learning in the natural environment. [86920]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education specifies the minimum curricular content that schools are required to provide but does not specify how the curriculum should be delivered. It is therefore a matter for schools, with the support of the Education and Library Boards, to determine what out-of-classroom learning opportunities they provide. As part of the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy, Government have already committed to promoting the use of the Education and Library Boards' "Education for Sustainable Development Good Practice Guide" in all schools. This guide includes information on education outside the classroom.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions his Department has had with the Education and Library Board chief executives to promote outdoor learning in secondary schools in Northern Ireland. [86919]

Maria Eagle: There have been no meetings between the Department and the chief executives of the education and library boards, specifically, to discuss the promotion of outdoor learning.

Paediatric Cardiology

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children are awaiting an initial paediatric cardiology assessment in the Province. [74628]

Paul Goggins *[pursuant to the reply, 6 June 2006, Official Report c. 559W]:* I am now in a position to provide the information requested.

The number of children awaiting an initial paediatric cardiology assessment in each applicable Health and Social Service Trust at 26 May 2006 is provided in the following table:

Health and Social Service Trust	*Number of Children waiting for an initial outpatient paediatric cardiology appointment at 26 May 2006*
Altnagelvin Group[1]	39
Causeway	13
Craigavon Area Hospital Group[1]	84
Royal Group of Hospitals	681
Ulster Community and Hospitals[2]	96
United Hospitals Group	58
NI Total	971

[1] Altnagelvin Group and Craigavon Group trusts provided numbers waiting at 30 April 2006.
[2] Subsequent to when this answer was initially prepared, Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust provided numbers waiting at 31 May 2006.
Source:
Health and Social Services Trusts

Parliamentary Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which bodies each Department in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Office, consults *(a)* formally and *(b)* informally on parliamentary (i) questions and (ii) draft answers on Northern Ireland matters tabled by hon. Members from (A) Northern Ireland and (B) constituencies in Great Britain. [88253]

Mr. Hain: When drafting responses to parliamentary questions, my officials contact whichever bodies are necessary to provide the correct information. These bodies range from government agencies, non-departmental public bodies and other Whitehall departments to outside organisations in receipt of public funds. These contacts can be on a formal or informal basis. Where appropriate, I will ask those bodies with operational autonomy to write to hon. Members in response to parliamentary questions. Apart from those instances, all answers to hon. Member's questions are cleared at ministerial level.

Pensioners

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of pensioners' homes did not meet the Decent Homes Standard in the last period for which figures are available. [87286]

Mr. Hanson: The information is not available. The Decent Homes Standard applies only to social housing. The Interim House Condition Survey identified 32,000 homes as failing to meet the Standard but did not disaggregate the figures into particular age categories.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in Northern Ireland who have home internet access. [87290]

Mr. Hanson: While it is currently not possible to specify the exact number of pensioners in Northern Ireland who have home internet access, the most recent NISRA Omnibus Survey (March 2006) indicates that some 11 per cent. of respondents aged 65 and over in Northern Ireland claim to access the internet from home. This rises to 14 per cent. who regularly make use of the internet and 24 per cent. who have access to an internet-enabled PC.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the average amount pensioners in Northern Ireland spend on *(a)* food and non-alcoholic drink, *(b)* electricity and *(c)* fuel each week. [87292]

Mr. Hanson: Average weekly expenditure for pensioner households in Northern Ireland on the following commodities/services are as follows:

	Expenditure (£)
Food and non-alcoholic drinks	24.90
Electricity	6.00
Fuel (other fuels and gas)	10.70

Source:
Northern Ireland Expenditure and Food Survey (EPS) 2004-05.

The definition of a pensioner household and the expenditure categories detailed in the table are consistent with those published for the UK, by the Office for National Statistics, in 'Family Spending: A report on the 2004-05 Expenditure and Food Survey'.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of pensioner households in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland are classified as fuel poor. [87293]

Mr. Hanson: The 2004 Interim House Condition Survey collected fuel poverty information on a Northern Ireland wide basis. Due to the small sample size it is not possible to break down the information into parliamentary constituency or district council area. The Survey did, however, indicate that 54 per cent. (82,310) of fuel poor households are headed by someone aged 60 or over.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of pensioners in Northern Ireland did not take up their eligibility to *(a)* pension credit and *(b)* housing benefit in each of the last five years; and what steps he is taking to ensure pensioners are informed of their benefit entitlements. [87294]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to provide estimates of pensioners in Northern Ireland who did not take up their eligibility to pension credit and housing benefit.

Benefit uptake

The Social Security Agency (SSA) promotes the range of benefits for pensioners through pension tele-centres in Belfast and Londonderry, the internet, promotional leaflets and regional benefit uptake events. A network of pension advisers is also located in its 35 jobs and benefit offices/social security offices.

The 2005-06 Benefit Uptake Strategy piloted a number of exercises targeting 3,750 pensioners offering them a comprehensive benefit assessment. Of those targeted by the 2005-06 strategy 10 per cent. made successful claims; resulting in £400,000 paid in arrears and an average weekly increase of £30 for each successful customer amounting to additional yearly benefit spend of £575,000.

The 2006-07 expanded programme is targeting 35,000 clients including older people, people with disabilities and carers. Of the 35,000 clients being targeted 33,000 are older people.

The SSA has been working in partnership with the NI Housing Executive (NIHE) to promote uptake of housing benefit (HB) among the elderly. An exercise last year identified those in receipt of pension credit (PC), living in rented accommodation but not receiving HB. 23,765 people were contacted by the Agency and invited to apply for HB with the latest figures indicating 6,071 applications issued, with 3,923 (65 per cent.) having been returned and passed to either the NIHE or Rate Collection Agency for assessment.

All new PC claimants are now also invited to apply for HB when making their claim for PC.

Police

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 18W, on police, whether the cheque written by the Northern Ireland Police Fund to L'Estrange and Brett Solicitors was queried by his Department *(a)* as part of a financial return to his Department and *(b)* at the end of the financial year in question. [87743]

Paul Goggins: The Department has not queried any details contained in either financial returns or end of year financial reports received from the Northern Ireland Police Fund for the financial year in question.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many resignations of senior police officers in each district command unit have occurred in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [86300]

Paul Goggins: The total number of senior PSNI officers (inspector rank and above) that have resigned from the service within the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2006 is three. This figure includes one chief inspector from Newtownabbey DCU and two inspectors—one from Lisburn DCU and one from Magherafelt.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 20W, on police, when it was decided to replace staff recruited externally with Northern Ireland Office (NIO) staff in the Northern Ireland Police Fund; who made the decision to replace staff recruited externally with NIO staff in the Northern Ireland Police Fund; and for what reason it was decided to replace staff recruited externally with NIO staff in the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [87684]

Paul Goggins: Recruitment of staff to the Northern Ireland Police Fund is a matter for the fund.

Railway Safety

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fatalities have occurred on railway lines in Northern Ireland in the last three years; what action has been taken *(a)* to secure access to train lines and *(b)* to improve safety at level crossings; and if he will make a statement. [86304]

David Cairns: Translink have advised that there have been six fatalities on the railway lines in Northern Ireland over the last three years.

Northern Ireland Railways (NIR) continually reviews safety with regard to access to railway lines and engages in a wide range of activities to prevent accidents. In this respect NIR recognises that a partnership is required between the public and Translink. By their nature it is not possible to totally separate rail lines from public access as access to and across tracks is required at various defined points.

NIR has spent over £8 million upgrading either half or full barriers at public level crossings in the last five years. CCTV also protects full barrier crossings and the crossings are inspected on a quarterly basis for maintenance purposes. These crossings are also subject to Level Crossing Orders made under the Transport Act (Northern Ireland) 1967. Furthermore, they are also subject to a tripartite annual safety inspection involving NIR, PSNI and Roads Service.

NIR has developed a comprehensive risk model covering all private user accommodation crossings and has a programme of improvements and closures in progress to reduce overall risk. User worked crossings are inspected twice a year with access points, where defined, protected by a number of means including user worked gates and arras boards (planking laid on the ground) to discourage people and animals from going onto the track.

Recycling

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what initiatives are in place to promote recycling awareness in primary schools in Northern Ireland. [87130]

David Cairns: Significant progress has been made across all sectors to integrate resource and waste management into the teaching curriculum for Northern Ireland primary schools.

The Environment and Heritage Service (EHS)'s Wake Up to Waste awareness programme is providing targeted resources (including lesson plans, games and activities) for teachers that enable resource and waste management to be tied into the everyday teaching of all key stage groups. In addition, this approach is supplemented by the qualified teachers employed at each of the EHS's Environmental Education Centres across Northern Ireland, who have integrated waste education into their teaching programme.

District councils have waste management education officers, who visit primary schools on a regular basis, raising awareness of how to prevent and recycle waste. In March 2006, EHS launched its Waste Education Resource Pack to provide support, guidance and practical tools for these officers.

Non-governmental organisations funded by EHS also provide education officers to deliver waste education programmes in primary schools throughout Northern Ireland over the next three years.

Redundancy

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 22W, on redundancy, if the redundancy terms granted to employees of the Northern Ireland Police Fund who were laid off were *(a)* forwarded to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and *(b)* approved by the NIO in advance of their being agreed with staff. [87683]

Paul Goggins: Redundancy terms for staff employed by the Northern Ireland Police Fund are matters for the fund.

Registered Charities

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the registered charities in Northern Ireland. [87538]

Mr. Hanson: At present, charities in Northern Ireland are not registered. On 17 July 2006 I launched a public consultation about proposed new Northern Ireland charities legislation which will, inter alia, create a Northern Ireland Register of Charities and require all charities operating in Northern Ireland to register.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will introduce a medal to mark the bravery and service of Royal National Lifeboat Institution volunteers on the seas around Northern Ireland. [65092]

Mr. Hain: Her Majesty The Queen is advised by the Committee on the grant of honours, decorations and medals on all matters to do with honours and medals. My department has no plans to recommend the introduction of such a medal to the Committee.

Road Safety

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths occurred on Northern Ireland's roads involving *(a)* cyclists and *(b)* motorbike riders and pillion passengers over the last three years, broken down by Westminster constituency. [86320]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided as follows. The Police Service of Northern Ireland collates information according to district command unit and cannot supply information broken down by Westminster constituency.

Number of motorcycle, pedal cycle and pillion passenger fatalities, 2003 to 2005

	2003			2004			2005		
DCU	*Pillion*	*Motor cyclist*	*Pedal cyclist*	*Pillion*	*Motor cyclist*	*Pedal cyclist*	*Pillion*	*Motor cyclist*	*Pedal cyclist*
Antrim	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1
Ards	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Banbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Belfast	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Belfast	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
South Belfast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Belfast	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Carrickfergus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cookstown	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
Down	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Foyle	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Larne	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limavady	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lisburn	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Moyle	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Newtownabbey	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Number of motorcycle, pedal cycle and pillion passenger fatalities, 2003 to 2005

	2003			2004			2005		
DCU	*Pillion*	*Motor cyclist*	*Pedal cyclist*	*Pillion*	*Motor cyclist*	*Pedal cyclist*	*Pillion*	*Motor cyclist*	*Pedal cyclist*
North Down	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Newry and Mourne	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	2	20	2	0	22	2	1	14	4

Science Teachers

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many unfilled vacancies there are for science teachers in secondary schools within each education and library board. [86921]

Maria Eagle: Since vacancies are identified by boards of governors in accordance with the staffing complement they determine under LMS, the information is not currently held by the Department of Education nor by the relevant employing authorities and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department of Education will carry out an annual survey of teacher vacancies in schools, the first in the autumn of this year, similar to that undertaken annually by DfES in January each year.

Secondary School Trips

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the risk assessment system is for secondary school trips in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [86922]

Maria Eagle: The Department advises schools to carry out a risk assessment when they are planning trips. In 2002 the Department issued comprehensive guidance to schools entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits", which was published by the then Department for Education and Employment (DfEE). The Education and Library Boards provided their own guidance to schools in 2004. Both sets of guidance provide advice on carrying out risk assessment, including evaluating potential risks, putting control measures or mitigations in place and informing all relevant people.

Sports Facilities

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of schools in Northern Ireland provided two hours of sports participation for pupils in the last period for which figures are available. [85440]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not collect information on the amount of time schools allocate to any area within the curriculum, therefore the information requested is not available. It is a matter for individual schools to determine how much time they allocate to any subject but the Department has advised schools to provide at least two hours of physical education, including sport, each week.

The Government recognise the importance of physical activity for the long-term health and wellbeing of the community. Therefore physical education is, and will remain, a compulsory part of the Northern Ireland curriculum.

Sustainable Buildings

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to ensure newly-built public buildings in Northern Ireland incorporate energy efficient measures. [80950]

Mr. Hanson: A number of steps are being taken to ensure newly built public buildings in NI use energy efficient measures. These are:

(i) A revision to the NI Building Regulations will apply from the end of November 2006. This will mean an improvement of around 40 per cent. on current energy standards.

(ii) The Achieving Excellence Agenda for Construction. Under this agenda, a Policy Framework for Construction Procurement has been developed and implemented. The policy framework requires that, for all new Government buildings, energy efficiency measures over and above those required by the building regulations should be considered. These measures include low carbon design, energy targets, whole life costing and energy efficiency and management. In addition all new Government buildings should minimise energy used in construction and should aim to achieve a rating of Excellent using the Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Method (BREEAM).

Tolerance Promotion

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what strategies his Department has in place to *(a)* combat racism and *(b)* promote tolerance between different ethnic groups within Northern Ireland. [86551]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland and A Shared Future (Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland) provides the framework for Government and wider civic society to combat racism and sectarianism and to promote good relations. Both are supported by action plans which set out the practical steps to be taken by Government Departments and their agencies to promote racial equality and good relations.

In addition, the Criminal Justice (No2) (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 "hate crime" deals with crimes motivated or aggravated by hatred based on race, religion, disability or sexual orientation. This legislation gives courts the power to increase prison sentences if it is proven that crimes are motivated by hatred.

Tourism

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many tourists he expects to come to Northern Ireland in 2006; and how many came in each of the last three years. [86322]

Maria Eagle: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board's (NITB) Tourism Barometer implemented in June indicates a good 2006 performance to date by all tourism business sectors and a positive outlook for the summer period. Accommodation occupancy surveys also support evidence of a positive start to the year. 2006 visitor number forecasts for the full year are not yet available. The table indicates the number of visitors in the last three years.

Visitor Performance, 2003-05

	Number
2005	1,972,000
2004	1,985,000
2003	1,896,000

Untaxed Vehicles

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many untaxed vehicles are estimated to be on Northern Ireland's roads. [86578]

David Cairns: A nationwide Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion Survey was undertaken by the Department for Transport during June 2005. The results showed that the vehicle excise evasion rate in traffic in Northern Ireland had fallen from 7.2 per cent. in the 2004 survey to 5.4 per cent. in 2005.

Although 52,552 vehicles were surveyed in Northern Ireland, the sample size was insufficient to calculate a precise figure of evasion in vehicle stock. However, based on the in traffic evasion rate measured in the survey, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland estimates that the number of untaxed vehicles on Northern Ireland roads is approximately 50,000.

Another Vehicle Excise Evasion Survey has been carried out in June 2006 and it is anticipated that the results will be available in the autumn.

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many untaxed cars have been removed from the roads in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [86583]

David Cairns: The number of untaxed vehicles clamped/seized from the roads in Northern Ireland in each of the last five operational years is:

	Number
2001-02	413
2002-03	2,872
2003-04	1,435
2004-05	1,899
2005-06	5,343

Vocational Training

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vocational training places are available in Northern Ireland for 16 year olds; and how many places were filled in 2004-05. [85442]

Maria Eagle: The Jobskills programme provides the guarantee of a training place for all 16 and 17-year-old school leavers wishing to avail of the opportunity for vocational training. It is not possible to split the data between 16 and 17-year-olds, however, in the 2004-05 financial year, 6,985 16 and 17-year-olds commenced the Jobskills programme.

Water Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what average water tax *(a)* lump sum figure and *(b)* capital value levy will be charged on domestic households in (i) Northern Ireland as a whole and (ii) each district in Northern Ireland in 2007-08; [86814]

(2) what the latest estimate is of the average water tax bill per dwelling that will be paid in 2007-08 in *(a)* Northern Ireland as a whole and *(b)* each district in Northern Ireland. [86818]

David Cairns: The currently available capital value data enable information to be provided on the estimated average unmeasured bills for properties throughout Northern Ireland and within each local government district. The variable charge element of the bill is based on property capital value.

The data in the following table show the estimated charges that would be payable in 2007-08—this is one-third of the full charge because charges are being phased in over three years from 1 April 2007.

Estimated average unmeasured bills for Northern Ireland domestic properties, 2007-08

	Water charge			*Sewerage charge*			
	Standing	*Average variable*	*Total water*	*Standing*	*Average variable*	*Total sewerage*	*Overall total water and sewerage charges*
Northern Ireland	17	34	50	18	36	54	104
Antrim	17	31	48	18	31	50	98
Ards	17	38	54	18	40	58	112
Armagh	17	32	49	18	30	49	98
Ballymena	17	32	49	18	33	51	100
Ballymoney	17	30	47	18	31	50	97

Estimated average unmeasured bills for Northern Ireland domestic properties, 2007-08

	Water charge			*Sewerage charge*			
	Standing	*Average variable*	*Total water*	*Standing*	*Average variable*	*Total sewerage*	*Overall total water and sewerage charges*
Banbridge	17	32	49	18	31	49	98
Belfast	17	34	50	18	38	55	105
Carrickfergus	17	30	47	18	33	52	99
Castlereagh	17	39	56	18	43	62	118
Coleraine	17	36	53	18	40	58	111
Cookstown	17	34	51	18	35	53	105
Craigavon	17	27	44	18	28	47	91
Derry	17	28	45	18	31	49	94
Down	17	35	52	18	36	54	107
Dungannon	17	33	50	18	34	52	102
Fermanagh	17	32	49	18	32	51	100
Larne	17	27	44	18	28	47	91
Limavady	17	29	46	18	30	48	95
Lisburn	17	37	53	18	38	56	109
Magherafelt	17	33	50	18	35	53	104
Moyle	17	34	51	18	36	54	105
Newry and Mourne	17	36	53	18	36	54	107
Newtownabbey	17	31	48	18	34	53	101
North Down	17	44	61	18	48	66	127
Omagh	17	30	47	18	30	48	95
Strabane	17	25	42	18	26	44	87

Note
Totals might not add up due to rounding.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

1901 Census

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what income has been received from the release of sections of the Online 1901 Census in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [86284]

Vera Baird: The National Archives has not released sections of the 1901 Census in the last 12 months.

The whole of the 1901 Census was released to the public in January 2002.

Adoption Placements

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what average time was taken to obtain a court date from the time of application for an adoption placement order in *(a)* London and *(b)* other parts of England in the latest period for which figures are available. [87149]

Ms Harman: The average time taken to obtain a court date from the time of application in adoption cases over the last two financial years is as follows:

(a) London

	Weeks
2004-05	4.65
2005-06	6.02

(b) Nationally

	Weeks
2004-05	5.56
2005-06	5.71

Coroners

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce delays in the coroners' service. [84516]

Ms Harman: There are measures in the draft Coroners Bill which will assist coroners to operate more effectively, in particular the appointment of a Chief Coroner to provide national leadership and to introduce national standards, including on the timely hearing of inquests. The Chief Coroner will have oversight of the workload of coroners and, subject to the views of relatives and other interested parties and taking account of the requirements of the new coroners charter for bereaved people, he or she will be able to reallocate cases to reduce the length of time it takes for an investigation to be completed. The Chief Coroner will make an annual report to the Lord Chancellor on the performance of the coroner system and, in turn, the Lord Chancellor will ensure the report is laid before Parliament. A Coronial Advisory Council will also be appointed to provide advice, and make recommendations, to the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor on any matters relating to the operation of the coroner system.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what mechanisms are available to members of the public to make complaints about coroners. [84576]

Ms Harman: In the event that a complainant is unable to resolve the matter with the coroner, a complaint about the personal conduct of a coroner can be made to the Office for Judicial Complaints. Coroners were brought into the remit of the disciplinary provisions of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 on 3 April 2006. Regulations made under the Act, entitled "Judicial Discipline (Prescribed Procedures) Regulations 2006", set out the responsibilities of the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice, and the Office for Judicial Complaints, with regard to the handling of complaints and the discipline of judicial office holders. Further information is available on the website of the Office for Judicial Complaints, at www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk.

Where a member of the public wishes to challenge a judicial decision made by a coroner, this must be pursued through the court process. The draft Coroners Bill provides for new appeal arrangements which will make it easier for the public to seek review of coroners' decisions, relating to both an investigation and an inquest. The procedure for complaining about coroners' personal conduct will remain the same.

Correspondence

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Ceredigion of 14 March 2006 to the former Foreign Secretary, regarding Mr. Toby Glaister. [86348]

Ms Harman: The right hon. the Baroness Ashton of Upholland wrote to the hon. Member on 28 April 2006 in response to his letter of 14 March 2006 to the Foreign Secretary. I apologise that the letter of 28 April omitted to say that the letter of 14 March was transferred to my Department for reply.

Courts Service

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what the budget for 2006-07 is for the Courts Service in *(a)* Dorset, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* Wiltshire; and what changes will be made to the budget as a result of the restructuring in October; [87480]

(2) what consultation was carried out prior to the decision to amalgamate the Dorset Courts Board with the Wiltshire Courts Board and the Gloucestershire Courts Board from October; and what the effect of the restructuring will be upon the Courts Service in Dorset; [87481]

(3) how many people are employed by the Courts Service in *(a)* Dorset, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* Wiltshire; and how many jobs will be lost in each county as a result of the restructuring in October. [87483]

Ms Harman: The budget allocation for FY 2006-07 is: Dorset—£7.647 million; Gloucestershire—£5.644 million; and Wiltshire—£6.620 million. Re-structuring will not be completed until 31 March 2007 and no changes will be made to the FY2006-07 budget allocations for these three areas as a result of the re-structuring exercise. The appropriate budget allocation for the new amalgamated Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire area will be determined in due course as part of the annual financial planning cycle.

Under the provisions of the Courts Act 2003, Section 4, the Lord Chancellor may make orders altering the HMCS areas but, before doing so, must consult any Courts Board(s) affected. This process has been invoked and each of the existing Court Boards have been invited to express their views by 31 July 2006. It is anticipated that the separate Courts Boards for Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire will continue to operate in their current form until the end of FY 2006-07. Meanwhile, arrangements will be made to select members for a new single Courts Board which will correspond to the amalgamated Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire area. This will be done in close liaison with the Chairmen and Members of the existing bodies. Delivery of the service to court users in Dorset (as with Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) will not be affected by the re-structuring, and support to the judiciary at bench and court level will remain as it is now.

The number of people employed by Her Majesty's Courts Service in the three areas (expressed as full-time equivalents) as at June 2006 is: Dorset—219; Gloucestershire—163; and Wiltshire—193. While the precise management structure for the amalgamated area cannot be determined until a new Area Director has been appointed in October 2006, it is likely that re-structuring will directly affect only a very small number of senior management posts and those more junior staff who directly support them, leaving the courts operational staff unaffected. It is anticipated that this will be achieved through a combination of redeployment, natural wastage and targeted voluntary redundancy. Trades Unions will be consulted, at every stage.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of the staff in her Department is *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* disabled, broken down by grade. [69032]

Ms Harman: The statistics requested are as at 31 December 2005 in the following tables. Declaration of a disability is voluntary and the statistics are therefore based on the number of respondents to a confidential questionnaire, which all staff are asked to complete, and not total staff.

Staff from the 42 former magistrates courts areas were transferred into DCA in April 2005. They operate different terms and conditions, including grade structures, which do not map into known government grades. For that reason figures have been shown separately and can only be presented as an overall figure.

Table 1: DCA gender/disability broken down by grade (excluding magistrates courts)

Government grade	Female	Male	Percentage Declared disability
AA	62.84	37.16	4.95
AO	69.55	30.45	4.41
EO	68.47	31.53	3.50
EO(h)/HEO(l)	48.44	51.56	3.97
HEO	61.47	38.53	4.33

Table 1: DCA gender/disability broken down by grade (excluding magistrates courts)

Government grade	Female	Male	Percentage Declared disability
SEO	51.53	48.47	3.21
G7	49.38	50.62	3.53
G6	43.00	57.00	1.93
SCS	36.36	63.64	1.30
Grand total	64.57	35.43	4.13

Table 2: Magistrates courts gender/disability, all grades

Government grade	Female	Male	Percentage Declared disability
All	70.99	29.01	1.33

Digital Documents

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure the long-term preservation of documents held in digital form. [88290]

Ms Harman: The National Archives is working with the Government's Chief Technical Officers (CTO) Council to address the problem of the survival of electronic records with a mid and long-term value across Government.

The National Archives has implemented a Digital Preservation Programme to ensure the long-term preservation of documents held in digital form. It has established

a Digital Archive facility, in which it preserves a wide range of electronic records transferred by Government departments;

a Web Archiving Programme to preserve government websites of long-term value;

the National Digital Archive of Datasets to preserve historically significant datasets created over the past thirty years.

Dr. David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to her answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 304W, on Dr. David Kelly, if she will list the occasions since 1 January 2003 when *(a)* the Lord Chancellor and *(b)* (i) Ministers and (ii) officials from her Department have met (A) the Deputy Coroner of Oxfordshire, (B) the Assistant Deputy Coroner of Oxfordshire and (C) anyone else responsible to the Oxfordshire Coroner. [83773]

Ms Harman: There has been one meeting between my officials and one of the newly appointed assistant deputy coroners of the Oxfordshire jurisdiction to discuss progress on the inquests into those who have died in the Iraq conflict.

Family Courts

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on how many occasions during 2005-06 parents involved in cases in the Family Court were informed of a delay to the reports required by the court. [86963]

Ms Harman: The information requested is not collected.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what recent discussions she has had with the judiciary about the openness of family courts; [84554]

(2) when she last met the President of the Family Division. [84556]

Ms Harman: Since being appointed as Minister for Family Justice, I have discussed openness of the family courts with a wide range of stakeholders. Members of the judiciary included:

Sir Mark Potter, President, and Lord Justice Thorpe;

Mr. Justice Ryder;

Mrs. Justice Black and Mr. Justice McFarlane;

District Judge (Magistrates Courts) Crichton; and

Margaret Wilson JP.

I have also visited Wells Street and Croydon family proceedings courts where I met a number of magistrates; and I have spoken at the President's Conference, which was attended by 97 members of the judiciary, and to the Greater London Family Panel, which was attended by 90 members of the judiciary.

I last met the President of the Family Division on 3 July 2006.

FOI Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance she has issued to freedom of information officers to assist them in recognising the circumstances in which they should apply environmental information regulations rather than the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [88291]

Ms Harman: On 5 June 2006, my Department published guidance on examining the key differences between the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act). This guidance was specifically designed to assist freedom of information officers in recognising circumstances in which they should apply the EIRs rather than the FOI Act. The guidance is called "EIR/FOI Boundaries Guidance" and can be found at www.foigov.uk. My Department and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs continue to provide advice and assistance to Departments on the interpretation of the FOI Act and the EIRs.

Gravestones

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what response the Government have made to reports of the Local Government Ombudsman on the inappropriate *(a)* destruction and *(b)* moving of gravestones by local authorities. [88231]

Ms Harman: The Local Government Ombudsmen's special report on memorial safety in local authority cemeteries was a helpful and timely reminder to local authorities that it should normally be unnecessary to lay down large numbers of gravestones.

The Government are considering what further advice and guidance it may be appropriate to issue on this matter.

Home Repossession

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders have been made for the repossession of homes in each London borough since 1987. [87242]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made in all London county courts since 1987.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, county courts' jurisdictions are not coterminous with London borough boundaries, and therefore any single court's repossession actions are likely to relate to homes in a number of different boroughs.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made in county courts[2] in London, 1987-2005

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Brent	349	311	372	272	821	345	332	248	117
Bow	470	724	1832	1614	1974	1046	1183	563	421
Brentford	313	475	568	588	965	779	445	273	236
Bromley	401	461	557	405	811	486	447	340	285
Central London	0	0	0	0	0	585	885	585	537
Clerkenwell	72	102	96	120	225	353	245	120	221
Croydon	549	357	470	1256	2306	816	672	593	542
Edmonton	509	261	860	682	815	1016	713	369	534
Ilford	172	452	283	386	484	386	319	186	146
Kingston-upon-Thames	161	134	215	479	465	499	369	292	259
Lambeth	203	587	397	505	421	649	337	291	319
Mayors and City	0	0	0	11	4	5	7	3	11
Romford	309	286	425	434	579	412	271	180	202
Shorditch	135	104	145	195	222	256	268	99	120
Uxbridge	302	265	329	697	562	435	407	321	335
Wandsworth	213	193	588	497	607	443	478	375	287
West London	146	133	189	323	380	380	249	168	236
Willesden	440	510	578	1965	1650	1114	943	1635	1095
Woolwich	171	228	268	209	425	395	255	156	143
Bloomsbury	220	358	495	466	643	973	[4]	[4]	[4]
Westminster	11	62	54	42	41	36	[4]	[4]	[4]
London total	5,146	6,003	8,721	11,146	14,400	11,409	8,825	6,797	6,046

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Brent	123	66	48	115	78	66	100	97	143	302
Bow	520	389	709	662	291	176	248	295	456	817
Brentford	225	103	216	222	138	110	113	124	189	290
Bromley	218	186	164	154	163	103	161	235	271	486
Central London	303	83	104	26	52	43	88	101	162	281
Clerkenwell	61	65	80	104	33	31	35	59	78	132
Croydon	485	392	372	301	252	257	254	338	394	644
Edmonton	365	602	296	175	143	176	206	228	285	553
Ilford	216	137	223	127	120	105	115	93	219	309
Kingston-upon-Thames	283	222	140	138	88	58	58	91	94	165
Lambeth	177	139	131	43	66	117	160	195	311	533
Mayors and City	3	0	2	2	2	1	1	0	2	0
Romford	137	172	123	119	100	111	118	179	211	445
Shorditch	114	97	110	285	45	48	80	113	155	225
Uxbridge	254	94	159	192	143	108	100	98	149	227
Wandsworth	344	206	144	247	59	96	100	135	187	295
West London	238	115	75	43	41	40	40	64	79	150
Willesden	613	251	332	310	168	155	147	236	255	459
Woolwich	134	107	88	97	91	53	96	96	181	348
Bloomsbury	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Westminster	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
London Total	4,813	3,426	3,516	3,362	2,073	1,854	2,220	2,777	3,821	6,661

[1] Local authority and private.
[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[3] For the years 1987 to 1989, "Suspended orders" were not separately counted. They are thus included in "Orders made".
[4] Court closed.

Information Commissioner

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she plans to make an announcement on the budget for the Information Commissioner's Office. [88294]

Ms Harman: I have no plans to make an announcement on the budget for the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The Commissioner's budget is derived from two sources. His data protection work is funded by notification fees payable under the Data Protection Act 1998. His freedom of information work is funded by grant in aid. On 18 April 2006, Baroness Ashton announced to the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee that an additional £550,000 in funding would be provided to the ICO. This means that the total grant in aid for the ICO for 2006-07 is £5,550,000.

Legal Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Consitutional Affairs how much in legal aid has been provided to Mr. Nabeel Sami Fathallah; and if she will make a statement. [67393]

Vera Baird: I am not able to disclose this information. The Department can only disclose legal aid details where individuals have received legal aid in connection with litigation, and where that litigation has ceased.

Magistrates

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many magistrates there are in courts in each London borough, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* sex. [87713]

Ms Harman: Magistrates are assigned to 28 Local Justice Areas in London. The following table provides a breakdown of the average age, ethnicity and gender of magistrates for each area, as of 20 July 2006.

			Ethnicity			Gender	
Local justice area	*Total*	*Average age*	*White*	*BME*	*Unknown*	*Female*	*Male*
Barking and Dagenham	88	56	71	17	[1]—	42	46
Barnet	111	57	93	17	[1]—	69	42
Bexley	105	57	93	10	[1]—	49	56
Brent	142	57	98	44	[1]—	82	60
Bromley	110	57	100	9	[1]—	53	57
Camden and Islington	79	56	63	14	[1]—	46	33
City of London	136	55	111	25	[1]—	75	61
City of Westminster	108	56	90	18	[1]—	63	45
Croydon	175	55	143	31	[1]—	83	92
Ealing	133	55	95	37	[1]—	72	61
Enfield	111	55	85	25	[1]—	56	55
Greenwich and Lewisham	71	56	55	14	[1]—	45	26
Hackney and Tower Hamlets	62	54	47	15	[1]—	30	32
Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea	56	54	43	10	[1]—	33	23
Haringey	158	57	135	22	[1]—	93	65
Harrow Gore	96	57	76	19	[1]—	52	44
Havering	87	57	80	6	[1]—	35	52
Hillingdon	115	57	92	20	[1]—	57	58
Hounslow	141	55	92	43	6	60	81
Kingston-Upon-Thames	84	56	77	[1]—	[1]—	49	35
Lambeth and Southwark	72	55	60	11	[1]—	44	28
Merton	101	55	88	12	[1]—	60	41
Newham	112	54	70	41	[1]—	52	60
Redbridge	112	54	80	32	[1]—	62	50
Richmond-Upon-Thames	85	58	82	[1]—	[1]—	49	36
Sutton	91	58	84	5	[1]—	41	50
Waltham Forest	106	55	74	32	[1]—	48	58
Wandsworth	65	56	49	10	6	38	27
Grand total	2,912	56	2,326	546	40	1,538	1,374

[1] Figures less than five are not quoted following established government statistics guidelines for protecting the confidentiality of data subjects.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage magistrates from ethnic minority backgrounds; and if she will make a statement. [87717]

Ms Harman: We have put in place a range of measures to attract magistrates from ethnic minority backgrounds including:

informative publicity material about the magistracy to encourage applications from all sections of local communities and to raise awareness among employers;

a new Working Group of the main employer organisations and the Trade Union Congress has been set up to seek their active support in encouraging employees to join the magistracy;

funding of the Magistrates Shadowing Scheme run by Operation Black Vote to enable people from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups to shadow magistrates in order to gain valuable insight into the roles and responsibilities of a magistrate, and encourage applications.

Progress has been made in increasing diversity among magistrates.

As of 31 March 2005 there were 28,300 magistrates of which 6.7 per cent. were from the Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. As of 31 March 2006 the magistracy increased to 28,865, of which the proportion of those from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds rose to 7.2 per cent.

Magistrates Courts

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many magistrates courts have closed in each year since 1980, broken down into *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas; and if she will make a statement; [84745]

(2) how many magistrates courts have closed in each year since 1980 in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* non-rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [84990]

Ms Harman: My Department does not hold information on the magistrates courthouse closures which occurred prior to 1995. The following table provides details of the magistrates court closures (broken down into *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas) which took place between 1995 and 2006. HM Courts Service is committed to improving the standard of facilities provided to court users and in delivering greater value for money by increasing courtroom utilization. This includes the modernization and building of new modern courthouses as well as the co-location of magistrates courts with county courts.

Number of magistrates courts closed in each year since 1995[1]

	Rural 75	*Rural 50*	*Significant rural*	*Other urban*	*Large urban*	*Major urban*	*Total number of courts closed*
1995	3	1	1	0	2	0	7
1996	8	6	2	2	0	3	21
1997	2	4	3	3	1	8	21
1998	12	4	1	3	2	3	25
1999	1	0	1	2	1	2	7
2000	8	1	0	2	0	2	13
2001	12	7	3	3	3	2	30
2002	5	0	2	0	0	0	7
2003	9	2	1	1	0	0	13
2004	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

[1] The rural constituency classification (introduced by the Rural Evidence Research Centre on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2006) has been used to define whether court closures took place in rural/urban areas. The classification divides constituencies into the following six categories:
Rural 75: Over 75 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements (including 207 large market towns)
Rural 50: Over 50 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements (including 207 large market towns)
Significant rural: More than 37,000 or between 26 per cent. and 50 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements.
Other urban: Fewer than 37,000 or less than 26 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements;
Large urban: A minimum of 50,000 or 50 per cent. of the population live in a large urban area;
Major urban: A minimum of 100,000 or 50 per cent. of the population live in a major urban area (i.e. over 750,000 of the population).

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many magistrates courts there are in each London borough. [87714]

Ms Harman: The information is as follows.

Court(s)	*Borough*
Barking Magistrates Court	Barking and Dagenham
Barnet Magistrates Court and Hendon Magistrates Court	Barnet
Bexley Magistrates Court	Bexley
Brent Magistrates Court	Brent
Bromley Magistrates Court	Bromley
(Served by Highbury Corner Magistrates Court)	Camden

Court(s)	Borough
City of London Magistrates Court	City of London
City of Westminster Magistrates Court and Marylebone Magistrates Court	City of Westminster
Croydon Magistrates Court	Croydon
Ealing Magistrates Court and Acton Magistrates Court	Ealing
Enfield Magistrates Court	Enfield
Greenwich Magistrates Court, Woolwich Magistrates Court and Belmarsh Magistrates Court	Greenwich
(Served by Thames Magistrates Court)	Hackney
West London Magistrates Court	Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey Magistrates Court	Haringey
Harrow Magistrates Court	Harrow
Havering Magistrates Court	Havering
Uxbridge Magistrates Court	Hillingdon
Feltham Magistrates Court and Brentford Magistrates Court	Hounslow
Highbury Corner Magistrates Court	Islington
(Served by West London Magistrates Court)	Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston Magistrates Court	Kingston
Camberwell Green Magistrates Court	Lambeth
(Served by Greenwich Magistrates Court)	Lewisham
Wimbledon Magistrates Court	Merton
Stratford Magistrates Court	Newham
Redbridge Magistrates Court	Redbridge
Richmond Magistrates Court	Richmond
Tower Bridge Magistrates Court	Southwark
Sutton Magistrates Court	Sutton
Thames Magistrates Court	Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest Magistrates Court	Waltham Forest
South Western Magistrates Court (and Balham Youth Court)	Wandsworth

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many magistrates courts in England and Wales closed in each year since 1979. [86746]

Ms Harman: My Department does not hold information on the magistrates courthouse closures which occurred prior to 1995. The following table provides details of the magistrates court closures which took place between 1995 and 2006. HM Courts Service is committed to improving the standard of facilities provided to court users and in delivering greater value for money by increasing courtroom utilization. This includes the modernization and building of new modern courthouses as well as the co-location of magistrates courts and county courts.

	Total number of courts closed
1995	7
1996	21
1997	21
1998	25
1999	7
2000	13
2001	30
2002	7
2003	13
2004	2
2005	0
2006	2

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what administrative functions for which her Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment she has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81558]

Ms Harman: My Department has not outsourced any of its administrative functions overseas and has no plans to do so. No assessment has been made of the merits of off-shoring.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she will answer question 67393, on legal aid, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South for answer on 2 May 2006. [85275]

Vera Baird: I have today responded to the hon. Member's question. It raised important legal considerations concerning the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and these took time to consider. I am sorry that it has taken so long.

Private Prosecutions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many private prosecutions were undertaken in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; how many (i) succeeded

and (ii) failed in each year; and how many were stopped on the grounds of (A) public interest and (B) insufficient evidence in each year. [87215]

Ms Harman: Information about the number of private prosecutions is not collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Rescheduled Court Cases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court cases in each London court had to be rescheduled because the defendant failed *(a)* to attend and *(b)* to bring the appropriate documentation in each of the last five years. [85955]

Ms Harman: The following tables show the number of trials held in London which had to be rescheduled (became ineffective) because the defendant did not attend. Separate tables are provided for cases dealt with in the magistrates courts where data are only available for Local Justice Areas, and for each of the Crown courts. Information on the number of cases where the defendant failed to bring the appropriate documentation is not collected and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ineffective trials due to defendant non-attendance in the Crown court[1]

Crown court centre	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Blackfriars	25	35	19	24	19
Central criminal court	7	6	2	1	2
Croydon	47	32	37	17	10
Harrow	32	29	27	15	17
Inner London Sessions House	38	53	34	35	31
Isleworth	35	43	42	30	23
Kingston upon Thames	18	31	37	25	22
Middlesex Guildhall	29	32	31	11	5
Snaresbrook	73	66	72	74	49
Southwark	40	64	38	15	30
Wood Green	36	49	34	16	13
Woolwich	20	19	20	13	11
Total	400	459	393	276	232

[1] Does not include defendant absence through illness or non-production from prison

Ineffective trials due to defendants non attendance in each Local Justice Area in the London magistrates court region[1]

	Financial year		
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Barking	34	47	17
Barnet	63	49	52
Bexley	37	44	10
Brent	62	64	55
Bromley	46	51	12
City of London	40	30	31
Croydon	171	130	23
Ealing	72	63	29
East Central	91	176	145
Enfield	36	60	24
Haringey	61	88	43
Harrow	75	35	23
Havering	27	32	13
Hillingdon	193	85	60
Hounslow	59	45	18
Kingston upon Thames	19	16	5
North Westminster	24	44	25
Redbridge	47	75	31
Richmond upon Thames	36	14	12
South Central	206	193	89
South Eastern	82	90	56
South Western	69	55	40
South Westminster	255	176	86
Stratford	111	124	65
Sutton	42	21	8
Thames	158	182	113
Waltham Forest	80	44	23
West London	196	113	57
Wimbledon	28	8	6
Total	2,420	2,154	1,171

[1] Does not include defendant absence through illness or non-production from prison.

Residential Property Tribunal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the fee is for a property owner to appeal a Final Empty Dwelling Management Order to a Residential Property Tribunal. [86843]

Vera Baird: The fee would be £150.

Special Advocates

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many statements have been made by victims' special advocates in *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Birmingham and *(d)* London. [84526]

Ms Harman: No family impact statements have yet been made in any of the five pilot courts. The scheme applies to cases where a charge of murder or manslaughter is brought on or after 24 April 2006.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by her Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85182]

Ms Harman: Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported. The Department has provided information for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instrument's Departmental Returns report for 2005. This is due to be published shortly. In 2006 there have been three statutory instruments reported as defective.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87068]

Mr. Lammy: The Department had a zero spend on advertising between 2000 and 2002. The expenditure on advertising from 2003 has been as follows.

	Spend (£)
2003-04	[1]20,987
2004-05	[1]37,085

[1] BBC Charter

Arts Council England

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much of the grant-in-aid to Arts Council England was allocated to theatre between 1997 and 2005; [87012]

(2) how much of the Arts Council England allocation to subsidised theatre between 1997 and 2005 was paid to *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* writers; [87013]

(3) what representations she has received from *(a)* theatre managers, *(b)* orchestras and *(c)* entertainment trade unions regarding the impact of the comprehensive spending review on theatre between 2008 and 2011. [87014]

Mr. Lammy: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave him on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 331-32W.

BBC Charter

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her oral statement of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1156, on the BBC Charter, what additional areas of the BBC's financial responsibilities she is considering adding to the scrutiny remit of the National Audit Office; and if she will make a statement. [87657]

Mr. Woodward: We are not considering adding any areas of the BBC's financial responsibility to the scrutiny remit of the National Audit Office (NAO). As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State recently announced, we are currently exploring with the NAO how we might best establish an efficiency benchmark against which future performance might be judged.

Broadcasting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her oral statement of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1156, on broadcasting, which areas of the BBC's financial responsibilities her Department is considering adding to the scrutiny remit of the National Audit Office; and if she will make a statement. [86795]

Mr. Woodward: We are not considering adding any areas of the BBC's financial responsibility to the scrutiny remit of the National Audit Office (NAO). We are currently exploring with the NAO how we might best establish an efficiency benchmark against which future performance might be judged.

Chance to Shine Campaign

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what initial assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Chance to Shine campaign; and if she will extend similar schemes to other sports. [87624]

Mr. Caborn: The "Chance to Shine" initiative, a £50 million campaign to improve participation in cricket in state schools and run by the Cricket Foundation, has recently issued its first mid-term report.

In the six weeks since its launch, 33,600 boys and girls have taken part in the schools programme, 7,471 curriculum and extra-curriculum sessions have been delivered and 504 boys and girls in schools involved in the initiative have joined clubs.

It is anticipated that over the next 10 years, "Chance to Shine" will reach a third of all schools in England and Wales.

There are no plans to extend the scheme to other sports.

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computers hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in her Department in each month since March 2005. [88747]

Mr. Lammy: This question cannot be answered save at disproportionate cost.

Cultural Agreement with India

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans the United Kingdom Government have to establish a cultural agreement with India; and with which countries the United Kingdom Government has established a cultural agreement. [87616]

Tessa Jowell: The United Kingdom does not have general cultural agreements with other countries. However, we are in the process of finalising a Film Co-Production Treaty with India. The UK has similar Agreements on Film with France, Germany, Canada, Norway, Australia and New Zealand and we are also finalising one with South Africa.

Departmental Staff

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were employed in her Department in each year since 1997. [87618]

Mr. Lammy: The Cabinet Office collects and publishes annually statistical information on the civil service by Department. Historical information on the numbers of people employed by DCMS and its agency, The Royal Parks, is available in the Library and on the civil service website at:

<http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/archive/staff/index.asp>

Data for 2005 can be found at:

<http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/employment/index.asp>

Digital Switchover

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that proprietors of homes in multiple dwelling units are informed of the necessary steps to upgrade their properties to receive digital television; [87817]

(2) what steps she is taking to encourage private landlords to upgrade their properties to provide digital television services to their tenants. [87819]

Mr. Woodward: The digital switchover programme, led by Digital UK working with Government and Ofcom, has established a dedicated workstream on housing issues. This will make sure the progress in converting communal television systems is tracked and that the right messages go to private and social landlords and to managing agents and other representatives. It will also be important to make sure that tenants are aware of what is happening, something Digital UK will do as part of its wider communications campaigns.

The housing workstream is supported by a dedicated Housing Stakeholder Group, chaired by Ross Fraser, the chief executive of Housemark and drawn from representatives from the private and social housing sectors, from practitioners, and from tenants' representatives, as well as central and local government.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the National Landlords Association and *(b)* the National Housing Federation since 2001 on the provision of digital television services to tenants in private accommodation. [87818]

Mr. Woodward: We have had extensive contacts with the National Landlords Association and National Housing Federation regarding the provision of digital television services and digital switchover. Both organisations were represented on the editorial board which oversaw the development of the "Digital Switchover: A Good Practice Briefing Special", which we published, in association with the Chartered Institute of Housing in August 2005.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is her policy to support the use of integrated reception systems to provide digital services in multiple dwelling units. [87823]

Mr. Woodward: No. It is for landlords in consultation with residents to determine the most appropriate way of adapting communal TV aerial systems for digital television services.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the transmitter upgrade timetable is for digital switchover in Wales. [88858]

Mr. Woodward: Digital switchover will begin in the second half of 2009 in the HTV Wales region. We hope to be able to provide more specific information on the transmitter timetable for Wales later in the year, as well as for the west country and Granada regions, where the process will also begin in 2009.

Disability Discrimination Act

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department provides to assist *(a)* small hotels, *(b)* guest houses and *(c)* other tourism businesses to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [87395]

Mr. Woodward: Visit Britain's National Accessible Scheme (NAS) helps hotels, guest houses, self-catering accommodation and other accommodation providers, to improve access and quality for those with hearing, mobility and visual impairment. It includes a self-assessment pack, which businesses can complete to see where improvements should be made to improve access.

In addition the Department paid a grant of £27,500 to Tourism for All in 2005-06 to help them provide their holiday care information service, update their current database of service users and members and to organise a series of roadshows to raise awareness about access improvements made by businesses and local authorities with suitable marketing opportunities. Tourism for All provides an important service to disabled people and helps the tourism industry to meet their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Football

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 722W, on fixture lists, with which *(a)* football authorities and *(b)* sports governing bodies she is consulting; and what the process of consultation will be. [87674]

Mr. Caborn: My officials are currently consulting with all of the football authorities including the FA, the FA premier league and the Football League on the Independent European Sports Review. We will also be consulting the devolved Administrations who have responsibility for sport in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) who represent the interests of all sporting national governing bodies.

We will be holding a number of bilaterals with these consultees and will be encouraging them to reply formally to Jose Luis Arnaut, the author of the review, by the end of September.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the Football Association Premier League on ticket pricing. [88207]

Mr. Caborn: I have not held any discussions with the FA Premier League on ticket pricing.

The Government have no role in the commercial and sporting operation of professional football. The issue of season ticket prices is a matter between individual clubs and the relevant football authorities.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what investigations her Department is undertaking into the football transfer market; and when they will report. [87627]

Mr. Caborn: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no plans for any investigation into the football transfer market. This is, however, an issue that has been raised in the European Sports Review recently published by Jose Luis Arnaut.

Gambling

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate she has made of turnover in the gambling industry in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement; [86104]

(2) what assessment she has made of the extent to which recent increases in turnover in the gambling industry have been a result of *(a)* increasing losses by those taking part in gambling activities and *(b)* new participants. [86106]

Mr. Caborn: The Office for National Statistics publishes data on gambling expenditure (i.e. stakes minus winnings) by UK households. In the last five financial years, expenditure on gambling, including the national lottery, is as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	7,216
2002-03	7,773
2003-04	8,695
2004-05	9,826
2005-06	9,807

The Gambling Act 2005, which will be fully implemented from September 2007, introduces a regulatory regime designed to ensure that the industry is crime-free, that gambling is fair, and that children and vulnerable people are properly protected.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the scale of betting conducted on British sporting events in other EU member states. [87675]

Mr. Caborn: The Government do not hold information relating to bets taken by operators based outside Great Britain.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has made to the EU study on gambling services in the internal market of the EU. [87676]

Mr. Caborn: My Department submitted evidence to the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, which undertook the study on behalf of the European Commission, and an official attended a briefing for member states hosted by the Swiss Institute.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the impact on market share of UK-based gambling and betting businesses of their effective regulation. [88825]

Mr. Caborn: A Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Gambling Act 2005 was published on 21 April 2005. We are currently working through the programme of secondary legislation needed to implement the Act, in order that the process of implementation will be complete in September 2007. Statutory Instruments will be accompanied by Regulatory Impact Assessments where appropriate.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what powers the Government have to control online advertising of *(a)* online and *(b)* casino gambling; and if she will make a statement. [88842]

Mr. Caborn: The Committee of Advertising Practice will set standards and codes for non-broadcast advertising of gambling activities, including online advertising. The Secretary of State also has reserve powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to make regulations with regard to the form, content, timing and location of gambling advertising. She will not hesitate to use these powers if it becomes clear that self-regulation is not sufficient to protect children and vulnerable people from exploitation. Both the CAP codes and any Secretary of State regulations will apply to all non-broadcast advertising by gambling operators, wherever they are licensed.

Under the Gambling Act 2005 the Gambling Commission has the power to attach a condition to the licences it issues making provision for how gambling facilities may be advertised or described.

In addition, Section 331 of the Gambling Act prohibits any gambling operator based outside the European Economic Area or Gibraltar from advertising in the UK unless a specific exemption has been made for that jurisdiction under sub-section 331(4).

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions her Department has held with the Treasury on the taxation regime for online gambling; and if she will make a statement. [89085]

Mr. Caborn: Officials from this department speak regularly with colleagues from other Government departments across a wide range of issues.

Gaming Machines

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when she expects to be able to announce her decision regarding the stake and prize levels of category C gaming machines; [87225]

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she plans to raise the permitted level of stakes and prizes for category C gaming machines; [88225]

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether stakes and prize levels for category C gaming machines are being re-considered. [88009]

Mr. Caborn: I have had very constructive discussions with the relevant industry organisations and others interested in stake and prize levels for gaming machines and will be making an announcement shortly.

Horse Racing

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account was taken of the Jockey Club's financial position in proposals to transfer functions to the new Horserace Regulatory Authority. [88829]

Mr. Caborn: This is a matter for the Jockey Club, which I understand has made an assessment of its financial position in relation to the transfer of its functions to the new Horserace Regulatory Authority.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the horserace betting levy with EU legislation. [88830]

Mr. Caborn: The arrangements relating to the horserace betting levy were established before the UK joined the European Community. The European Commission keeps systems of aid under review in all member states but aids that pre-date a state's accession benefit from special rules. The Government are satisfied that the existing arrangements for the horserace betting levy are compatible with our obligations under the treaty establishing the European Community.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment she has made of the impact of the Horserace Betting Levy on the sale of media rights by racecourses; [88831]

(2) whether she has reviewed the conclusions of the regulatory impact assessment of the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004. [88835]

Mr. Caborn: The regulatory impact assessment published in December 2003 to accompany the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 contains consideration of the impact of the Horserace Betting Levy on the sale of pre-race data and television pictures by racing.

My Department will remain mindful of the conclusions of this regulatory impact assessment in any further consideration of the future of the Levy.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when she will announce her decision on the future of the Horserace Betting Levy after 2009; and if she will make a statement; [88832]

(2) whether she plans to bring forward measures to vary the provisions of the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 as it relates to the Horserace Betting Levy. [88834]

Mr. Caborn: No decision has been taken to extend the Horserace Betting Levy beyond 2009 nor to vary the provisions of the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act, although the matter is under consideration by my Department following the publication of the phase two report of the Future Funding of Racing Review Group, Chaired by Lord Donoughue of Ashton.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value was of each IT contract awarded by her Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [89000]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has awarded IT contracts to NCC Group and BT in the last five years. It is not possible to provide individual costs save at disproportionate costs but the aggregated cost of all such contracts over the past five years would be less then £500,000.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which IT contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [89038]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has not abandoned any IT contracts in the past five years.

Libraries

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what percentage of public libraries were classed as of *(a)* good and *(b)* excellent standard in each year since 1997; [87016]

(2) what criteria are used to determine the quality of public libraries. [87017]

Mr. Lammy: Different aspects of the performance of the 149 public library authorities in England have been assessed, on a different basis, for DCMS since 1998. There was no formal assessment by the Department before then.

Though the terms "excellent" and "good" have been part of the assessments of public library authority performance carried out for DCMS, there is no direct comparison between these different types of assessments.

Annual Library Plans were introduced in 1998 to improve the planning processes of library authorities. The scoring methodology was refined over time until they were discontinued in 2002-03 by which time 64 per cent. of authorities were producing plans that were assessed as good or excellent.

Library position statements were introduced in 2003-04 to assess the extent to which authorities were engaging with key messages that emerged from the Framework for the Future national public library strategy document. Authorities that were assessed as "excellent" in overall Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) terms; or "excellent" in CPA "Leisure and Libraries" terms and "good" overall were exempted from having to provide position statements. Additionally, authorities assessed as having provided an excellent position statement in 2003-04 were exempted from having to produce one in 2004-05. Therefore, there is no straight read across for the two years. However, of those authorities making submissions by the end of 2004-05, 87 per cent. were assessed as having presented good or excellent position statements.

The Public Library Standards originated in 2001-02 to introduce performance measurement for library authorities in England. They now form part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Culture Block. The basis of assessment for authorities' performance against the standards has evolved across the period so it is not possible to make straight comparisons. In 2004-05, authorities were assessed on the number of standards they had passed. Details of each of the 149 authorities' performance appear in the Public Library Statistics 2005-06 Estimates and 2004-05 Actuals published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Copies are held in the House Library.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many *(a)* books, *(b)* audio books, *(c)* videos, *(d)* computer games and *(e)* DVDs were stocked in public libraries in each London borough in each year since 1997; [87252]

(2) how many *(a)* books, *(b)* audio books, *(c)* videos, *(d)* DVDs and *(e)* computer games have been lent by libraries in each London borough since 1997. [87255]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held centrally. However, the Public Library Statistics, published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, contain similar data to those being sought. The House of Commons Library holds copies for the period in question.

Licensing Act

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licences for public houses in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas were not renewed in each year from 1997. [86712]

Mr. Woodward: Information on the renewal of licences held by public houses in the years prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) is not held centrally. There is no renewal process for licences issued under the 2003 Act.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the likely impact of a change in the fee structure for premises licences under the Licensing Act 2003 on businesses which have already paid their renewal fees for their premises licence; and if she will make a statement. [87119]

Mr. Woodward: The Independent Fees Review Panel, chaired by Sir Les Elton, is considering the fee levels and structure and their impact on fee payers and local authorities. We will consider carefully any recommendations that the Panel makes when it reports to Ministers in the autumn.

We have no existing plans to change the fee structure, although we have agreed in principle that there should be a single date for the annual fee. However, before we can set a single date, we will need to consider and consult on transitional arrangements and the options for which date to adopt. Licence holders will be given notice before new arrangements are brought in and should, in the meantime, continue to pay their annual fee on the anniversary of the grant of the licence.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 which have paid their renewal fees for their premises licence since February; and if she will make a statement. [87120]

Mr. Woodward: There is no renewal process for licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003, although an annual fee is paid on the anniversary of the grant of the licence. We have not made any estimate about the number of licence holders who have paid annual fees. However, as most applications to convert licences to the new regime were made near the end of the period for converting licences in July and August last year, it is likely that the majority of annual fees will not be due until the autumn.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism last met representatives of *(a)* the licensed trade, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* residents' groups, *(d)* magistrates, *(e)* police officers, *(f)* village hall associations, *(g)* sports clubs, *(h)* performing arts, *(i)* the tourism industry, *(j)* fire services and *(k)* the retail sector to discuss the Licensing Act 2003 and related legislation; and if she will make a statement. [87121]

Mr. Woodward: Since May 2006, I have held several internal meetings on the Licensing Act and have met with the Chair of the Independent Fees review panel. I have met, along with Home Office colleagues, representatives of the licensed trade on 15 May and representatives from local authorities and the police on 24 May.

I am planning to hold a series of stakeholder meetings in the autumn.

London Olympics

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the monthly peak construction costs for the building of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games sites. [87814]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Delivery Authority is currently procuring the delivery partner that will help it to deliver the Olympic and legacy construction. One element of the delivery partner's role will be to examine the construction costs of the Olympic infrastructure. We expect this assessment to be completed within six to nine months of the appointment.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment of contamination in the Olympic Park and surrounding Lea Valley area has been undertaken; what the findings were; and what remedial action is being taken. [87815]

Mr. Caborn: Initial site investigation and desk-top research work, undertaken in support of the Olympic and Legacy Planning Applications, identified some contamination within the footprint of the Olympic Park area. Much of the contaminated land is former Brownfield or derelict land that has been used for a variety of industrial activities.

Site investigations are currently being carried out to characterise the nature of the ground conditions and the level of contamination. These investigations will be carried out in accordance with current industry best practice to identify the exact type and concentrations. The investigations are following the principles set out in the Intrusive Investigation Method Statement approved by the London boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, the Environment Agency and British Waterways. Copies of the Statement have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The boroughs have been consulted throughout the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment, during the site investigation phase and will continue to be consulted throughout the development of the remediation and validation works.

In addition, generic site specific soil target values have been generated and are detailed in a Global Remediation Strategy which has been reviewed and approved by the same regulators noted above. Once the site investigation is complete, detailed remediation strategies, including generation of site specific clean up targets, will be prepared and agreed with the regulators as appropriate prior to implementation and validation. All of the sites to be remediated will be subject to detailed planning applications.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate she has made of the cost of *(a)* security during construction of the Olympic Park in each year to 2012 and *(b)* security during the Olympic Games. [87816]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the Answer I gave him on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1788W. Work continues on the evaluation of the security requirements for the various phases of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games and their cost.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she has set up a specialist unit within the Department to oversee the Olympic Games. [87824]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive (GOE) has been set up within DCMS under a Chief Executive, who has also been appointed as an additional Accounting Officer, to co-ordinate Government input into the 2012 Games. The Executive acts as a link between Government Departments on the one hand and LOCOG (the London Organising Committee) and the ODA (Olympic Delivery Authority) on the other. GOE works closely with all Departments to ensure a joined up approach to delivering the benefits and legacy of the 2012 Games.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* arrangements have been made and *(b)* mode of transportation will be used to deliver raw materials to the Olympic Park. [87828]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) are reviewing all modes of transport for raw materials, including river and rail usage, and will work with their Delivery Partner—to be appointed later this summer—to develop proposals for an effective, affordable and sustainable approach.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with other Government Departments on co-ordinating other large construction projects during the construction of the Olympic Park; and if she will make a statement. [87829]

Mr. Caborn: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has been a key participant in an initiative being led by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) to improve the public sector's demand management in construction procurement and to enhance the UK construction industry's long term capacity planning so as to meet public sector demand and provide a healthy level of competition.

DCMS has been working with OGC and the Public Sector Construction Clients Forum (PSCCF) in taking forward a number of strands in this initiative including a study, The 2005-15 Construction Demand/Capacity Study, to examine the industry's capacity to deliver public sector construction programmes including those for the Olympics to time, budget and the required quality, and their likely effect on other capital development programmes throughout the country.

The study is due to be published shortly.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans there are for the use of *(a)* the Olympic Stadium and *(b)* other Olympic facilities after the Olympic Games have finished; and when she expects formal agreements on this to be finalised. [87830]

Tessa Jowell: Plans for the Olympic venues were set out in Theme 8 of the London 2012 Candidature File, which can be accessed on the website of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, www.london2012.com at:

http://www.london2012.com

Since London was awarded the Games, these plans have been under development. The timing of final decisions on legacy use will vary from venue to venue because, among other things, of differences in the construction profile but key stakeholders will be consulted as part of the planning process for the Olympic Park, before any formal agreements are finalised.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans her Department has to involve women in the delivery of the 2012 Olympics. [88202]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympics Games (LOCOG) are committed to diversity in the way they operate and engage with communities and groups. LOCOG, for instance, work with the Women's Resource Centre and the Women's Sports Foundation through their London 2012 Forum. My Department is working with the Department for Communities and Local Government (which has policy responsibility in Government for women's issues) to ensure that all sections of society have opportunities for involvement in the games. The Women and Equality Unit and the Equal Opportunities Commission have been involved in the development of this work and will help shape the final delivery plan. This work complements similar planning activity by the Greater London Authority to engage with a wide variety of London's diverse communities, including women.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made against the objective of providing an ethical Olympic games in 2012; and if she will make a statement. [88209]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic stakeholders are committed to an ethical Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012 and a sustainable legacy for London and the UK. We are determined to ensure that local communities receive tangible benefit from the Games, particularly in the areas of local employment, affordable housing, training initiatives and education.

Initiatives are already under way to realise these objectives. For example, the Olympic Delivery Authority have recently published their draft Procurement Policy, which confirms their commitment to sustainability, health and safety and partnership working.

In addition, the London 2012 Employment and Skills Task Force (LEST), established by the Greater London Authority and the London Skills Commission, will deliver a collaborative business plan to identify and co-ordinate measures to support people in accessing direct and indirect employment opportunities arising from the hosting of the Games in 2012.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms are being put in place in the procurement process for the Olympics to ensure private companies comply with good employment practices. [88211]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), which is responsible for delivering the infrastructure for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, places high importance on ensuring its ethical values are shared by potential contractors. Through the tendering process the ODA and its Delivery Partner will assess the commitment of bidders to these values, including their approach to good employment practices, training, recruitment, equalities and diversity. The ODA's draft Procurement Policy, which was published on 19 July, states that it would like all employees of contractors and subcontractors working on ODA contracts to be on fair employment terms and conditions, such as the good practice guidance promulgated by the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the project to bury the underground power lines at the Olympic Park; what lessons have been learned from the project; and if she will make a statement. [88222]

Mr. Caborn: During the Bid period the Government and the Mayor recognised that the timescale for undergrounding the powerlines was such that serious work needed to start in November 2005 if the project was to be completed within an acceptable timescale. Work was set in hand and the London Development Agency was ready to award the contract for undergrounding after we had won the Games. They will shortly transfer the project to the Olympic Delivery Authority. The initial contracts are working well and they expect the project to be completed in line with original targets.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what *(a)* process and *(b)* criteria the Government and Sport England will allocate funds for improving Great Britain's and Northern Ireland's potential medal performance in the 2012 Olympics between clubs and associations. [88247]

Mr. Caborn: All investment in medal potential for London 2012 is channelled through UK Sport, the Government's lead agency on high performance sport. UK Sport allocates Exchequer and Lottery funding solely through its World Class Pathway programme to the National Governing Bodies for Olympic and Paralympic sport, based on a range of factors including regular assessment of athlete performance at major international competitions. It is for those Governing Bodies to determine whether funding should then be provided for high performance sport through their clubs and associations.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many properties *(a)* owned and *(b)* managed by the National Trust (i) she, (ii) the Minister for Sport, (iii) the Minister for Culture and (iv) the Minister for Media and Tourism have visited in an official capacity in the last five years. [87825]

Mr. Lammy: I have visited the new National Trust offices in Swindon as well as Tyntesfield, the Victorian House and estate near Bristol. My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Minister for Sport and my hon. Friend the Minister for Media and Tourism have not yet had the opportunity to make official visits to properties owned or managed by the National Trust.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she last met her Scottish counterpart; and what subjects were discussed. [88774]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State last met Patricia Ferguson on 2 November 2005 at Sports Cabinet. They discussed the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Glasgow's bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games; Sport and Physical Activity; the Terms of Reference of the Sports Cabinet; our approach to hosting mega events; practical arrangements for future Sports Cabinet meetings; and the British Council's 'Dreams and Teams' initiative.

Ministerial Office

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times her ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87653]

Mr. Lammy: In the last five years the ministerial office of the Secretary of State has been decorated twice—in 2002 and 2005. It will be redecorated again in the coming months as part of the refurbishment of the Department's Cockspur Street headquarters building.

Museums

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what budget has been available to museums for acquisitions in each year since 1980. [87617]

Mr. Lammy: Museums have a number of sources of funding for acquisitions available to them. These include government funding (be it national or local), self generated income, private donations and grants available from bodies such as the Art Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund. We do not keep figures on each of the different funding streams available for all museums.

The Government do not ring-fence acquisition budgets for the cultural institutions that it sponsors. This ceased in 1992 and allows sponsored museums and galleries the freedom to choose how they spend their grant in aid. Overall grant in aid for directly sponsored national museums and galleries increased from £205.17 million in 1997-98 to £314.93 million in 2006-07.

We are aware of concerns relating to the level of funding museums and galleries have available for acquisitions. We will continue to engage with interested groups, and are always willing to listen to their ideas with regard to acquisitions.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the percentage of revenue savings through efficiency savings required from museums in the next financial year. [87619]

Mr. Lammy: Museums and galleries participating in the DCMS efficiency project are required to make savings of 2.5 per cent. of their grant in aid per annum.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the change was in funding to museums in each year since 1997 *(a)* without taking inflation into account and *(b)* taking inflation into account. [87620]

Mr. Lammy: Tables giving details of increases in grant in aid to 17 DCMS sponsored museums since 1997 *(a)* without taking inflation into account and *(b)* taking inflation into account are in the following tables:

Table A: Grant in aid allocated to 17 DCMS sponsored museums[1] 1997-98 to 2007-08

	£ million[2]	Percentage change
1997-98	205.17	
1998-99	203.46	-0.8
1999-2000	218.31	+7.3
2000-01	226.29	+3.7
2001-02	241.46	+6.7
2002-03	264.96	+9.7
2003-04	275.63	+4.0
2004-05	280.37	+1.7
2005-06	291.99	+4.1
2006-07	314.93	+7.9
2007-08	335.66	+6.6

[1] Covers DCMS funding allocated to 17 DCMS Sponsored museums. Excludes allocations to some smaller museums and DCMS funding streams open to museums and galleries such as Strategic Commissioning, and the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund.
[2] £ million not taking inflation into account.

Table B: Grant in aid (CiA) allocated to 17 DCMS sponsored museums[1] 1997-98 to 2007-08

	£ million[2]	Percentage change
1997-98	Base	
1998-99	197.75	-3.75
1999-2000	207.59	+4.7
2000-01	212.43	+2.3
2001-02	220.88	+3.8
2002-03	234.43	+5.8
2003-04	237.26	+1.2
2004-05	235.89	-0.6
2005-06	239.63	+1.6
2006-07	251.71	+4.8
2007-08	261.22	+3.6

[1] Covers DCMS funding allocated to 17 DCMS Sponsored museums. Excludes allocations to some smaller museums and DCMS funding streams open to museums and galleries such as Strategic Commissioning, and the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund.
[2] £ million taking inflation into account, using 1997 as base year

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many visitors to publicly-funded museums in London there were in each year since 1997. [87777]

Mr. Lammy: The number of visits to museums and galleries in London funded directly by this Department in each year since 1997 are set out in the following table:

	Number of visits (million)
1997-98	20.3
1998-99	19.5
1999-2000	19.2
2000-01	23.7
2001-02	24.4
2002-03	27.0
2003-04	28.3
2004-05	28.5
2005-06	26.8

We do not hold visit data on the 67 London museums which are funded by the Ministry of Defence, local authorities, universities and the Greater London authority.

Obesity

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will bring forward proposals to require seating at venues open to the public to be increased in size to accommodate obese people; and if she will make a statement. [86953]

Mr. Caborn: The Health and Safety Executive publishes guidance on seating in The Event Safety Guide and guide to fire precautions in existing places of entertainment and like premises.

For sports grounds, there is no standard allocation of space for a seated person. However, my Department's document Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds does provide guidance on minimum seat widths and seating row depths. The purpose of the document is to give guidance on how to calculate the safe capacity of a sports ground.

More broadly, my Department, along with the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills, is taking joint action to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity amongst children under 11, in the context of tackling obesity in the population as a whole.

Portchester Castle

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what conditions were attached by the donor when Portchester Castle was given to the nation in 1974; and whether these conditions have been varied at any time. [87742]

Mr. Lammy: The guardianship of Portchester Castle was given to the Commissioner for Works on 23 June 1926. No conditions were attached to this gift.

Regulations concerning the castle have been made subsequently, most recently in 1974 by the Department of the Environment following discussions with Fareham borough council and St. Mary's Church.

Following a direction made under section 34 of the National Heritage Act 1983, responsibility for managing the property was delegated to English Heritage.

Regal Cinema, Evesham

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on the listing of the Regal Cinema, Evesham. [87407]

Mr. Lammy: In October 2000, the Department received two applications to list this building. It was listed at Grade II in November 2000. Between November 2001 and January 2002, we received six requests, from the same individual, to de-list it or to approve 'in principle' plans to alter its interior. These were turned down. In June 2002, we received a request to upgrade the cinema to II. This was rejected, on the advice of English Heritage, 10 September 2002.

Sport England

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many funding applications have been made to Sport England from organisations in Leicester, South constituency; and if she will provide details of each application. [86131]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England does not hold information about funding applications in the required format. Over 900 applications have been made in the East Midlands region, however, information specifically about the Leicester, South constituency could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Sport England grants have been awarded to organisations in Leicester, South constituency; and if she will provide details of each award. [86132]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England records show that, since 1995, 14 lottery grants have been awarded to organisations in the Leicester, South constituency at a total value of £6,927,625. In addition, the constituency may also have benefited from Community Club Development programme grants of £1,137,889 awarded to organisations throughout Leicestershire.

Details of the Lottery awards are given in the following table.

Applicant	*Purpose*	*Grant (£)*
Leicester Rowing Club	Purpose built rowing centre	232,431
Leicestershire county council	Highfield Youth and Community Centre-new forecourt, sports hall and fitness rooms	1,999,000

Applicant	Purpose	Grant (£)
International Youth House Project Ltd	Community facility incorporating a 27m x 18m sports hall	420,110
Leicester City council	Active sports	1,280,093
Leicester City council (Lancaster school)	New sports facilities	106,160
Lancaster school	School sport coordinator	285,265
Leicester Football Club Plc	Spectator safety works and upgrade of security installations	13,135
Leicestershire County Cricket Club	Implementation of ticket administration system; alterations to the roof of the pavilion	78,717
Leicestershire County Cricket Club	Safer sports ground	15,414
Leicester Football Club Plc	Demolition and rebuild	200,000
Leicestershire County Cricket Club	Safer sports ground	30,250
Leicester Racial Equality council	Female sports activity officer	107,050
Leicester City council	New sports centre	2,000,000
Leicester City council	Refurbishment of Saffron Lane athletic track	160,000

Sports Clubs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* football, *(b)* rugby, *(c)* hockey, *(d)* tennis, *(e)* cricket, *(f)* swimming and *(g)* gymnastic clubs there were in (i) each London borough and (ii) London in the last year for which figures are available. [87417]

Mr. Caborn: DCMS does not hold the information requested and there is no central register for such clubs.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by her Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85183]

Mr. Lammy: None to date.

Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported.

Television Licences

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in *(a)* Houghton and Washington, East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area have been in receipt of free television licences in each year since the introduction of free licences for people over 75 years. [87374]

Mr. Woodward: TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, is not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in the Houghton and Washington, East constituency in 2004-05 was 4,490, according to Department for Work and Pensions records. Winter fuel payment figures for the Sunderland city council area are not available; however, the figure in 2004-05 for the unitary authority of Sunderland was 15,330.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will introduce a scheme to exempt those staying in respite care from the need to purchase a television licence in addition to the one purchased for their home. [87418]

Mr. Woodward: Television licences for respite care arise principally in relation to the Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC) concessionary scheme. As part of BBC Charter Review, the Government re-examined anomalies within the existing concessionary arrangements, with a special focus on the ARC scheme. In the March 2006 White Paper, the Government acknowledged the shortcomings of the scheme but noted that proposals for change focused on individual anomalies rather than ways to improve the scheme as a whole. Previous changes to correct individual anomalies have done little to improve the scheme as a whole and have tended to create new problems. We therefore have no plans to amend the scheme, or to introduce a separate concessionary scheme for respite care accommodation.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussion took place between her Department and the BBC about the decision not to renew the contract for renewal and purchase of television licences supplied at post offices. [87429]

Mr. Woodward: The award of the contract was a commercial decision for the BBC as television licensing authority. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport did not therefore have any discussions with the corporation about the substance of the decision. However, DCMS officials were briefed by the BBC prior to the corporation's announcement of the award of the contract on 31 March this year.

Ticket Touting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provisions were agreed at the Ticket Tout summit on 17 July regarding the charging of administration fees in relation to tickets returned to the original sellers for re-sale at face value; and if she will make a statement. [87118]

Mr. Woodward: At the summit on 17 July, the industry stated their agreement to introduce a returns policy whereby fans can return tickets to the original sellers at face value. There were no specific provisions

agreed around charging administrative fees in relation to these tickets. The returns policy will be implemented by the industry itself and I hope that it will take all relevant views into account, especially those of the ticket buying public, when doing this. The industry also agreed to set up a website where fans could sell tickets to other fans at face value.

At the summit my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I also announced a future DCMS-led public consultation to establish the views of consumers and the industry on ticket sales issues. Other measures announced included further work with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on terms and conditions of ticket sales and the introduction of kite marks for ticket sales websites. The Government also pledged to continue working with the industry and OFT to draw up an overarching code of practice for both primary and secondary ticket sellers.

Our principle in taking this forward remains that the interests of the consumers are paramount and that our creative, cultural and sporting industries should be able to prosper in a healthy legitimate market.

Tourism

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the tourism deficit in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [87382]

Mr. Woodward: The UK tourism balance of payments deficit was £18.1 million in 2005. This figure has been produced using a range of data sources including the UK Tourism Survey and the International Data Survey.

The deficit reflects a range of factors including increased prosperity and the availability of cheap flights. The UK is by no means alone in this regard, indeed, in 2003 Germany's deficit stood at over £27 billion.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what initiatives have been put in place by her Department to increase domestic tourism visits. [87392]

Mr. Woodward: Domestic tourism represents around 80 per cent. of the turnover of the UK tourism industry. My Department funds VisitBritain to market England to the British, as advised by the England Marketing Advisory Board. £10.4 million a year in grant in aid to VisitBritain is presently allocated for this purpose.

VisitBritain's domestic marketing activities include the EnglandNet project, which provides comprehensive destination information for both domestic and overseas visitors, with facilities for live booking of accommodation and other services using the websites of VisitBritain's commercial and public sector partners. A total of £10 million has been allocated to EnglandNet to date, including £2 million over the current Spending Review period from 2005-06 to 2007-08.

My Department also works closely with regional and local government in supporting and promoting domestic tourism, currently contributing £3.6 million a year to the Regional Development Agencies to support tourism in the regions, and £1.9 million a year to the Greater London authority to support the Mayor's statutory tourism duties.

Support for the growth of domestic tourism is central to the consultation on the Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games, which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State launched on 19 July.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding her Department plans to contribute for *(a)* marketing, *(b)* e-tourism, *(c)* improving the quality of tourism products and *(d)* skills and training in connection with achieving the target of £100 billion value for tourism by 2010. [87393]

Mr. Woodward: My Department funds VisitBritain to market Britain overseas, and market England to the British and in some European territories as advised by the England Marketing Advisory Board. Grant in aid to VisitBritain under the current Spending Review is in the following table:

	Resource	*Capital*	*Total (£000)*
2005-06	49,051	300	49,351
2006-07	50,051	300	50,351
2007-08	50,051	300	50,351

My Department also currently contributes £3.6 million a year to the Regional Development Agencies' Single Pot in support of their strategic responsibilities for tourism in the regions, and £1.9 million a year to the Greater London authority to support the Mayor's statutory tourism duties.

Marketing including the use of e-tourism, and improvements in product quality and workforce skills, are essential elements of the consultation on the Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games, which my RHF the Secretary of State launched on 19 July. In these and other areas, VisitBritain, the development agencies, and the Authority are expected to have major roles in tourism's preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

The effects of any new work arising from the consultation on VisitBritain's future funding levels cannot be foreseen at this stage. Levels of grant-in-aid from my Department to VisitBritain, the development agencies, and the GLA for years after 2007-08 are yet to be agreed, and are subject to the present Comprehensive Spending Review.

The consultation also seeks views on the possible effects of the games opportunity, and of changes in statistical methodology, on my Department's strategic targets for tourism.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department provides to assist *(a)* small hotels, *(b)* guest houses and *(c)* other tourism businesses to enhance the skills of employees. [87394]

Mr. Woodward: The Department is working closely with DFES and People 1st (the Sector Skills Council for the Hospitality, Leisure, Travel and Tourism industries) on a broad and ambitious skills programme.

My predecessor chaired two Skills Summits with People 1st and industry representatives to develop a draft National Skills Strategy, which is based on sectoral priorities of improving retention rates and skills levels for management, chefs and customer service. Agreement of a final employer-led Strategy is planned for the winter.

We also work closely with People 1st and industry to ensure full advantage is taken of wider initiatives such as Train to Gain, National Skills Academies and Skills Passports.

Given the nature of the tourism sector and the domination of small and micro businesses, these developments will be of direct benefit to them.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what Government support for the tourism industry was in 2005-06; and if she will make a statement. [87396]

Mr. Woodward: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) provided support to the tourism industry via grant-in-aid to VisitBritain of £49.3 million in 2005-06. VisitBritain used this money to market and promote the UK to both the domestic and international markets.

In addition, DCMS contributed £3.6 million to the regional development agencies' single pot in support of their strategic responsibilities for tourism in the regions.

A further £1.9 million was allocated to the Greater London authority to support the Mayor's statutory tourism duties.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department provides to assist small tourism enterprises in the use of information technology. [87399]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not provide direct assistance to small tourism businesses in the use of information technology. Such assistance is available to tourism and other businesses through the Small Business Service.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department gives to VisitBritain for e-tourism; and if she will make a statement. [87400]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain's e-tourism activities are supported by grant-in-aid from my Department. These activities include the EnglandNet project, to which a total of £10 million has been allocated, including £2 million over the current spending review period from 2005-06 to 2007-08.

The EnglandNet portal is administered by VisitBritain and fully supported by the regional development agencies, which are providing partnership funding from 2005-06. EnglandNet provides comprehensive destination information for overseas and domestic visitors, with facilities for instant booking of accommodation and other services using the websites of VisitBritain's commercial and public sector partners. The portal took its first live booking in December 2005.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's planned expenditure is on the tourism sector outside London in each of the next three years. [87401]

Mr. Woodward: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) provides support to the tourism industry via grant-in-aid to VisitBritian (VB). VisitBritian uses this money to market and promote the UK to both the domestic and international markets.

The level of grant-in-aid for VB agreed as part of the 2004 Spending Review was as follows:

	Resource	*Capital*	*£000 Total*
2005-06	49,051	300	49,351
2006-07	50,051	300	50,351
2007-08	50,051	300	50,351

It is not possible to provide details of VB's grant-in-aid beyond 2007-08, this will be decided following the completion of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

In addition, my Department contributes £3.6 million per year to the Regional Development Agencies' Single Pot in respect of their tourism role.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists visited *(a)* London and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [87254]

Mr. Woodward: The tables set out the number of visits to London from (i) overseas and (ii) the UK where this included an overnight stay. Information is provided for 2000 to 2005, equivalent data prior to this are not available.

Inbound visits to London by year

	Visit (all) (Thousand)
2000	13,145
2001	11,452
2002	11,603
2003	11,696
2004	13,398
2005	[1]13,893

[1] 2005 data are provisional.

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Domestic overnight trips to London by year

	Visit (all) (Thousand)
2000	18,500
2001	16,900
2002	16,100
2003	14,300
2004	[1]12,800
2005	[2]10,700

[1] VisitBritain believes the old UKTS methodology significantly underreported 2004.
[2] In 2005 an improved methodology was introduced for UKTS therefore direct comparison with previous years is not appropriate.

Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards).

In addition, London receives a substantial number of day visitors, the last Leisure Day Visitors Survey in 2002-03 recorded a total of 169 million to the region.

My Department does not have details of tourist visits to each London borough.

TV Transmitters

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* television transmitters and *(b)* relay stations there are in (i) Ceredigion, (ii) Wales and (iii) the UK. [88859]

Mr. Woodward: Ceredigion has one transmitter and 13 relays. The main transmitter is at Blaen Plwyf.

In Wales there are seven transmitters and 202 relays and in the UK there are 51 transmitters and 1,105 relays.

UK School Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what part volunteers will play in the running of the 2006 UK School Games in Glasgow; [86726]

(2) if she will list the applicants who submitted tenders to run the UK School Games for 2007 to 2011; and if she will make a statement; [86727]

(3) whether the Youth Sports Trust has subcontracted any part of the running of the UK School Games for 2006; and if she will make a statement. [86789]

Mr. Caborn: The selection of an operator to organise the UK School Games for 2006 and for 2007-11, and the subsequent grant of National Lottery money was a matter for the Millennium Commission. In my capacity as Chair of the Commission, I will write to the hon. Gentleman on this matter and arrange for copies of my reply to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Visitor Attractions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of visitors to *(a)* the Avebury monuments, *(b)* Bowood House, *(c)* Corsham Court, *(d)* Lacock Abbey, *(e)* Iford Manor, *(f)* Longleat, *(g)* Stourhead, *(h)* Old Wardour Castle and *(i)* Silbury Hill in each year since 1997. [88242]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not hold estimates of the number of visitors to Bowood House, Corsham Court, Lacock Abbey, Iford Manor, Longleat or Stourhead.

The Avebury Monuments, including Silbury Hill, have free access and it is difficult to gain an accurate estimate of the number of visitors due to the nature of the site. A survey held by Bournemouth University in 1996-1998 gave an approximate figure of 350,000 a year. Data for 1999-2000, give an annual figure of 342,000 and 276,600 for the year 2004-05.

Visitor figures for the English Heritage property of Old Wardour Castle is as follows:

	Number
1996-97	28,051
1997-98	24,838
1998-99	23,345
1999-2000	28,375
2000-01	19,863
2001-02	22,084
2002-03	28,375
2003-04	32,011
2004-05	29,380
2005-06	26,470

Wembley Stadium

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely impact on the Brent economy when Wembley Stadium opens. [87784]

Mr. Caborn: It is estimated that when the Wembley Stadium opens it will attract around 2.5 million visitors a year, bringing an estimated annual visitor spend of £229 million to Wembley and the surrounding area. Around 7,500 permanent job opportunities will be created by economic activity directly related to the stadium.

The stadium development has also acted as a catalyst for investment in the wider regeneration of Wembley. An improved transport system, new shops, new leisure and community facilities, thousands of new jobs and 8,500 new homes will all help to bring a major boost to the Brent economy.

Youth Charter Organisation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications for lottery funding have been made by the Youth Charter organisation in the past five years; and how many such applications have been *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful. [87974]

Mr. Caborn: There has been one award to the Youth Charter for Sport, Culture and the Arts. This was awarded by Sport England in May 2005. The Department does not collect information about unsuccessful lottery applications.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 24 July 2006

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what advertising campaigns her Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87070]

Mr. McFadden: Significant advertising campaigns in support of specific policies are managed centrally through Cabinet Office Communication Group and placed through the Central Office of Information (COI).

Details of advertising costs are shown in the table which reflects expenditure for financial years 2000-01 to 2003-04.

Cabinet Office systems are not sufficiently structured to provide accurate Cabinet Office recruitment advertising information prior to 1 April 2004.

Cabinet Office is also responsible for the advertising and filling of Fast Stream vacancies across the civil service, the advertising data for this are only available from 2001.

	Dates	*Budget/spend*
2000-01		
Chartermark	March 2001	34,996
2001-02		
UK-Online	November 2001-January 2002	2,491,500
Foot and Mouth Teletext	October 2001	48,263
Fast Stream Recruitment	Throughout year	104,000
2002-03		
Fast Stream Recruitment	Throughout year	89,000
2003-04		
UK online "Get Started"	May-June	1,000,000
Fast Stream Recruitment	Throughout year	67,000

Cabinet Office Spending

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office spent on supporting the Prime Minister in each year since 1996-97, including the estimated figures for 2005-06. [86853]

Hilary Armstrong: Supporting the Prime Minster is one of the Cabinet Office's objectives. The costs associated with this function are identified and reported separately in the Annual Report and Resource Accounts.

Details of these costs for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 can be found in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts, Schedule 5, Objective 1—Supporting the Prime Minister (HC185—Page 26, HC1190—Page 32, and HC372—Page 28 respectively).

Copies of these reports and resource accounts for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are available on the Cabinet Office website at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/annualreport/index.asp and are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

The Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts for 2005-06 were laid before Parliament on 20 July 2006 and will be published shortly on the Cabinet Office website.

Expenditure incurred on supporting the Prime Minister, prior to 2002-03, is not held centrally.

Computing Equipment

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many *(a)* laptop and *(b)* desk top computers were purchased for use in 10 Downing Street in each month since March 2005; [86886]

(2) how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs and *(d)* external computer hard drives were purchased for use in 10 Downing Street in each month since March 2005; [86855]

(3) how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives and *(f)* desktop computers were purchased for use in the Cabinet Office in each month since March 2005. [86856]

Mr. McFadden: The Prime Minister's office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office

The numbers of items of the specified computer equipment purchased for use in the Cabinet Office in each month since March 2005 are shown in the table. It has been compiled from records held by those business units who have, according to our resource accounting system, purchased relevant equipment during the period.

	USB flash drive	USB memory stick	Compact disc drive	DVD-ROM disc drive	Laptop computer	External computer hard drive	Desktop computer
2005							
March	0	0	0	0	2	0	32
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	2	10	14
July	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
August	3	0	0	0	21	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
October	5	0	0	0	1	0	0
November	0	1	0	1	0	7	1
December	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
2006							
January	0	0	1	2	27	6	53
February	5	18	0	0	0	6	0
March	0	0	0	0	6	2	9
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	12	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

A significant proportion of the information technology equipment used by the Department, for example on the corporate IT network, is not purchased but provided as part of a managed service through our prime IT contractor.

Ministerial Financial Benefit Declarations

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance the Cabinet Office issues to Government Ministers on declaring to HM Revenue and Customs financial benefits *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* their spouses have received from foreign persons or foreign corporations directly or indirectly as a result of their Ministerial position. [87594]

Hilary Armstrong: Guidance for Ministers on the acceptance of gifts and hospitality is set out in Section 5 of the "Ministerial Code".

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many times her ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87656]

Hilary Armstrong: According to available records, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Ministerial Office, Private Offices and waiting area has been decorated once in the last five years.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many non-departmental public bodies have been abolished since December 2005; and what estimate she has made of the consequent effect on public funds. [87110]

Mr. McFadden: Information on public bodies sponsored by central Government is provided annually in the Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies" which records information as at 31 March each year. This includes details of closed bodies and also government funding and expenditure.

Information for the position at 31 March 2006 is currently being collated and will be published shortly. Information for the position at 31 March 2005 was published on 21 November 2005.

Copies of previous publications are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Regulatory Impact Assessments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what guidance she has issued to departments on the publication of work preliminary to the conduct of regulatory impact assessments; [87950]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1826W, on regulatory impact assessments, whether any work preparatory to the conduct of such an assessment may be *(a)* placed in the Library and *(b)* published by Departments. [87958]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office's guidance makes clear that final regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) should be made available to the House and published by Departments on their websites. Partial RIAs should also be published by departments as part of formal consultation exercises. The publication of initial RIAs and other work preparatory to the production of partial and final RIAs is for individual Departments to consider on a case by case basis.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to undertake a review of Afghanistan *(a)* development needs and *(b)* the progress of international reconstruction projects. [86537]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

The Government of Afghanistan have been leading the process to develop a national development strategy to tackle the country's reconstruction and development needs. In January at the London Conference, an interim strategy was launched and endorsed by the international community. Building on this effort, donors are now supporting the Government to prepare a final Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS), which will review needs in eight priority sectors: infrastructure, security, governance, education, health, agriculture and rural livelihoods, economic governance and private sector development, and social protection; as well as on important cross-cutting issues such as counter-narcotics and gender.

Progress of the international reconstruction effort is reviewed though a number of mechanisms. Donors will monitor progress of their own projects, and occasionally there may be joint reviews (such as the recently undertaken joint donor review for the National Solidarity Programme). Government Ministries work with donors to identify duplication and gaps in their sectors, and will draw up plans to feed into the ANDS. The Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) Performance Assessment Matrix will also allow for joint monitoring of development impact, once it is formally launched later this year.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the remit is of her Department's team of officials involved with the Poppy Elimination programme in Helmand Province; what their responsibilities are; and what their budget is. [86689]

Dr. Howells: The UK is spending £270 million over three years in support of the Afghan national drug control strategy. As part of this we have provided £276,000 in support of the Ministry of Counter Narcotics' Poppy Elimination programme. The Poppy Elimination programme is a year-round programme operating in seven priority provinces including Helmand. It has been designed to assist provincial authorities deter poppy crop planting through public awareness and community outreach. The Poppy Elimination programme teams are also responsible for monitoring poppy cultivation, farmers' planting intentions and the existence and effectiveness of licit rural development assistance. There are normally seven Afghan members of staff (who are employed by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics) and two international advisers in each Poppy Elimination programme team. Members of our embassy drugs team in Kabul have regular and frequent contact with members of the Poppy Elimination programme teams.

China

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to her Chinese counterparts on the human rights situation in that country. [86705]

Mr. McCartney: The Government regularly raises human rights issues with the Chinese Government, through ministerial and official contacts, our bilateral Human Rights Dialogue and EU mechanisms. During my visit to China from 14-17 July, I urged the Chinese Government to make early progress towards ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and raised concern about restrictions on freedom of expression, including on the internet and the movement and reporting of journalists. A range of human rights issues, including individual cases, were discussed in depth at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 3 July.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received on human rights violations against practitioners of Falun Gong in China. [86706]

Mr. McCartney: The Government regularly raises with the Chinese Government reports of the harassment and arbitrary detention of Falun Gong practitioners, most recently at the last round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 3 July. The Government are aware of media reports of widespread organ harvesting from Falun Gong practitioners in China, and a report by a former Canadian Cabinet Minister which supports these allegations. We have seen no further evidence to date to substantiate these reports. We will continue to raise our concerns about human rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to promote human rights observance in China. [88194]

Mr. McCartney: The Government regularly encourages the Chinese Government to improve its observance of human rights, through ministerial engagement, the UK-China human rights dialogue and EU mechanisms. The Government also funds a number of projects in China to improve human rights observance on the ground. These are detailed in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) annual human rights report available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/HumanRights2005.pdf.

Our considered view is that a process of critical dialogue is the most effective way of achieving long-term improvements in the field of human rights. I raised human rights issues with the Chinese Government during my recent visit to China. We shall continue to take every appropriate opportunity to raise our concerns about human rights with China.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average cost to her Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down into (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80481]

Mr. Hoon: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to hon. Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006 (col. 76ws-78ws).

The information requested is not recorded and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Drugs Trade

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2002, *Official Report*, column 625, on the drugs trade, when she will place in the Library the details of the Afghan poppy eradication programme, maps and a video. [87747]

Dr. Howells: I apologise that we have, to date, been unable to locate the material to which my hon. Friend refers. As my hon. Friend will know, officials are in the process of searching archived records from 2002 and will provide any relevant material as soon as they are able.

East Timor

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the reply the Prime Minister sent to the letter dated 10 March sent by the International Press Institute on the killings of journalists in East Timor. [86000]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* Yes. The letter officials sent to the International Press Institute on 4 July, in response to their letter of 10 March, will be placed in the Library of the House. I will also arrange for a copy of the letter to be sent to my right. hon. Friend.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 931W, on East Timor, what assessment she has made of whether acts of violence in Timor-Leste in 1999 *(a)* constituted crimes against humanity, *(b)* were planned by the Indonesian military and *(c)* were undertaken in opposition to the US mission sanctioned by Indonesia. [87090]

Mr. McCartney: We have no record of any independent detailed assessment of these issues. However, the UN-established serious crimes unit was mandated to investigate crimes against humanity and other serious crimes committed in East Timor in 1999 and issued a number of indictments against people who were serving in the Indonesian military at that time. A parallel process, the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) was set up by East Timor to look at less serious offences. The CAVR report found that human rights abuses were committed by Indonesian security forces. These human rights abuses were clearly contrary to the aims of the UN Mission to East Timor.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 863W, on East Timor, what assessment she has made of the role of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR); if she will encourage the Security Council to take CAVR's findings into consideration; what assessment she has made of the competence of the Joint Indonesian and Timor-Leste Commission of Truth and Friendship to investigate acts of violence in Timor-Leste *(a)* in 1999 and *(b)* before 1999; and if she will make a statement. [87091]

Mr. McCartney: We recognise the important work done by the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation to promote reconciliation in East Timor, both through its Community Reconciliation Process—whereby those responsible for less serious crimes made amends for their actions outside the formal judicial system, supporting grassroots reconciliation—and through its attempts to determine the truth about human rights violations from 1974-1999. It is for the UN Secretary-General to decide whether to disseminate the Commission's report within the UN, including in the Security Council. The Commission for Truth and Friendship was set up by the Governments of East Timor and Indonesia specifically to look at the events surrounding the 1999 referendum. It commenced work in August 2005, for a period of one year and an extension has recently been announced until at least May next year. The central element to the Commission's work is truth and reconciliation rather than seeking to bring the perpetrators of human rights violations to court.

The members of the Commission are all well-respected in the field of human rights law and are widely considered to be competent for the work of the Commission.

Human Rights (Tibet)

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of China on the protection of human rights in Tibet. [68195]

Mr. McCartney: I would like to apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying.

We regularly raise human rights issues, including Tibet, with the Chinese Government. I raised human rights in Tibet during my visit to China this month. Tibet was discussed at the EU-China human rights dialogue in May and the UK-China human rights dialogue on 3 July, including individual cases of concern. EU representatives in Beijing raised reports of violent handling of a protest at Drepung Monastery with the Chinese Government in December 2005. We will continue to raise concerns about human rights abuses in Tibet at every appropriate opportunity.

India

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she plans to have with her counterpart in India about whether there are any security lessons that the UK can learn from the recent bombings in Mumbai, India. [86885]

Dr. Howells: I would expect future discussions with Indian Ministers to include terrorism and the implications of the Mumbai bombings. UK officials here and in India have been in detailed discussions with the Indian authorities following the bombings and are considering what lessons we need to draw from these attacks. The authorities in India are still conducting their investigations.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* discussions between President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Mamnohan Singh of India regarding giving India access to US nuclear technology and *(b)* the implications of those discussions for (i) the non-proliferation treaty and (ii) regional stability. [86898]

Dr. Howells: We believe the agreement between the US and India on nuclear arrangements can make a significant contribution to energy security, development, economic and environmental objectives for India and the international community, as well as representing a net gain for the non-proliferation regime. The UK has strongly supported this initiative from its inception and has been actively involved throughout.

We also believe that the initiative can have a positive impact on the broader nuclear non-proliferation framework, of which the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone. We do not believe the agreement will have a direct impact upon the NPT. We remain committed to the objective of universal NPT adherence.

India has undertaken for the first time to put a large proportion of its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, including all future civilian reactors, to sign an additional protocol with the IAEA, to adhere to the guidelines of the missile technology control regime and the nuclear suppliers group, to continue its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, and to work with the US for a multilateral fissile material cut off treaty. Implementation of these commitments will bring India further into, and thereby strengthen, the broader nuclear non-proliferation framework, which is underpinned by the NPT. We judge that these steps will enhance regional stability.

Khmer Insurgents (British Training)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs further to the letter of 23 December 2005, (your ref: 967/05: Freedom of Information), promising a response as a matter of urgency to the letter from the hon. Member for Sunderland South of 25 November 2005, on British training of Khmer insurgents in the 1980s, when she expects to reply. [87087]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is conducting an internal review of its handling of my hon. Friend's Freedom of Information request and hopes to provide a substantive response within one month.

Libya

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what agreements were reached during recent discussions between the Government and the Libyan Government. [86467]

Dr. Howells: I visited Libya from 25-27 June and met the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Ministers for Justice, Training and Employment, Economic Co-operation, and Europe. Our discussions covered bilateral relations, co-operation on counter terrorism, education and training, human rights, migration, and trade and investment. I raised the case of WPC Fletcher and also the Bulgarian and Palestinian medical staff and the HIV crisis in Benghazi. We shared views on regional issues, including Darfur.

I met again with the Libyan Minister for Europe in London on 17 July. During the visit I signed on behalf of the UK the 'Joint Letter on Peace and Security', a copy of which has been circulated in the United Nations Security Council. I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House and also for a copy of the 'Joint Letter on Peace and Security', to be sent to the hon. Member. The UK's discussions with the Libyan Government are ongoing.

North Korea

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government supports Japan's proposed freeze on North Korean assets held overseas following recent missile tests. [86899]

Mr. McCartney: On 15 July, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1695. This requires UN member states to prevent missile and missile-related items, materials, goods and technology being transferred to or from the North Korean missile or weapons of mass destruction programmes, and prevent the transfer of any financial resources in relation to those programmes. The UK will implement this resolution in full, and expects others to do the same. It is entirely understandable that those in the region most immediately threatened by North Korea's actions might wish to consider additional measures of the sort in mind in Japan.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK Government made to support the UN resolution criticizing North Korea's recent missile tests proposed by the UN ambassador from Japan. [86900]

Mr. McCartney: The UK strongly agreed that the UN Security Council should respond urgently and robustly to North Korea's missile tests of 5 July. We therefore worked closely with Japan and other Security Council partners on the draft resolution. Security Council Resolution 1695, which was unanimously adopted by the Security Council on 15 July, condemns North Korean behaviour and requires them to suspend missile testing, re-establish their moratorium on tests, and return immediately, without pre-conditions, to the six party talks on their nuclear weapons programmes. We have urged the North Koreans to comply with these requirements and hope they will do so without delay.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many parliamentary questions tabled to her Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85205]

Mr. Hoon: There were 113 parliamentary questions tabled to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) awaiting reply at the end of 10 July 2006. Of those, 12 had been waiting more than two weeks and up to three weeks for a reply and 16 had been waiting longer than three weeks for a reply.

The reasons for delay can be categorised as follows:

Sixteen of the questions required additional information/ input from FCO officials in the UK and overseas before they could be answered;

Twelve of the questions were awaiting ministerial clearance. In many cases the delay was due to heavy travel commitments by Ministers.

The FCO places great importance on parliamentary questions and undertakes to answer all questions promptly. FCO Ministers and officials endeavour to answer named day questions on the allocated day and ordinary written questions within one week. Since October 2005, the FCO has answered 80 per cent. of ordinary written questions and 78 per cent. of named day questions on time.

Somalia

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Somalia. [86412]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are concerned at the recent violence in Somalia. We condemn it and urge all parties within, and outside, Somalia not to take any action which might perpetuate or provoke further violence, endanger the fragile cease-fire agreed between the Transitional Federal government and the Islamic Courts in Khartoum on 22 June, threaten the progress of dialogue between the parties in Somalia or damage the already dire humanitarian situation there. We promote dialogue, not confrontation. There are no military solutions to Somalia's problems.

The UK welcomes the United Nations Security Council Presidential Statement issued on Thursday 13 July 2006. As it states, support for the Transitional Federal Institutions as the route to restore peace and security to Somalia, broad-based and inclusive dialogue and compliance with the UN Arms Embargo on Somalia should represent the cornerstones of the international community's Somalia policy. The full text of the statement can be found on the UN website at:

http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sc8773.doc.htm

Southern Iraq Donor Group

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* membership is of the Southern Iraq Donor Group; how often it meets; what its goals are; how its performance is measured; and if she will make a statement. [86678]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

The Southern Iraq Donor Group's (SIDG) goal is to improve the co-ordination of donors in the region and to create the necessary relationships to ensure good communication.

SIDG meets in Basra once or twice a month. The meetings are co-ordinated and chaired by the United Nations. Although no fixed membership exists, most of the international actors in Southern Iraq—both military and civilian—attend the meetings including, for example, the US State Department, the United States agency for International Development (USAID), Multi-National Division (South East), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), the US Military Corps of Engineers and the Danish Office. Not only is DFID one of the founders of the group, but it remains a member.

The outcomes of workshops, implications of policy decisions and the impact of visits to Basra are all discussed, as well as any future joint projects and workshops that donors agree on.

As for the performance of the SIDG, there is consensus among participants that it has been very effective in bringing donors together and has improved co-ordination both of programmes and communications.

Timor-Leste

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd) of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 315W, on East Timor, in what ways the joint UK-Australian police training initiative will augment past UN police training of forces in Timor-Leste; and what measures are in place to ensure integration of the UK-Australian initiative with the existing UN operation in Timor-Leste. [87088]

Mr. McCartney: The UK-Australian Timor-Leste Police Development programme (TLPDP) has been running since July 2004. The programme is designed to strengthen the capacity of the East Timorese police service to maintain law and order effectively and professionally with full respect for human rights. The TLPDP complements other past and current police training undertaken by the UN and bilaterally. The

programme has had a number of successes, including the design of a new curriculum at the police academy to incorporate human rights materials throughout. It produced its first batch of East Timorese trainers in November 2005, who were able to graduate their first basic recruit course of 260 new personnel earlier this year. The TLPDP recently received a favourable mention in the 2006 human rights watch report. Discussions have been held with the UN assessment team to look at how the work of TLPDP might complement that of the new UN policing activity in East Timor.

UN Human Rights Council

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's position is on the recent decision by the new UN Human Rights Council to send a fact-finding mission to the Palestinian Territories; and if she will make a statement. [86677]

Dr. Howells: At the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 17 July, EU Foreign Ministers expressed their support for the efforts of the UN Secretary General. We welcome the UN's fact finding visit to the Occupied Territories.

US Department of Justice

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with representatives of the United States' Department of Justice in the last 12 months. [86487]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any meetings with representatives of the United States Department of Justice since taking up office. Officials from our embassy in Washington meet regularly with representatives of the United States Department of Justice. Most recently, they accompanied my noble Friend the Minister of State for Criminal Justice and Offender Management, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, on calls on representatives of the Department during her visit to Washington on 13 and 14 July.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87060]

Mr. Thomas: DFID did not have any major advertising campaigns during this period, and any activities which might be categorised as advertising were not disaggregated from programme activity and spend across DFID during this period. To undertake information gathering to separate out such costs would incur disproportionate costs. The main advertising costs incurred during this period were for recruitment advertising and is listed as follows:

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
2000-01	751,972
2001-02	1,208,192
2002-03	914,571
2003-04	849,196

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 10 July, 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1404-0W, on Afghanistan, what the job description is for each of the roles listed. [85762]

Hilary Benn: DFID has 16 UK officials currently based in Afghanistan. 14 are based in Kabul, one in Badakhshan and one in Helmand. Job descriptions for these posts are as follows:

Head of DFID Afghanistan

Overall financial, policy, programme, management, and security responsibility for DFID programme and staff in Afghanistan.

Deputy Head

Provides the full range of support to the Head of Department, including acting as Head during the Head of Department's absence. Specific responsibility for policy, programme and strategy issues and leadership of team responsible for briefing and liaison with other Government Departments.

Economic Programme Manager

Leads on the policy, planning and implementation of Economic Management and Aid Effectiveness team objectives. This includes strengthening donor co-ordination and harmonisation in Afghanistan; contributing to discussions on key issues affecting the economic management reform agenda; management of technical assistance to Ministries of Finance; and overseeing and managing the design and implementation of the team project portfolio, which focuses on aid channelled through the Government budget.

Programme and Strategy Co-ordinator

Provides support to the Head of Office in the co-ordination and direction of DFID's overall programme of support to the Government of Afghanistan. Duties include the development and communication of policy and strategy; building and strengthening partnerships between DFID Afghanistan and other donors; and effective support to Ministers and Senior Officials on programme-wide issues.

Policy and Programme and Strategy Programme Officer

Provides support, guidance and mentoring to local programme staff to build capacity in effective project/programme cycle management. Provide responses to general public inquiries, freedom of information requests, parliamentary questions and ministerial correspondence. Supports the development and implementation of DFID's communication strategy. Maintains an accurate financial overview of the DFID programme, and provides some administrative assistance to the Head of Office.

Livelihoods Programme Manager

Leads on policy, planning and implementation of the Livelihoods work programme. Main duties include ensuring the livelihoods programme contributes effectively to delivery of

DFID's strategy in Afghanistan; development of priority planned new activities in the Livelihoods portfolio; and engagement with other donors and the Afghanistan Government on strengthening the policy and planning environment for broad livelihoods work. Also the security officer for DFID.

Livelihoods Adviser

Contributes to the development of nationally-owned strategies and programmes addressing rural livelihoods in Afghanistan; monitors DFID interventions in rural livelihoods through participating in programme/project committees; and prepares briefings on livelihood issues and DFID progress for UK Ministers and senior officials.

State Building Programme Manager

Leads on the policy, planning and implementation of the state building team and its programme. This includes DFID's contribution to key issues affecting the public administration reform and security sector reform agenda. Also oversees the office finances and imprest account.

Conflict Adviser

Works within the state building team on design and implementation of security sector reform policy and programming. Key duties include providing effective support on policy and programmes relating to security and development issues; building relationships with international donors, Provincial Reconstruction Teams and the military in order to build a more coordinated and coherent response in area of security and development; providing effective advice and leadership on the strategic direction of the Global Conflict Prevention Pool for Afghanistan in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD); and maintaining responsibility for building awareness and communication on issues of civil-military coordination.

Deputy Programme Manager, State Building

Responsible for ensuring effective project/programme cycle management in line with DFID procedures and good practice; supporting the team leader in policy dialogue and formulation, particularly in the area of public administration reform and provincial stabilisation; providing responses to requests for briefing and parliamentary questions; and composing reports on different aspects of the team's programme.

Office/HR Manager

Lead responsibility for HR issues including posting and promotion, external recruitment and staff development. Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the office, and ensuring the administration team has effective systems in place to meet corporate rules and regulations. Lead responsibility for administration budget, forecasting, further development of financial management and responsibility for asset management.

Deputy Office Manager

Supports the office manager to ensure effective day-to-day running of the office and guest houses. Responsible for financial monitoring of the administration budget; ensuring delivery of all basic office services including logistics for all visitors for which DFID have duty of care; ensuring vehicle fleet is managed effectively; and monitoring of health and safety procedures.

Secondee to the British Embassy Drugs Team

DFID representative in the British Embassy Drugs Team, with a particular responsibility for advising on development and rural livelihoods issues.

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Development Adviser

Provides advice to the Commander of ISAF, the ISAF Command Group and HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Core (ARRC)/ISAF planning staff regarding the impact of military activities on development and humanitarian issues. Also responsible for liaising with NATO member states regarding current development and humanitarian priorities to ensure coherence of HQ ARRC/ISAF strategy and planning; Badakhshan.

Development Adviser

Located in a multi-donor mission in Faizerbad, concentrating on sub-national governance reform work, development coordination with provincial authorities and ensuring that national programmes can be rolled out and implemented at a provincial level. Currently in Kabul awaiting deployment.

Helmand Development Adviser

Located in the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), helping develop, maintain and articulate a strategic vision and operational work plan for the PRT including how DFID can best contribute to provincial stabilisation in the south.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much was paid by the Government in compensation to farmers in Afghanistan for voluntary opium poppy eradication in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* 2005; [86475]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of farmers in Afghanistan who were entitled to compensation from the UK Government for voluntary opium poppy eradication but did not receive it in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* 2005. [86544]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The Government provided £21.25 million in support of the Afghan Interim Administration's 2002 compensated eradication programme. Eradication in 2003, 2004 and 2005 was not compensated and compensated eradication does not form part of the present Afghan Government's National Drug Control Strategy.

The Afghan Government considered it appropriate to compensate farmers for eradication in 2002 because the 2002 crop was planted before the current regime came to power. We provided support because we believed it was important to support a new regime determined to take tough decisions to tackle drugs. However, it was the responsibility of the Afghan authorities to implement the programme and to ensure that compensation payments were made. We understand from the Afghan authorities that a total of 17,000 hectares of poppy was eradicated under the 2002 programme. The number of farmers compensated is a matter for the Government of Afghanistan.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* opium poppy eradication and *(b)* rural development in Afghanistan in (i) 2002, (ii) 2003, (iii) 2004, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2006. [86490]

Hilary Benn: The information is as follows.

Spending on opium poppy eradication

None of the UK spending for opium poppy eradication comes from DFID's budget. In 2002, the UK provided financial assistance worth £21.25 million to support the new regime's compensated eradication programme. The programme was led by the Afghan Transitional Authority who considered it appropriate to offer a one-off programme of payments to opium farmers on the basis that the poppy crop had been planted during the Taliban regime, before the current regime came to power.

Over financial years 2003-04 and 2004-06, the UK allocated the following amounts to support the Government of Afghanistan carry out poppy eradication in Afghanistan:

Financial year	*Eradication (£ million)*
2003-04	1.33
2004-05	2.25
2005-06	5.71

Spending on rural development

The opium economy is a major threat to the prospects for stability, peace and sustainable poverty reduction in Afghanistan. DFID has therefore increased its livelihoods programme significantly in recent years, supporting the Government of Afghanistan to develop the legal economy, and creating sustainable employment opportunities for poor people who currently rely on the illegal opium trade for their income. Since 2002, DFID has spent the following amount on improving rural livelihoods in Afghanistan.

Financial year	*Rural development (£ million)*
2002-03	0.3
2003-04	6.3
2004-05	7.8
2005-06	45

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects are being funded by his Department in Helmand province; and how much is being spent on each project. [85757]

Hilary Benn: During my recent visit to Helmand, I announced a £30 million Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme. This aims to increase economic opportunities for the rural poor of Helmand. It will support the Government of Afghanistan to roll out existing successful National Programmes in Helmand. These programmes will provide improved water and sanitation, essential small scale rural infrastructure, greater access to small loans, improved roads and access to markets and agricultural inputs and training to the people of Helmand. The programme will be implemented over three years.

DFID also has a £1 million project to deliver quick impact activities. Sub-projects under this include encouraging confidence in Government amongst local people, improving security for schools, improving drinking water and sanitation, and road building. £113,895 of the £1 million has been formally committed, and £71,166 spent. A project list is attached. £400,000 more of sub-projects are currently under consideration.

Project	*Start day in May 2006*	*Total cost (£)*	*Amount paid to date (£)*
Rehabilitation of the a shrine: construction of wall and gate	15	11,968	4,778
Rehabilitation of area adjoining shrine of road and footpath	15	18,149	7,222
Improving a Friday market and construction of protection wall	15	67,871	47,472
Improving a Friday market	15	14,018	9,806
Disbursement of food aid provided by Government of Afghanistan	18	1,889	1,889
Total		113,895	71,166

Of the projects currently committed, the shrine, surrounding area and the market place respond directly to requests from the local population. The shrine is a popular meeting point attracting hundreds of visitors from around the province. The adjoining area is especially popular with women who come to walk there with their children. All the rehabilitation projects listed were carried out by an Afghan NGO to ensure cultural sensitivity in delivery. Initial feedback on the rehabilitation suggests that this work has been well received.

DFID has committed a further £3 million to the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) for military managed activities.

AIDS/ Tuberculosis /Malaria Global Fund

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the progress of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. [86429]

Mr. Thomas: The mid-term review of the first replenishment of the Global Fund took place on 4-6 July. The review highlighted that the Global Fund is demonstrating significant progress against key targets, is improving grant performance, especially in weak systems and fragile states, and is implementing the recommendations of the Global Task Team on improving AIDS co-ordination among multilateral institutions and international donors.

To date, a total of US $8.9 billion has been pledged and/or contributed to the Global Fund through to 2008. As of 1 June 2006, the Global Fund had approved a total of US $5.4 billion to nearly 400 grants in 131 countries. Of the US $5.4 billion approved, US $2.3 billion has been disbursed to public and private recipients in 127 countries and to date, 89 per cent. of approved grants have signed grant agreements. Results achieved so far include:

544,000 people on antiretroviral treatment

1.43 million received tuberculosis treatment

11.3 million insecticide-treated bed nets distributed

7.3 million people treated for malaria

5.7 million people received HIV counselling and testing

560,000 orphans provided with basic care and support.

However, the Global Fund continues to face many challenges, including aligning its programs with country priorities and planning processes, and generating sufficient long-term resources from a more diverse donor base to meet its future needs.

The Global Fund's revised resource needs for 2006 and 2007 is US $5.5 billion. There is a current funding gap of US $2.1 billion for this period, of which, US $0.7 billion is needed to fund round 6 of new grants that will be approved in November 2006.

Angola

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the government of Angola concerning its request for a post conflict donor conference; and if he will make a statement. [85538]

Hilary Benn: I refer my hon. Friend to the response I gave on 3 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1292W.

DFID and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are keen to improve dialogue between the Government of Angola, donors and investors in the country. We are working closely with other bilateral donors and the World Bank to create a Forum for Development and Investment, aimed at improving the harmonisation of reconstruction efforts in Angola. We are following up this issue with the Government of Angola.

Argentina

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Department funds projects in Argentina to tackle *(a)* trafficking in people and *(b)* the commercial sexual exploitation of children. [86343]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is not funding any projects in Argentina to tackle trafficking in people or the commercial exploitation of children.

Cholera

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of outbreaks of cholera in *(a)* Southern Sudan and *(b)* Southern Africa. [87466]

Hilary Benn: In South Sudan, an ongoing cholera epidemic has resulted in 16,964 reported cases of the disease, with 504 deaths. Of these, 6,163 cases and 116 deaths have been in Juba. The international response, working in partnership with the Sudanese Ministry of Health, has recently made good progress in bringing the outbreak under control in the South. Over the last week in Juba, for instance, there were only 10 new cases and no deaths reported. There continue to be new cases reported in some parts of the South but the response has become increasingly effective in containing these and treating those infected, according to DFID's humanitarian partners.

The UN Common Humanitarian Fund in Sudan, to which the UK is the largest donor with £49 million this year, has played a key role in funding the international and local response to the cholera outbreak in the South, through UN agencies and NGOs.

In Angola, a widespread cholera epidemic has been ongoing since mid-February, when the first case of cholera was reported in the Boa Vista slum area of Luanda. Due primarily to heavy rains, and poor hygiene and sanitation conditions, the epidemic spread rapidly to the other municipalities and then to neighbouring provinces (Benguela, Bengo, Kuanza Norde, Malanje, Huambom, Namibe and Bie).

Even though the epidemic has calmed considerably from its peak at the beginning of May, when more than 500 cases were being reported per day, it continues to result in 100 new cases per day across the country. By July 11, the Angolan Ministry of Health reported a total of 49,620 cases of cholera and 2,040 deaths since mid-February, making it the most serious outbreak ever to have affected Angola.

DFID has provided £200,000 to Medecins Sans Frontieres to help combat the epidemic in Angola, and is currently supporting UNICEF with a grant of £3.5 million to tackle some of the root causes of Angola's vulnerability to cholera outbreaks, including the poorest's access to primary health care, safe water and sanitation.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the Unnumbered Command Papers produced by his Department in each session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81325]

Hilary Benn: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to Explanatory Notes to Treaties, Explanatory Memoranda to Statutory Instruments and some Treasury Minutes. All other documents are published in the Numbered Command Papers series.

A complete list of unnumbered Command Papers can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Copies of all unnumbered Command Papers are made available via the Vote Office.

Departmental Staff

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82230]

Mr. Thomas: The number of disabled staff in DFID that received support through the Access to Work scheme in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table:

	DFID staff (number)
2001-02	1
2002-03	1
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	3
2006-07	0
Total	5

Departmental Travel Costs

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1408W, on departmental travel costs, whether each flight was a return flight; how many of the trips involved overnight stays; what the cost of overnight stays was; what the purpose was of the trips; and what assessment was made of using alternative travel to Glasgow to achieve the objectives. [86376]

Mr. Thomas: There were 1,056 return flights from London to Glasgow during 2005, 874 of which involved overnight stays at a total cost of £126,642. All travellers are required to confirm the business purpose when booking flights but DFID does not keep a central record. We are evaluating our investment in video-conferencing and better communication to provide a cost effective alternative to travel and staff must confirm before booking flights that they have considered conducting their business by other methods.

Developing Countries

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on his Department's commitments to address climate change and environmental degradation in developing countries. [87475]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development (DFID) has issued two key papers in recent months outlining our commitments on climate change and the environment.

DFID's new White Paper, 'Eliminating world poverty: making governance work for the poor' was launched on 13 July. The White Paper addresses the need for a coherent approach to global environmental challenges and development, such as climate change. It states that:

- environmental wealth—natural resources—is a main source of growth in developing countries, and central to livelihoods of poor people;
- environmental sustainability is one of the seven essential components for developing country growth;
- we can help countries develop better approaches to using assets e.g. forests and water, in a more sustainable manner, and help manage the environmental impacts of growth;
- we need to focus on the global consequences of growth—climate change has negative consequences for poor countries;
- developing countries need assistance to access cleaner energy;
- we need better information about the predicted impacts of climate change; and
- developing countries need support to adapt and build resilience to climate change.

In February 2006, DFID published a policy paper, "DFID's Approach to the Environment". It outlines how we incorporate sustainability and environment into our work. The paper sets out principles for tackling environmental challenges, to be applied according to the circumstances of country programmes. These include:

- integrating environmental management for poverty reduction into our work, focusing on opportunities as well as risks;
- supporting country driven processes e.g. poverty reduction strategies, to integrate local and global environmental priorities;
- providing technical assistance in selected countries and circumstances; and
- strengthening donor co-ordination on the environment, internationally and at country level.

The paper has an implementation plan agreed across DFID and approved by Top Management. Each division is responsible for ensuring that it delivers on implementation. Progress will be reviewed in spring 2007.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department will assist in strengthening *(a)* biodiversity, *(b)* the ecosystem and *(c)* conservation services in developing countries. [87476]

Hilary Benn: DFID is committed to incorporating biodiversity into development in helping to improve poor people's livelihoods and in supporting developing countries to use the benefits of biodiversity and conservation to reduce poverty.

Our major contribution to international biodiversity conservation is made through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF provides grants and concessional funds to help developing countries fund projects and programmes for sustainable management of the global environment. One third of the GEF's funds are spent on biodiversity and it is the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The UK is currently the fourth largest donor, contributing £118 million in the third replenishment period (2002-05). We are working to ensure a successful fourth replenishment.

DFID recognises that biodiversity and the ecosystems it supports have a significant contribution to make towards poverty alleviation. However, the links between biodiversity, ecosystems and poverty often remain poorly understood. DFID is involved in a number of initiatives to develop a better understanding of mechanisms to capture the value of biodiversity and ecosystems.

For instance, DFID is currently working to develop a collaborative research programme on Ecosystem Services and Poverty with the Nature Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Biodiversity will be a sub-theme within this programme.

DFID is also one of the key contributors to the Ecosystems Marketplace. It serves as a one-stop shop for information on ecosystem service markets where providers and beneficiaries of ecosystem services can get together. More information is available at: http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/. Additionally, DFID has engaged in a collaborative research project with the

UK's fourth largest fund manager—ISIS Asset Management—to examine the nature of the relationship between biodiversity and business and the associated risks.

As well as these initiatives, DFID works to ensures that its development assistance does not contribute to damage to ecosystems. Environmental Screening, mandatory for all DFID assistance greater than £1 million, identifies environmental risks and opportunities. We are currently reviewing Environmental Screening experience since 2003. This will consider compliance with procedures and the quality of screening.

We also work to ensure that there is a coherent Government approach to international biodiversity. To achieve this, an Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity (IDMGB), comprising DFID, the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers has been established.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department work on *(a)* climate change and *(b)* other environmental issues in developing countries, based (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad. [87478]

Hilary Benn: Implementing DFID's environment policy involves a range of staff, including programme managers and advisers with environment, livelihoods and infrastructure responsibilities.

DFID has 18 specialist environment posts working on climate change and environment. Of these, 12 are full-time environment posts; and six combine environment with other responsibilities, such as livelihoods or infrastructure.

In the UK, the Sustainable Development Group in Policy Division is home to ten specialist environment and natural resource posts split between three teams:

Global Environmental Assets (covering climate change, biodiversity, desertification etc.);

Environment for Sustainable Development (local environmental issues and minerals); and

Water and Energy.

Policy work on agriculture (including fisheries and forestry) is carried out by the Renewable Natural Resources and Agriculture team in Policy Division's Growth and Investment Group.

On environment in developing countries, Asia Division has a regional adviser based in the UK and advisers in China, India and Bangladesh. Africa Division has two regional advisers based in UK and one adviser based in Kenya.

In addition to its environment specialists, many of DFID's livelihoods and infrastructure advisers have relevant background or qualifications for working on environmental issues. Ten out of 38 infrastructure advisers have formal environmental professional qualifications e.g. Institution of Water and Environmental Management. Over half of our livelihoods advisers have natural resources qualifications and experience (e.g. soil science, forestry). Each group is lead by a head of profession. The head of profession environment post is currently filled on an acting basis but we will be advertising shortly. DFID's chief scientific adviser has been providing support on climate change and agriculture. This role has been formalised in his work plan for 2006-07.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many meetings he has had with other Ministers to discuss climate change and its impact on developing countries in the last 12 months. [87479]

Hilary Benn: I was a member of the ad-hoc ministerial committee on climate change established prior to the G8 summit in 2005 to give officials a steer on this issue. This group met several times in the run up to the summit. Following the G8 summit responsibility for the international dimension of the UK's climate change strategy was taken on by the ministerial committee on energy and environment (EE), chaired by the Prime Minister, of which I am a member. In late June 2006, I met with the cross-party group of MPs who are participating in the G8+5 climate change dialogue, to discuss DFID's approach to tackling climate change. Climate change has also been identified as a key priority in the UK Government's latest Development White Paper.

At a side event at the World Bank annual meetings in September 2005, the World Bank president, Paul Wolfowitz and I officially launched the energy investment framework, which is to leverage private sector investment in lower carbon energy and energy efficiency with an emphasis on developing countries, particularly those with the fastest growing energy needs. This is an important element of the G8 plan of action on climate change, clean energy and sustainable development.

At the World Bank spring meetings in April 2006 the first draft of the investment framework received broad support from development committee members.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department allocated to tackling diseases in developing countries in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by disease. [87729]

Mr. Thomas: DFID uses a range of different aid instruments, from direct support to countries to funding through multilateral agencies. It is therefore not possible to break down spending on individual communicable diseases; however it is possible to separate out AIDS from other communicable diseases.

DFID's spend on communicable diseases apart from AIDS in 2004-05 was £80 million. Recording AIDS-specific expenditure is difficult because there are a range of sectors which have an impact on the epidemic, including health, education, social development and good government. There are also a range of instruments used to channel AIDS-related development spending. DFID has been working with the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and others to review and improve these expenditure calculations. While refinements to the methodology are still in progress, DFID has reported a provisional bilateral expenditure of £350 million on AIDS for the period 2004-05.

The focus of our work in health is to help countries strengthen their health systems both to prevent and mitigate the impact of communicable diseases. Functioning systems are crucial for effectively tackling diarrhoeal diseases, pneumonia and vaccine preventable disease epidemics as well as HIV, TB and malaria. In 2004-05, the UK provided more than £360 million to support health services through our country, regional and research programmes and provided a further £110 million for health through multilateral assistance to World Health Organisation (WHO) and UN agencies.

The UK also provides general poverty reduction budget support to countries to help build basic services, including for health. We are supporting a number of innovative financing mechanisms to increase resources to tackle communicable diseases. For example, the International Finance Facility for Immunisation will raise an additional £4 billion from a number of donors for vaccines for the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisations and help support the development of new vaccines for communicable diseases that can be prevented.

Food Security (Africa)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the food security situation in *(a)* Southern Africa, *(b)* the Horn of Africa and *(c)* Western Africa. [87465]

Hilary Benn: In Southern Africa, the overall picture on food production shows a marked improvement this year compared to the 2004-05 growing season, when DFID spent more than £67 million to deliver emergency assistance to up to 11 million affected people. Urgent humanitarian needs are unlikely this year, except in Zimbabwe, where needs remain pronounced.

Malawi and Zambia are reporting excellent harvests this year, with projected maize production figures for both countries almost double the volumes recorded in 2005. This should feed into more stable prices and improved access in the coming months. Production in South Africa has decreased sharply this year—a result of depressed prices in 2005 in the domestic market—but carryover stocks from last year are high. The food security outlook for the coming year is worst in Zimbabwe. Although food production is up on last year's levels, more than 1 million Zimbabweans still require sustained assistance to help them meet their food requirements.

In West Africa, the food security situation is improved compared to 2005, although continuing humanitarian concerns persist, particularly in the Sahel. In Niger, where populations continue to struggle against the legacies of last year's crisis, up to 1.8 million people are currently facing acute difficulties in the ongoing hungry season, with up to 400,000 malnourished children expected to require nutritional therapy this year. In Mauritania, the hungry season is judged to have started early, with up to 400,000 facing acute levels of food-insecurity, particularly in the south. DFID currently has an ongoing humanitarian and hunger-related programme of assistance for the Sahel worth £4 million this year.

Prospects for recovery in the Sahel this year appear compromised by erratic, late-starting and below average rains for the current agricultural season. Elsewhere in West Africa, localised problems of food-insecurity affecting relatively few people (particularly in Guinea and Guinea Buissau) are the exception to an otherwise positive prognosis, with good rainfall expected to lead to an above-average maize crop in August.

In the Horn of Africa, DFID shares the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (UN FAO)'s recent assessment that despite improved rains in eastern Africa, food security remains poor among some communities in particular in northern and eastern Kenya, and in Somalia in many of the same areas affected by drought in 2005. In Kenya, overall prospects for the current main cereal crop are favourable, but in Somalia, the outlook is poor and output is expected to be reduced for the third consecutive year. In Eritrea, the picture is mixed. In Ethiopia, the prospects are generally good apart from in parts of the south east. The UN estimates that 7.5 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in drought-affected areas. In each of these countries high levels of malnutrition and starvation have been demonstrated among children over the past year. The areas and communities where this occurs should be the priority for food aid assistance, and humanitarian assistance more generally. DFID has committed more than £46 million of humanitarian assistance to the response since the end of 2005.

Haiti

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with the World Health Organisation on access to clean water and sanitation in Haiti. [85998]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* DFID regularly discusses water and sanitation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) through the Joint Monitoring Programme implemented by WHO and UNICEF, which provides data on access to safe water and basic sanitation. However, we have not had any recent specific discussions on Haiti.

Java

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided in response to the earthquake that struck Java in May. [87285]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has so far given £5 million to relief agencies working to address the urgent humanitarian needs of people affected by the earthquake that struck Java in May. That support includes £1 million for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to pay for the provision of emergency relief supplies. The rest of the money is being spent through various UN and non-governmental organisations to provide medical supplies and services, shelter and water and sanitation.

DFID recently committed a further £5 million for the longer-term reconstruction of the area of Java affected by the earthquake. DFID is now working with the Indonesian Government and other agencies to develop a plan to rebuild as quickly and as safely as possible, and to ensure that new buildings are suitably earthquake-resistant so as to avoid a future disaster of this scale.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given the Java island following the tsunami; and if he will make a statement. [87665]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not provided any assistance in the wake of the tsunami in Central and West Java because the Government of Indonesia has stated that it does not require international assistance. The Indonesian Minister of People's Welfare has provided 750 million Indonesian Rupiah (80 million US Dollars) to the local government in Ciasmis, West Java and 250 million Indonesian Rupiah (27 million US Dollars) to the local government in Cilacap, Central Java for their emergency response.

DFID staff in Jakarta and London continue to monitor the situation and are ready to provide assistance if it is needed.

Lebanon

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was granted to Lebanon in each of the last five years; and how these funds were allocated. [88124]

Hilary Benn: The UK channels most of its aid to Lebanon through the EC and the UN. The multilateral figures are based on UK core contributions to the EC and the UN. The UK has also provided some bilateral support to Lebanon, largely through the 'Small Grants scheme' administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

	Multilateral (£ million)			*Bilateral, (£ million)*			
	EC	*UN*	*Total multilateral*	*Grants and other aid in kind*	*Humanitarian assistance*	*Total bilateral*	*Grand total*
2000-01	5.4	4.1	9.4	0.23	0.407	0.636	10.08
2001-02	1.1	5.3	6.4	0.111	0	0.111	6.48
2002-03	1.8	4.5	6.2	0.232	0	0.232	6.45
2003-04	3.7	4.2	7.9	0.102	0	0.102	8.04
2004-05	6.9	7.9	14.8	0.297	0	0.297	15.06

Over the last five years, DFID has also made significant contributions to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon including through the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) (£4.2 million this year). UNRWA's activities supporting mainly the basic needs of Palestinian refugees providing camp facilities, health, education and food aid and job creation activities.

The World Bank also maintains a significant loan portfolio in Lebanon, but this in not concessional and therefore does not qualify as aid.

Middle East (Project Funding)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department is funding in *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* Lebanon, *(c)* Israel and *(d)* Syria; and if he will make a statement. [87328]

Hilary Benn: We are supporting the following projects and activities in Sudan:

Humanitarian projects

UN-managed Common Humanitarian Fund, plus support for UN sector co-ordination

Humanitarian programmes of Non Governmental Organisations

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Development projects

World Bank-managed Multi Donor Trust Funds (National and South), plus consultancy support

Basic Services Fund for Southern Sudan

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Local Government Recovery project

Safety, Security and Access to Justice programme (Southern Sudan)

Christian Aid: National Strategy

Capacity Building for Government of Southern Sudan

UNICEF: Support for Strengthening Water Sector Capacity in Southern Sudan

Malaria Consortium National Response

Ockenden International: Partnership for Peace

Capacity building for Debt Management

Rift Valley Institute

GOAL: Female Literacy and Empowerment

Scholarships programme

UNDP: Strategic Partnership Arrangement

Support for UN/ World Bank Darfur needs assessment

BBC World Service Trust: Darfur Lifeline Radio

Tufts Institute: Research on livelihoods in Darfur

Peace building

PACT: Southern Sudanese Pre-Interim Transition to Peace

UNDP : Support for Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR)

Security Sector Adviser

International Military Advisers Team

Peace Building Fund

Support for East Sudan Talks

Support for Africa Union information campaign

Support for the Africa Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS)

Responding to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, and working to underpin the Comprehensive and the

Darfur Peace Agreements are among DFID's top priorities. This is reflected in the projects that DFID is supporting.

DFID does not fund any projects in Israel. The Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP), run jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and DFID, is funding the following projects in or involving Israel:

Peace Now Settlement Watch

Ir Amin—Advocacy project on the status of Jerusalem

Economic Co-operation Foundation—Gaza Disengagement

Council for Peace and Security—Advocacy work on Israeli separation

HaMoKed/B'Tselem—Freedom of movement for Palestinians

Palestinian media activities in support of the Roadmap (joint GCPP/USAID)

Ah Hoc Liaison Committee

EXACT—Management of Shared Water Resources to Reduce Pollution Risks

DFID has no bilateral programme with Lebanon or Syria but GCPP currently funds one project in Lebanon.

Police and Justice Sector Reform—Training courses for the Lebanese Internal Security Forces.

Millennium Development Goals

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department measures progress against the Millennium Development Goals in relation to countries where data on performance in key sectors is missing or incomplete. [86032]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* DFID uses international data from the World Bank and the United Nations to assess progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the countries in which it has a programme. It is not possible to assess progress towards the MDGs in countries where data on performance in key sectors is missing or incomplete. In such countries, DFID will identify other ways to measure progress. For example, DFID might use targets contained in partner government national strategies as the basis on which progress is assessed. In some countries, sample surveys conducted through DFID projects or by other agencies provide useful data on which assessments of progress can be made.

DFID is working with many partner countries and with international institutions to improve the quality of the data that are available to measure progress, so that the number of cases of incomplete or missing data are reduced. This includes working with the PARIS 21 (Partnerships in Statistics for Development for the 21st Century) consortium of donors, partner countries and multilateral agencies to raise awareness of the problems linked to inadequate statistics.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; and if his Department will fund a future Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. [87477]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provided funding to the International Institute for Environment and Development of approximately £68,000 for lead co-ordination of a forests working group of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and contributions on climate change. DFID recognises the importance of the Assessment and it informed development of our own environmental policy. As far as we know there are no plans to undertake another Assessment so soon after the previous one. We would consider possible support to such an initiative should this decision be made.

Palestine

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects in the Palestinian Territories funded by *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* the European Union were damaged or destroyed by Israeli military action in the month prior to 19 July. [88156]

Hilary Benn: Because of military activity, aid agencies currently face difficulty assessing the extent of damage to facilities in the Gaza Strip. However, initial reports from northern Gaza indicate that four schools and one clinic provided for Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have sustained heavy damages. Fifty seven empty food containers leased by UNRWA have also been damaged at a cost of £31,000. The European Community and EU member states collectively provide more than half of UNRWA's core funding and two of the damaged schools were specifically financed from European Community funds.

The main entrance bridge to Beit Hanun was partially destroyed by an Israeli air strike on 9 July. The bridge was built in 2004 with £205,000 in funding from the European Community.

Paraguay

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Government of Paraguay on *(a)* debt bondage affecting indigenous peoples in the Chaco and *(b)* the trafficking of human beings and the system known as criadazgo affecting child domestic workers; and whether the Department is supporting projects in Paraguay to tackle these problems. [86342]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is not funding projects nor had discussions with the Government of Paraguay on the problems of debt bondage affecting indigenous people in the Chaco or on the trafficking of human beings.

Pharmaceuticals (Developing Nations)

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the classification of returned

medicines under the Hazardous Waste Regulations on the provision of pharmaceutical treatments to developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [86324]

Hilary Benn: When returned medicines have been sent abroad to developing countries in the past, they have caused a number of problems in receiving countries. This has been because of quality and labelling issues, the medicines were not always the ones wanted, and the cost of sorting and then disposing of the useless products.

The classification of mixed, returned medicines as waste will provide a barrier to the export of unwanted, poor quality and mislabelled drugs and medicines to developing countries. It also encourages the rigorous inspection and sorting of these wastes, so that properly labelled, quality-assured medicines can be separated out and sent to those developing countries that need them.

PR Agencies

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on using public affairs and public relations agencies in each of the last two years; and on what projects in each case. [84820]

Mr. Thomas: In the last two years, the following three projects using public affairs or public relations agencies were commissioned centrally by DFID at a total cost of £223,509.19.

Corporate Communications

June to September 2004

Agency: COI

Total Cost: £16,890.63

Project: To provide DFID with a corporate communications strategy and three-year plan. COI developed communication objectives, strategies and plans that would help achieve DFID's organisational objectives.

Asia 2015

November 2005 to March 2006

Agency: Weber Shandwick

Total Cost: £203,918.56

Project: To support the Asia 2015 conference with media relations in both the UK and throughout key markets in Asia, specifically India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

St. Helena

April 2006

Agency: Capricorn Videos

Total Cost: £2,700

Project: To record the DFID Public Information and Consultation Week in April 2006 in order to produce a two-hour film for local television.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83174]

Hilary Benn: DFID currently has 17 public appointments that are the responsibility of Secretary of State for International Development. This comprises two members of the Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board and 15 members of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. The Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) currently receives £5,000 per annum. An honoraria of £200 is paid to those CSC Board members who participate in selection boards for awarding scholarships. Additionally, CSC Board members receive remuneration for travel expenses. The members of the Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board attract no emoluments.

In the past, the only members of a public body within the patronage of DFID, who received more than expenses, were those appointed to the Board of the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). The CDC transformed from a statutory corporation into a public limited company in December 1999. The last salary information we have for the CDC is for 1999 when the Chair received £30,000, the Deputy £10,000 and Board members (five in total) received £7,500 per annum.

Details of the public appointments to public bodies sponsored by the Department for International Development can be found in Public Bodies, copies of which are in the Library. Public Bodies has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of Public Bodies contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. Comparable information for 1976 in respect of those bodies sponsored by DFID could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Somalia

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* humanitarian and *(b)* security situation in Somalia. [87470]

Hilary Benn: We keep the humanitarian situation in Somalia under constant review. There have been a number of assessment visits this year with DFID participation, and I visited the drought-affected area around Wajid myself in May.

The main concern remains the effect of the drought in some areas of the South. The conflict in Mogadishu and beyond between Somali warlords and Islamic Courts, which now threatens to involve others, is also having humanitarian repercussions as people's lives are disrupted by the fighting. It appears that for the time being, Mogadishu is no longer contested and that people are now able to go about their business more freely. The UN estimates that approximately 1.7 million people require relief assistance in Somalia. The main rains have been better than last year, but still a long way short of the quantities and distribution needed to produce a satisfactory harvest and recovery of pasture. The UK is currently the second biggest donor of humanitarian assistance having committed £13.2 million since the onset of the drought. This includes support to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who are providing drought relief

assistance and directly addressing the effects of the previous fighting in Mogadishu where they run hospitals treating the wounded.

The security situation in Somalia is extremely fragile. The past few months have seen heavy fighting in Mogadishu. With the Islamic Courts' victory over the warlords, the situation in the city appears to have largely stabilised. However, there is a continued threat of conflict between the Transitional Federal Government based in Baidoa and the Islamic Courts which could destabilise the whole country and region, and draw in regional states. We are urging all national and regional parties to show restraint and commit themselves to resolve the situation through dialogue. We strongly support continuation of the Arab League sponsored dialogue between the Transitional Federal Institutions and the Islamic Courts in Khartoum.

The northern parts of Somalia remain relatively stable.

Sudan

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* humanitarian and *(b)* security situation in the Sudan, broken down by region. [87469]

Hilary Benn: The information is as follows:

Darfur.

The humanitarian situation in Darfur continues to be of concern. The ability of agencies to access and deliver assistance to affected populations has become increasingly difficult because of banditry, inter-SLA factional fighting and attacks on civilians and NGO staff. In North Darfur, the recent fighting between SLA factions has led to an estimated 15-18,000 people displaced, adding to the 250,000 displaced since the start of 2006. While humanitarian indicators (health, mortality, malnutrition etc.) have remained relatively stable in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, the oncoming rainy season and the increasing instability threatens to undermine the progress made.

East.

The issue of access for humanitarian agencies is also a significant problem in the East. The World Food Programme (WFP) has propositioned food stocks in anticipation of both the rains and further access difficulties.

South.

The UN estimate that about 500,000 displaced people returned to the South from within Sudan and neighbouring countries over the last dry season (October-May). The flow of returnees has slowed in recent weeks due to the onset of the rains. Provision of basic services and the establishment of sustainable livelihoods for returnees and others in the South is a major challenge. There has been a predicted seasonal surge in malaria and other disease in the South, but the cholera outbreak has largely been brought under control.

DFID Humanitarian Program.

DFID is providing £67 million this financial year to humanitarian activities in Sudan. In Darfur, we are the second largest bilateral donor with £126 million given in humanitarian assistance since 2003. A major part of our funding this year (£49 million) is for the Common Humanitarian Fund, a pioneering mechanism allowing the Humanitarian Co-ordinator to fund the highest priorities across Sudan. We also continue to lobby the Government of Sudan on allowing full and unimpeded access for humanitarian agencies throughout Darfur and the rest of Sudan.

Security information is as follows:

Darfur.

The situation remains fragile. Fighting continues between different rebel groups as well as tribal militias, particularly around Sir Maza, Tawilla and Kutum in North Darfur and Greida in South Darfur. Banditry is an ongoing problem, especially in West Darfur.

East.

Some isolated clashes have been reported, but overall the situation is calm at present. The SPLM forces withdrawal from Hamesh Korei has been peaceful. However, there is some tension along the border between Sudan and Eritrea. We hope that the current talks in Asmara will lead to lasting security in the region.

South.

Much of Southern Sudan remains volatile. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has re-established a presence in the far South. Recent tribal clashes in Lakes State reportedly left 60 dead. Lawlessness remains a problem.

Khartoum/North.

The situation is calm at present. We condemn the recent attack on Hamrat ash-Sheikh in North Kordofan, and any attempt to spread violence from Darfur further afield.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to tackle the shortage of water in Darfur. [88112]

Hilary Benn: Water access and management are root causes of the conflict in Darfur DFID's expenditure for water and sanitation in Sudan is approximately £17 million per year, which accounts for approximately half of DFID's total water and sanitation expenditure in Africa. The bulk of these funds are provided as humanitarian support channelled through the Common Humanitarian Fund and NGOs. We are also providing direct support to UNICEF, which is a key donor for the water sector.

Water will be a core issue for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed in early May 2006. A UN/World Bank-led Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) was launched in June to plan the recovery and development process for Darfur. Water will be an important issue that they will consider when formulating their plans, which will be presented to donors at a pledging conference in October. The UK has provided technical experts for the JAM and £360,000 for its administration costs. The JAM's conclusions will shape our future support for Darfur. We stand ready to be a major partner in its recovery and development.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will assess the outcome of the Brussels Conference on Darfur, and what additional resources have been pledged. [88113]

Hilary Benn: The EU estimates that at least $186 million was pledged to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) at a Donors' Conference in Brussels on 18 July, though they are still finalising the total figure. This is a very creditable result. The UK re-affirmed its pledge of £20 million for AMIS for this financial year. We stand ready to go on pressing others to contribute more should it prove necessary.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* helicopters and *(b)* armoured vehicles have been lent to the African Union Mission in Sudan. [88114]

Hilary Benn: The Canadian Government have supplied 105 armoured personnel carriers and 25 helicopters, providing 1,200 helicopter flying hrs per month to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Canada has recently announced it would also contribute a further 200 helicopter flying hours per month. We are not aware that any other helicopters or armoured vehicles have been lent to AMIS.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what strategies have been put in place to protect women from violence in Darfur, with particular reference to those residing in camps. [88115]

Hilary Benn: The African Union mission in Darfur (AMIS) co-ordinates firewood patrols to provide protection for women when they leave camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Where this is happening the number of reported rapes has decreased significantly, and we are encouraging the African Union (AU) to promote this practice. AMIS also has civilian police presence in many IDP camps and we are urging AMIS within its resources to prioritise the civilian protection elements of its mandate.

We have made, and continue to make clear, to the Government of Sudan that more must be done to provide security for the citizens of Darfur, and that perpetrators of such crimes must be brought to justice. In late December 2005, the UK participated in a mission to assess human rights in West Darfur consisting of representatives of the Government of Sudan, the UN and international community. The mission paid specific attention to gender based violence, and produced a number of recommendations. We are pressing the Government of Sudan to implement these recommendations as a matter of urgency. Transfer to a UN mission in Darfur, which the UK supports, would also help deal with the problems.

Technical Assistance

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department *(a)* has allocated in each of the last three financial years and *(b)* plans to allocate in each of the next three financial years to technical assistance. [84138]

Hilary Benn: Technical assistance is the provision of know-how in the form of personnel, training, research and associated costs.

Expenditure on technical assistance for last three years is as follows:

£000

Category of Technical Assistance (TA)	*2002-03*	*As percentage of total TA*	*2003-04*	*As percentage of total TA*	*2004-05*	*As percentage of total TA*
Consultancies	221,984	40	215,321	45	218,871	46
Training and Scholarships	29,400	5	23,123	5	24,355	5
Knowledge and Research	217,059	39	185,283	38	169,162	36
Other	89,540	16	58,321	12	62,887	13
Total Technical Assistance	557,983	—	482,048	—	475,275	—

The final statistics for 2005-06 will be published in "Statistics on International Development 2006" in October 2006.

Future plans for DFID spending are set out in Annex 1, Table 4 of DFID's latest Departmental Report, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. We do not set planning figures for Technical Assistance.

Treaty of Amsterdam

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the deliberations of the Treaty of Amsterdam Article 133 Committee since 1997. [79788]

Mr. McCartney: I have been asked to reply.

There are no formal minutes of the meetings of the Article 133 Committee. However the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union produces "outcomes of proceedings" from Article 133 Committee meetings and these are accessible in accordance with Council Regulation 1049/2001 (Regulation of the European Parliament and Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents) through the Council's website at http://ue.eu.int.

UN Central Emergency Response Fund

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding has been pledged to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund for 2007 by *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* G8 countries. [87467]

Hilary Benn: The UK has disbursed £40 million to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for year 2006. The UK has pledged a further £40 million per annum for the next three years (ie in total the UK will provide £160 million over four years).

The European Commission has made no commitments to the CERF. A number of European Union member states have made commitments for 2006. They are: UK £40 million/$70 million, Sweden $41 million, Netherlands $24 million, Ireland $12 million, Spain $10 million, Denmark $8.5 million, Finland $4.7 million, Luxembourg $4 million, France $1.2 million, Belgium $1.2 million, Portugal $254,000, Poland $250,000, Greece $100,000, Estonia $24,000, and Slovenia $10,000. The UK is the only EU member state to have announced commitments beyond the current year.

Five G8 countries have made commitments to the CERF. For this year the commitments are: UK £40 million/$70 million, Canada $17 million, Japan $7.5 million, France $1.2 million. The US has committed $5 million for fiscal year 2006 and $5 million for fiscal year 2007. The UK is the only other G8 country to have announced commitments beyond the current year.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts on their *(a)* current and *(b)* planned contributions to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. [87468]

Hilary Benn: During the development of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), my officials and I had discussions with various G8 countries at bilateral and international meetings and by telephone. Five G8 members—UK, Canada, US, Japan and France have committed funds to the CERF and I continue to encourage other countries to contribute.

At the launch of DFID's Humanitarian Policy at the British Red Cross Headquarters on 7 June, I announced future UK funding commitments to the CERF. On top of the £40 million provided this year, I have pledged a further £40 million per annum for the next three years (i.e. in total the UK will provide £160 million over four years). I hope this will encourage others to commit future funding, and I will raise this issue with other G8 countries at appropriate opportunities.

Water

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the provision of piped water connections to provide water to the urban poor and *(b)* other forms of water provision; and if he will make a statement. [85801]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* DFID helps developing country governments to implement their own plans for provision of water and sanitation, which include both piped and public or communal provision to safe water, as appropriate. DFID provides direct financing and technical know-how. We also support the international system, particularly the UN to gather data on access to safe water and basic sanitation. In most countries, access to water and sanitation is better in urban areas than it is in rural. Access to water may be through house connections or through public connections close to the home.

The urban population in Africa will increase from 300 million to 500 million between 2000 and 2015 and in Asia from 1.35 billion to 2 billion. This rapid growth in urban populations will pose severe problems to our partner governments including that of increasing access to water and sanitation. DFID has urban water and sanitation projects in Ghana, Nigeria, India and Bangladesh and our International Division supports the Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor to deliver sustainable water and sanitation to low-income urban and peri-urban communities. DFID is committed to doubling spending on water in Africa to £95 million by 2008 and a further doubling to £200 million by 2011. We are now actively involved in seven African countries (Ethiopia, the DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia), up from only two years ago; and through our funding of other agencies' programmes, we reach many other countries. For example the EU plans to provide 10 million people with access to water and a further 5 million to sanitation by 2010 through projects it has recently approved through the Water Facility.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on assistance on water provision in cities in the developing world since 1997. [85803]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* DFID commissioned an independent report on its expenditure on water and sanitation in the developing world. This report, "Financial Support to the Water Sector", was produced by Atkins Consultants and is publicly available at http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/water-sector-finance.pdf. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, in response to previous related parliamentary questions.

The report presents a breakdown of expenditure by region, country and theme. In 2001-02, the first year for which an urban/rural breakdown is available, £35.8 million of DFID's bilateral water expenditure was spent on 'Urban water supply and sanitation'. In subsequent years there was a shift to rural activities. Bilateral urban water and sanitation expenditure was £29 million in 2003-04. A proportion of DFID's contributions to multilateral, civil society organisations and Poverty Reduction Budget Support will also be spent on water provision in developing world cities, but it is not possible to break this expenditure down by theme.

An update of the report, with details of expenditure for 2004-05 and 2005-06 will be published in autumn 2006.

Women's Rights

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes are funded by his Department on *(a)* women's rights, *(b)* equality issues and *(c)* domestic violence prevention in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [86481]

Hilary Benn: DFID currently has two programmes supporting civil society in Iraq in promoting women's rights and equality issues, among other aspects.

Our £5 million Civil Society Fund supports international (mainly UK) Non Governmental Organisations to work with Iraqi counterparts. As part of this we are working with Women for Women International in Iraq to build women's leadership capacity, awareness of rights and the capacity to transfer knowledge and skills to the community more broadly. The Civil Society Fund also provides funding for the Women's National Commission's Internship project, which is working with women to engage with the Iraqi Government, by contributing to better and more inclusive, policies affecting women.

Our £7.5 million Political Participation Fund works directly with a range of Iraqi civil society organisations to help them engage in the political process and has supported a number of Iraqi women's groups in improving the political awareness and participation of women in Iraq's constitutional processes, including its recent elections.

We have not funded specific projects in Iraq on domestic violence prevention.

Afghanistan

DFID supports the role of women in all aspects of Afghan society. The strategy we are working towards is the Interim Afghan National Development Strategy (I-ANDS).

The I-ANDS recognises gender as a key cross cutting theme. Development of the full ANDS will ensure that these important issues are adequately addressed across the board. DFID are also funding the Government's National Programmes which include support to enhancing the role of women at community level. For example, the National Solidarity Programme ensures that women are engaged in determining community development priorities through the formation of Community Development Councils. We also support the Micro-finance Investment Support Facility of Afghanistan (MISFA), currently working in 18 provinces and plans to be active in all 34 by end of 2007. 80 per cent. of MISFA's beneficiaries are women.

DFID supports equal rights for all the citizens of Afghanistan. At the national level we provided support to the drafting of the new constitution, which has successfully protected the rights of women and minority ethnic groups before the law. DFID provided significant funding for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections which have been a milestone for Afghanistan. A wide choice of candidates existed from a variety of ethnic, social and political backgrounds. A high number of women also registered as candidates and participated as voters (43 per cent. of voters were women).

DFID has not funded specific projects that target domestic violence in Afghanistan. However the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), through the Global Opportunities Fund is sponsoring a number of projects specifically designed to increase women's access to justice, improve their living standards, promote women's equal participation in governance, create a professional network of women's rights organisations and promote access to information through the radio.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87055]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure on advertising by the Department procured through Central Office of Information (COI) for 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, was £9.4 million, £6.1 million, £11.5 million, £4.1 million. Figures exclude VAT. The following table contains details. The Department does not hold information on other campaigns centrally, including those by non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), and to do so would entail disproportionate cost. In addition to provide information against each entry on the intended audience and purpose of the campaign, would again entail disproportionate costs.

	£
2000-01	
DTI Miscellaneous	4,606
National Minimum Wage	595,994
Import Licence Announcements	45,517
Export Licence Announcements	15,992
Small Business Services	85,647
Distance Selling	16,366
Minimum Wage Autumn 2000	2,932,365
Miners Compensation Ad	134,674
UK Online for Business 2000-01	1,588,626
Smart Awards 2000-01	138,266
Paid Annual Leave	2,751,032
Carbon Monoxide	37,520
Small Business Service—Business Link	1,082,657
Total	9,429,262
2001-02	
Export Licence Announcement	10,547
Import Licence Announcement	55,632
Business Link Foot and Mouth	202,731
SBS—Business Link	1,511,010
Quality Mark Scheme	626,426
National Minimum Wage	310,330
UK Online for Business	1,601,668
E Business Week	114,194
UK Online for Business—Supplement	387,645
DTI Consumer Gateway	65,717
Slips, Trips and Broken Hips	249,164
DTI Miscellaneous	137,416
Business Link	598,970
Quality Mark Scheme	249,645
Total	6,121,095
2002-03	
UK Online for Business 2002-03	3,393,124
Export Licence Announcements 2002-03	10,131
Import Licence Announcements 2002-03	88,685
DTI Miscellaneous 2002-03	337,859
UK Online for Business—Supplement 2002-03	153,384
SBS Business Link	5,395,254

	£
Fireworks Campaign 2002-03	181,966
National Minimum Wage 2002-03	299,443
SBS Recruitment Advertising	14,537
Parental Rights 2002-03	718,718
DTI Consumer Gateway 2002-03	74,887
Quality Mark 2002-03	779,817
Ex-Miners Compensation 2002-03	85,559
Total	11,533,364
2003-04	
Parental Rights 2003-04	1,106,186
Import Licence Announcements 2003-04	130,470
Ex Miner Compensation 2003-04	384,875
SBS Public Notice Advertising 2003-04	84,778
SBS Business Link 2003-04	882,188
DTI National Minimum Wage 2003-04	306,360
Quality Mark Scheme 2003-04	189,973
DTI EERA 13 2003-04	422,177
DTI UK Online for Business 2003-04	163,965
DTI Fireworks SMS Internet 2003-04	18,603
DTI UK Online for Business Internet 2003-04	230,914
DTI Consumer Gateway Internet 2003-04	37,686
UK Trade and Investment 2003-04	194,784
SBS Keyword 2003-04	20,799
Total	4,173,758

Air Conditioning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and which buildings occupied by his Department have air conditioning installed; what plans he has to install further air conditioning in his Department's buildings; and if he will make a statement. [87107]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Of the 15 buildings currently occupied by the Department (either leased commercially or as a tenant of another government body), the following have centralised cooling or air conditioning systems: 1 Victoria Street, London SW1; 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1; Kingsgate House, London SW1; Amberley House, Gloucester; Tay House, Glasgow.

The Department has no plan to install further air conditioning systems. 1 Victoria Street, the DTI's main building, was designed as an energy efficient building with triple glazing, motorised blinds to limit solar gain and a passive chilled ceiling cooling system.

Airbus Consortium

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in states in the Airbus consortium; and if he will make a statement. [86723]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, met his counterparts at a meeting at the Farnborough Air Show on 17 July. A copy of the communiqué issued at that meeting is as follows:

Airbus Ministerial Meeting at Farnborough International Air Show 2006, Monday 17 July

Communiqué text:

The Ministers of France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom responsible for the civil aerospace industry held their regular meeting at the Farnborough International Air Show on Monday 17 July 2006.

The meeting was chaired by Alistair DARLING MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Also present were Dominique PERBEN, French Minister for Transport, Equipment, Tourism and the Sea; Georg Wilhelm ADAMOWITSCH, German State Secretary for Economics; Jose MONTILLA, Spanish Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade; and Margaret HODGE MP, British Minister for Industry and the Regions. The industry was represented by Christian STREIFF, and the representatives of the Airbus shareholder committee, Thomas ENDERS, Louis GALLOIS and Francisco FERNANDEZ SAINZ for EADS and Mike TURNER for BAE Systems Plc. The Ministers offered their best wishes to the new management team of Airbus and EADS.

Airbus made a presentation on the status of the A380 including an explanation of the industrial issues that have led to some delay in the delivery schedule for the aircraft and the steps Airbus is taking to remedy the situation. Ministers noted this presentation and expressed their confidence in the ability of Airbus management to address these industrial issues and in the commercial success of the A380 programme.

The Ministers welcomed Airbus' response to the market and its intention to launch an all-new family of widebody aircraft. The Ministers confirmed their commitment to support the European aerospace industry. They reaffirmed their agreement to support Airbus to continue to innovate and to develop programmes in the context of international competition.

The Ministers once again expressed their desire for a negotiated solution to the current WTO dispute, but stressed the need for a balanced outcome regarding support for both current and future programmes so as to ensure a level playing field.

Animal Welfare

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made in implementing the proposals put forward by the Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals with respect to the trading of cat and dog fur and derived products. [88208]

Mr. McCartney: Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Kyprianou stated at the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 20 February that the European Commission was planning to publish a proposal on the import of cat and dog fur within the next few months. We are currently awaiting that proposal.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of how much cat and dog fur has been imported into Britain in the last 12 months. [88212]

Mr. McCartney: No evidence of significant imports has been brought to my attention. The UK has requested that a separate tariff code be introduced by the EU so that the level of such imports can be accurately assessed.

Area Assistance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his Department's paper of 10 July 2006 on the Review of UK Assisted Areas Stage 2—The Government's response and draft assisted areas map, what average *(a)* level of manufacturing share of employment, *(b)* claimant rate of incapacity benefit, *(c)* employment rate and *(d)* level of adult skills at level 2 and above in (i) Great Britain, (ii) each ward of Scottish Borders council area, (iii) each ward of Dumfries and Galloway council area and (iv) each ward of Berwick borough council area were used to assess future eligibility for assistance; and what the (A) half a standard deviation and (B) full standard deviation (1) above and (2) below the Great Britain average are. [87356]

Margaret Hodge: The data for Great Britain, including wards in the Scottish Border council, Dumfries and Galloway council and Berwick borough council areas are available from the sources specified. The description gives a full definition of the data used in prioritising assisted area coverage in the Draft Map, including the thresholds related to the Great Britain average and standard deviation. The Department will place this information on its website, at

http://www.dti.gov.uk/regional/assisted-areas/assisted-areas-review/page24618.html.

Data have been built up from ward level, using census area statistics wards (2003 CAS wards). Where possible, averages of the three most recent years' data have been used.

Employment rate

Ward level data from 2001 census have been used—working age population in employment (ILO definition) divided by total working age population (Source: NOMIS).

To construct more recent estimates, numerators have been factored by local authority estimates of employment rate, using four-quarterly averages from the labour force survey (Source: NOMIS). The base year is taken as March 2001 to February 2002. A three-year average has been taken of these derived estimates, using the years March 2002 to February 2003, March 2003 to February 2004 and March 2004 to February 2005.

The Great Britain average on this basis was 69.2 per cent. with a standard deviation of 6.4 per cent. Therefore the thresholds for eligibility of a zone were:

half a standard deviation: employment rate less than 66.0 per cent.

one standard deviation: employment rate less than 62.8 per cent.

Adult skills at level 2 or above

Ward level data from 2001 census have been used—working age population with NVQ Level 2 qualification (or equivalent) or higher, divided by total working age population (Source: NOMIS).

To construct more recent estimates, numerators have been factored by local authority estimates of working age Level 2+ skills rate, using the local area labour force survey (Source: NOMIS). The base year is taken as March 2001—February 2002. A three-year average has been taken of these derived estimates, using the years March 2001 to February 2002, March 2002 to February 2003 and March 2003 to February 2004.

The Great Britain average on this basis was 52.2 per cent. with a standard deviation of 7.5 per cent. Therefore the thresholds for eligibility of a zone were:

half a standard deviation: Level 2+ skills rate less than 48.5 per cent.

one standard deviation: Level 2+ skills rate less than 44.8 per cent

Incapacity Benefit claimants

Administrative data are available at ward level from the Department of Work and Pensions. The series used includes both incapacity benefit claimants and severe disablement allowance claimants. The claimant count denominator has been used (Source: NOMIS).

A three-year average has been taken, using data from November 2003, November 2004 and November 2005.

The Great Britain average on this basis was 7.9 per cent. with a standard deviation of 3.4 per cent. Therefore the thresholds for eligibility of a zone were:

half a standard deviation: IB claimant rate greater than 9.7 per cent.

one standard deviation: IB claimant rate greater than 11.4 per cent.

Manufacturing share of employment

Data are taken from the Annual Business Inquiry employee analysis (Source: NOMIS). Rates are constructed as employment in Manufacturing (Standard Industrial Classification code D) divided by employment in all industrial sectors.

Only two years' data are available for 2003 CAS wards. Therefore a two-year average has been taken, using data from 2003 and 2004.

The Great Britain average on this basis was 12.3 per cent. with a standard deviation of 5.9 per cent. Therefore the thresholds for eligibility of a zone were:

half a standard deviation: manufacturing share of employment greater than 15.3 per cent.

one standard deviation: manufacturing share of employment greater than18.2 per cent.

Sources:

All data used are publicly available. Data can be obtained through the following websites:

NOMIS

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

Department of Work and Pensions

http://www.dwp. gov.uk/asd/tabtool. asp

General Register Office for Scotland (for Scottish Census data)

http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm/index .html

Bank and Shop Closures

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact of the closure of post offices, bank branches and independent retail shops in Nottingham South and in the East Midlands on the *(a)* frequency, *(b)* distance and *(c)* mode of transport of journeys by customers; and what assessment he has made of the impact of such closures on the level of (i) environmental emissions and (ii) traffic congestion. [79225]

Margaret Hodge: All local transport authorities are required to develop plans, termed Accessibility Strategies, to ensure that citizens have ease of access to facilities and amenities in their area. These are part of the Local Transport Plan process and Accessibility Strategies were submitted to Department for Transport as part of the second round of Local Transport Plans in March 2006.

Department for Transport issued guidance to local transport authorities in December 2004 that highlighted food and essential services such as supermarkets, post offices and banks as being destinations that local transport authorities should consider as part of the process. Authorities were asked to prioritise the analysis of, and actions to promote, accessibility to these local services alongside other destinations such as access to employment. Accessibility Strategies contain a forward programme of analysis and action based on this prioritisation process.

The South Nottinghamshire area is covered by the Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan, which is jointly developed by Nottingham city council and Nottinghamshire county council. In the development of the associated Accessibility Strategy, a workshop was held in 2005 relating to access to food and essential services and included discussion of closures, cost of travel, relative infrequency of public transport in rural areas, and availability of information on transport types. The Post Office consumer group, Postwatch, were also consulted as part of this work.

Department for Transport expects local transport authorities to develop detailed Local Accessibility Action Plans for each year of the plan period to 2010-11, based on the priorities identified through the themed workshops and discussions with partners.

Bankruptcy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people have declared themselves bankrupt in each London borough since 1997. [87779]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table records the numbers of individual bankruptcy orders in the London Region classified according to Official Receivers' offices from 1997-98 to 2005-06.

Figures are not separately available for each London borough.

Bankruptcies recorded in London Region 1997-98 to 2005-06[1, 2]

	Number
1997-98	1,444
1998-99	1,380
1999-2000	1,290
2000-01	1,298
2001-02	1,421
2002-03	1,562
2003-04	2,132
2004-05	[3]4,910
2005-06	[4]6,699

[1] Croydon Official Receiver's Office is classified under London Region for 2004-05 and 2005-06 only, when it accounted for 1,678 and 2,446 bankruptcies respectively.
[2] The latest two years figures also include Public Interest Unit (PIU) and Carousel, which together amount to 18 bankruptcies in 2004-05 and 18 in 2005-06.
[3] 3,232 excl Croydon)
[4] 4,253 excl Croydon)

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of farmers who went bankrupt in England in each of the last five years. [88737]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The closest available estimate for bankruptcies amongst self-employed farmers is that for bankruptcies falling under the category "agriculture" according to the Insolvency Trade Classification and these can be found in the following table:

Bankruptcies in England and Wales for Agriculture, 2001 to 2005

	Bankruptcy orders
2001	183
2002	132
2003	151
2004	204
2005	195

BCCI

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many members of staff in the Insolvency Service are involved in dealing with the BCCI case; and what costs the Insolvency Service has incurred to date in relation to the case. [87168]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No individual member of staff of the Insolvency Service is continuously involved in work related to the liquidation of BCCI but staff are deployed as and when required in dealing with inquiries, correspondence and receiving reports from and discussing issues with the liquidators. The cost of the involvement of Insolvency Service staff in work related to BCCI since 1991 could only be calculated as disproportionate cost.

Local Better Regulation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for powers for the proposed Local Better Regulation Office to inspect local authorities' environmental health and trading standards departments. [85732]

Mr. McCartney: The Local Better Regulation Office will have a role overseeing and co-ordinating the work of trading standards and environmental health. The Local Better Regulation Office will work in partnership with local authorities and will not micro manage environmental health and trading standards departments. Its roles will include delivering a coordinated set of national priorities across trading standards and environmental health services; driving up performance standards within the wider local government performance framework; gathering evidence and responding to the concerns of business and local authorities about inconsistencies in the enforcement of regulation; driving best practice to

reduce unnecessary burdens and establishing common frameworks where they add value. The Government will make an announcement on the powers LBRO will have later this year.

Broadband

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Government's definition of broadband was last changed; what criteria were applied to the decision; and if he will make a statement. [86135]

Margaret Hodge: We use the Office of Telecommunications' (Ofcom) definition, published in their report "Review of the Wholesale Broadband Access Markets" of May 2004 as "higher bandwidth, always-on service, offering data rates of 128kbps and above". This definition is used to measure take-up of the dynamic range of services available to residential and business consumers that are classed by the industry as broadband and to make comparisons with other European countries.

DTI focuses on the uses for broadband, encourages take-up of services and the applications it provides. To that end, we are working with industry and other interested parties through the Broadband Stakeholders Group to assist and advise us in supporting end users needs in a converged digital world. On 1 April 2005 we launched 'Connecting the UK: the Digital Strategy'. The strategy outlines the policy focus towards stimulating effective take-up and use of ICT. The strategy aims to address the digital divide that currently sees some groups excluded from the benefits to be gained from the internet.

The UK has over 10 million broadband subscribers and there are over a quarter of a million new subscribers each month. Broadband prices are falling and speeds are increasing. As new technologies emerge, consumer choice increases, making broadband a more accessible and popular option. Broadband is available to 99.8 per cent. of households. I also understand that it is likely that the target set by the Telecommunications Adjudicator, for 1.5 million lines to be unbundled from the local loop network by April 2007, will be met by the end of 2006.

Business Review

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 851W, on the Business Review, by what criteria companies are expected to assess whether a contractual or supplier relationship is necessary to understand the development, performance or position of their business when deciding what to include in the Business Review under Clause 399 of the Company Law Reform Bill; and whether guidance will be issued on this matter. [87233]

Margaret Hodge: It is for the directors to judge whether and what information about a contractual or supplier relationship is necessary to provide a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the development, performance and position of the company's business consistent with the size and complexity of the business. The Accounting Standards Board will review its best practice guidance to ensure that it remains up to date in light of the outcome of the parliamentary consideration of the Bill. It is for shareholders to hold the directors to account.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the statement by the Minister of State for Industry and the Regions to Standing Committee D on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 703, on clause 399 of the Company Law Reform Bill, by what criteria he expects companies to assess whether a contractual or other relationship is essential to the business and therefore required to be included in the Business Review by subsection (4) of clause 399. [87234]

Margaret Hodge: Subsection (4) of clause 399 of the Company Law Reform Bill requires the directors' Business Review to be a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the development, performance and position of the company's business consistent with the size and complexity of the business. It is for the directors to judge whether and what information about a contractual or supplier relationship is necessary to be included in the review and for the shareholders to hold the directors accountable for the information provided in their review.

Business Start-ups (South-East London)

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to promote *(a)* investment in industry and *(b)* business start-ups in South East London. [87764]

Margaret Hodge: Responsibility for the promotion of investment in industry and business start-ups in South East London (Bexley, Lewisham and Greenwich) rests primarily with partner organisations managed by the London Development Agency (LDA).

Inward investment promotion and business retention activities are delivered through the agencies of Think London and Gateway to London. Support for business start-ups is delivered via the Business Link Information, Diagnosis and Brokerage Service and London's Enterprise Agencies.

The LDA has developed a number of programmes and grant schemes specifically designed to assist business start-ups and investment in industry with delivery undertaken by local delivery organisations in South East London. The LDA has also invested in South East London as a location for business by promoting developments including Woolwich Arsenal, Thamesmead and Belvedere/Erith.

The Government office for London and the LDA are working with all local authorities and other public funded bodies across the capital in the development of local area agreements (LAAs). An element of the agreements is specifically aimed at encouraging strategic economic development and enterprise growth, drawing together a wide range of existing funding streams and appropriate measures and resources.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the contribution to the Citizens Advice Bureaux from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* central government in each of the last five years. [88131]

Mr. McCartney: Nearly 600 Citizens Advice Bureaux operate independently as a number of separate charities each covering one, or more, operating location(s). Records are not kept centrally of their funding levels and sources.

Details of funding received by the headquarters bodies (Citizens Advice, and Citizens Advice Scotland) are to be found in their annual reports in the Libraries of the House.

Clean Coal

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will fund a clean coal integrated carbon capture demonstration project; and if he will make a statement. [87436]

Malcolm Wicks: The newly published Energy Review Report makes clear that the Government will formally launch a £10 million call during September 2006 as part of its Carbon Abatement Technologies Strategy. This call will focus on pre-commercial demonstration of key components and systems to support Carbon Abatement Technologies and will include Clean Coal and Carbon Capture and Storage technologies.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make it his policy to include clean coal production in his future energy plans. [87927]

Malcolm Wicks: The Carbon Abatement Technologies Strategy sets out the Government's role in supporting the development of low carbon technologies for fossil fuel power generation. These low carbon technologies include clean coal among others.

Company Reports

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans there are to require inclusion of information on social and environmental impact in reports for directors of public companies. [75794]

Mr. McCartney: Under the Company Law Reform Bill, all companies, apart from small companies, will continue to be required to produce a Business Review, in accordance with the EU Accounts Modernisation Directive. Quoted companies, to the extent necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of their business, will need to include the main trends and factors likely to affect the company's business in the future and information about environmental matters (including the impact of the company's business on the environment), the company's employees and social and community issues. The review must include information about any policies of the company in relation to those matters and the effectiveness of those policies. All business reviews must be consistent with the size and complexity of each company's business and, to the extent necessary for an understanding of the company's business, include where appropriate analysis using key performance indicators relating to environmental matters and employee matters.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82842]

Mr. Darling: Ministers and officials have many discussions covering a wide range of issues including on spending.

Consultants

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on consultants by his Department in each year since 1997. [73170]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 23 May 2006]:* Central records indicate that the cost to the Department of engaging consultants in each of the following financial years has been:

	£ million
1999-2000	21
2000-01	36
2001-02	64
2002-03	93
2003-04	112
2004-05	86
2005-06	53.6

Information for years prior to 1999-2000 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the companies which were paid consultancy fees by his Department in 2005-06; how much each was paid; and what each of the companies was used to accomplish. [69690]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Central records indicate that the Department spent £53.6 million on consultancy services in financial year 2005-06.

I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of companies that submitted invoices to the Department for consultancy services in the financial year 2005-06.

Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Consultations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many public consultations his Department undertook in the last year for which figures are available; and what the cost was *(a)* in total and *(b)* of each consultation. [72901]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total number of formal written consultations for the year to May 2006 is 88. Consultation exercises currently being run by the Department of Trade and Industry are published on the Department of Trade and Industry website http:www//dit.gov.uk.

Costs are recorded centrally for all publications, by DTI's Publications Team. Costs for consultations only cannot be extracted without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Telephone Numbers

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public administered by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to him. [56543]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A number of "08" telephones services are administered by the Department for public use. From central records the information that can be provided on the Department's use of 0800, 0845 and 0870 telephone numbers is as follows:

Number	*Department/Agency*
(a) 0800	
028 2138	Coal Health Claims Helpline
373 317	Construction Market Intelligence
585 794	Envirowise
(b) 0845	
001 0030	BS BLU line
001 0031	SBS Helpline
001 0032	SBS Small Firms Loan Guarantee
015 0010	DTI Publication Orderline
015 0020	DTI Publication Orderline (Fax)
015 0030	DTI Publication Orderline (Minicom)
019 0001	Personnel Training Services Consortium
404 0506	Consumer Direct
600 0678	National Minimum Wage
600 9006	Business Link Helpline
955 5105	Employment Agency Standards
(c) 0870	
191 0111	Biotech Support
191 0112	Information Society Support
191 0113	NMP Helpline
191 0114	IST in Manufacturing
191 0115	SME Helpline
191 0116	Beta Technology (Research and Innovation Support)
240 5927	FP6UK Helpline (Textphone)
240 5929	FP6UK Helpline (Fax)
600 6080	FP6UK Helpline
606 1515	National IST Programme Helpline
150 2100	DTI Publication Orderline[1]
150 2300	DTI Publication Orderline[1]
150 2333	DTI Publication Orderline[1]
150 2500	DTI Publication Orderline[1]

[1] Currently discontinued and awaiting reallocation.

Letter from Jeanne Spinks, dated 24 July 2006:

You asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, if he will list the (a) 0800, (b) 0845 and (c) 0870 telephone numbers for the public administered by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to him.

The Employment Tribunals Services administers a public enquiry line to answer queries about the Employment Tribunals, provide information about tribunal publications and explain how the tribunal system works. The enquiry line number is 0845 795 9775, and the minicom number is 0845 757 3722.

Letter from Desmond Flynn, dated 24 July 2006:

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2005/3597) asking what a.) 0800, b) 0845 and c) 0870 telephone numbers for the public The Service administers.

As at 6 March 2006 the answers were as follows:

a.) 0800:

The Service does not have any 0800 numbers.

b.) 0845:

The Service currently administers the following 0845 numbers:

1. Redundancy Payments Helpline - 0845 145 0004.

2. Enforcement hotline - 0845 601 3546.

3. Online form service enquiry line - 0845 602 9848.

In addition to the above numbers our website is also available via voice access on a 0845 number - 0845 333 0323.

c.) 0870:

The Service does not have any 0870 numbers.

Letter from Dr. Jeff Llewellyn, dated 24 July 2006:

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has asked me to reply on behalf of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) to your question regarding listing (a) 0800, (b) 0845 and (c) 0870 telephone numbers for the public administered by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to him.

NWML does not administer any 0800, 0845 or 0870 numbers.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 24 July 2006:

I am replying to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question 2005/3597, to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, on behalf of Companies House, which is an Executive Agency of the DTI.

Question

To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, if he will list the (a) 0800, (b) 0845 and (c) 0870 telephone numbers for the public administered by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies with report to him. 56543.

Answer

Companies House operate the following Non-Geographical Numbers (NGN's)

CHD Helpdesk – 0845 7573991

Contact Centre – 0870 3333636

Secure Directors Register – 0845 03032400.

Officially, the SDR number and function is hosted by CH on behalf of the DTI and due to the security considerations involved is not for public consumption.

Letter from Ron Marchant, dated 24 July 2006:

I am responding to this parliamentary question, tabled on 02 March 2006. The telephone numbers for the public administered by the Patent Office are as follows:

Telephone; 0845 9 500 505

Minicom (text phone); 0845 9 222 250

Disabled People

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on his Department's progress in fulfilling its statutory obligation as a public body of promoting the rights of disabled people. [66010]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 placed new duties on public authorities to promote equality for disabled people, 'the Disability Equality Duty'.

The Department of Trade and Industry is currently planning a Disability Equality Scheme to be implemented by December 2006, and considering the scope of activities to be included in the progress report to be published by 1 December 2008.

The Department promotes equality for disabled people through employment legislation and the promotion and publication of relevant information and guidance.

Doorstep Lending

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the net outflow in interest payments to doorstep lenders in each local authority area in the UK. [86984]

Mr. McCartney: Information of this kind on individual credit agreements is not currently collected.

However, according to the provisional findings of the Competition Commission's Home Credit Market Inquiry, home credit lenders collected around £1.9 billion in repayments from their customers in 2004.

Electricity Transmission

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to ensure that power producers reduce carbon dioxide emissions attributable to electricity transmission and distribution losses; and if he will make a statement. [87671]

Malcolm Wicks: Power producers are strongly incentivised to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from all aspects of electricity production through the European Emissions Trading Scheme, which incentivises all installations it covers to reduce emissions in response to a carbon price. It is up to each installation to determine what measures it may take to reduce its emissions, which may include those attributable to transmission and distribution losses.

In addition, power producers are specifically incentivised to reduce transmission and distribution losses through the requirement on all power producers using the transmission system to pay on a cost reflective basis. This aims to reflect the costs generators impose on the network to transfer electricity to where it is required. With 2 per cent. of electricity conveyed over the transmission network lost, through noise and heat, there is an environmental as well as economic case for having generation near to the main centres of electricity demand and the transmission charging system reflects this.

About 6 per cent. of electricity conveyed over the distribution network is lost. Distribution Network Operators, as part of their regulated price controls, are incentivised to reduce these losses.

Energy Review

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to paragraphs 5.104 and 5.105 of the Energy Review, Cm 6887, what the reasons were for the choice of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency study to illustrate the comparative carbon footprint ranking of nuclear generation against other power generation sources; and which other analyses were examined on the comparative carbon footprint of different generation sources in the Energy Review. [86095]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* The Energy Review considered various studies on lifetime carbon emissions, including:

Sustainable Development Commission—The Role of Nuclear in a Low Carbon Economy—Paper 2 Reducing CO2 Emissions—Nuclear and the Alternatives (2006)

Japan Central Research Institute (1996)

Sweden, Vattenfall (1999 and 2000)

Finland, A Kivisto

Germany, Institute for Applied Ecology (1997)

Storm van Leeuven and Smith (SLS) (2001 to 2005)

Torness—a study for BE by AEA Technology (2005)

EC ExternE (2003)

OECD estimates broadly reflect the range of nuclear lifecycle emissions estimates from this literature.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment was made of the potential vulnerability of existing licensed nuclear sites to *(a)* coastal erosion and *(b)* inundation in the energy review. [86926]

Malcolm Wicks: Any new nuclear power stations would be proposed, developed, constructed and operated by the private sector. Industry has indicated that the most viable sites are likely to be adjacent to existing sites. Any developers will need to manage the possible risks of coastal erosion and flooding through active flood management plans, which must be approved by the safety regulator. Government committed in the energy review report to undertake a strategic siting assessment that would assist developers in identifying the most suitable sites for nuclear power stations.

Enterprise Initiatives

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department has taken to increase enterprise in the West Suffolk constituency since 1997. [85501]

Margaret Hodge: Through the Government office for the East of England and the East of England development agency (BEDA) the Department has made considerable progress in increasing enterprise across the region.

The main initiatives have been through Business Link, 'SMART' Grants for research and development and community investment.

The funding to support Business Link branded activities from 1 April 1997 through to 31 March 2006 has been derived from DTI, SBS, EEDA, DFES, DEFRA, the European Social Fund, European Structural Funds and from local authorities.

The spending profile for the whole of Suffolk has risen from £1.658 million in 1997-98 to £4.948 million in 2004-05 with a total of £28.866 million spent across the whole of Suffolk since 1997 and circa £14 million in the west of the county.

Delivery under the brand by Business Link and its partners has primarily consisted of the provision of information, advice, assisted consultancy, grants etc. and comprises a whole series of activities related to the start-up and the development of small medium enterprises.

A total of £400,000 of funding has been raised for West Suffolk companies since 1997.

There has also been Community investment of circa £2.3 million since 1997 which includes:

Sudbury Community Energy SRB project—£1,087,700

Working Together Suffolk Rural (County-wide)—£268,864

Foundation East (formally Suffolk Regeneration Trust)—£814,000

Approved enterprise activity in the 2006-07 Suffolk IiC business plan commencing shortly (some interventions county-wide)—£130,000.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government is taking to encourage enterprise among people aged over 30. [85919]

Margaret Hodge: The Government are pursuing a range of programmes to encourage enterprise in the over 30s.

These include:

Providing the information, advice and support needed for entrepreneurs to start, maintain and grow a business through the Business Link service in England, and its counterparts in the Devolved Administrations.

Providing a targeted programme of support through the New Deal to suitable unemployed people, offering advice and training from a specialist provider.

Pump priming the Prince's Initiative for Mature Enterprise (PRIME) with revenue and loan guarantee support through the DTI's Phoenix Fund. This has supported entrepreneurial activity amongst over 50's across the country.

Creating a Taskforce on Women's Enterprise to accelerate the development of women's enterprise. Regional Development Agencies are piloting Women's Enterprise Units to trial different approaches to supporting the start-up and growth of women-owned businesses.

Supporting a programme of activity led by the Ethnic Minority Business Forum to promote enterprise amongst ethnic minority groups. A three-year action plan was published in December 2005.

Running 'Enterprising Britain', an annual national competition to find the country's most enterprising city, town, place or area, which showcases what is being done to support a stronger, more dynamic enterprise culture across the UK.

Increasing the resources available to RDAs, all of whom are tasked with encouraging enterprise, with targets for the number of new businesses created and surviving in their regions.

Enterprise Insight

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people are employed in each of the *(a)* local and *(b)* sectoral enterprise campaigns established by Enterprise Insight; when the recruitment process for these will be completed; what costs have been incurred in recruiting people for these posts; and when each campaign will be fully operational. [85680]

Margaret Hodge: All the Local and Sectoral Enterprise Campaign Hubs are expected to be fully functional by the end of September 2006.

At present, one person has been appointed for the Lowestoft Local Enterprise Campaign Hub, and a further five people will be taking up their roles in other hubs over the next six weeks.

Enterprise Insight aims to recruit a total of twenty-one people to work on these elements of their work. The recruitment process should be completed by the end of September 2006.

Expenditure incurred to date on the recruitment for the Local and Sectoral Hubs is £49,284.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his Answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 135W, on Enterprise Insight, what targets have been set for Enterprise Week 2006; what funding was provided for Enterprise Insight in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2004-05; and what funding has been allocated for (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [87375]

Margaret Hodge: Targets for Enterprise Insight in relation to Enterprise Week 2006 have been agreed as follows:

Number of events in Enterprise Week 2006—3,000;

Number of Enterprise Week 2006 participants—500,000;

Number of teams taking part in the 2006 'Make Your Mark' Challenge—4,000;

Number of entries to the 2006 Enterprising Young Brits—2,000;

Editorial value of media coverage—£6.5million;

Number of TV partners on board—8.

The funding provided for Enterprise Insight in 2004-05 was £763,000, and in 2005-06 was £2 million. The funding allocated for Enterprise Insight for 2007-08 is £5 million as detailed in paragraph 16 of the 2004 Spending Review. No funding has yet been allocated for Enterprise Insight in 2008-09.

EU Convergence Funding

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what timetable has been set for the delivery of the EU Convergence Funding programme to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly between 2007 and 2013. [87610]

Margaret Hodge: The EU Institutions are currently finalising a new package of legislation to govern future Structural Funds Programmes for the 2007-13 financial period. All of the new legislation is expected to come into force in the autumn.

Once the new legislation is agreed, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, like other UK regions, will need to submit a draft Operational Programme to the European Commission for negotiation and approval. Partners in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are currently working on producing a draft, which will in due course be submitted to a full consultation.

The first budget commitment for the Operational Programme will be made by the Commission at the time that they adopt the decision approving the Operational Programme.

However, expenditure will be eligible for a contribution from the Funds from 1 January 2007 or the date on which the European Commission deem the Operational Programme admissible if that occurs earlier.

EU Directives

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost was to his Department of implementing and administering EU directives, regulations and policies decided in 2005-06. [86751]

Mr. McCartney: The Department hold no records centrally relating to the origin of regulations and policies. The length of development, negotiation and implementation varies enormously from policy to policy and it would be hard to obtain a meaningful figure. Deriving such figures would incur a disproportionate cost. All proposals, which impact on business, charities or the voluntary sector, require a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) which includes details of the costs, benefits and risks of the proposal. Costs to Government including enforcement costs are included in the RIA. Copies of final RIAs are placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many full-time equivalent staff are employed in his Department to implement and administer EU directives, regulations and policies. [86753]

Mr. McCartney: The Department does not record the cost or the number of staff required for negotiating and implementing regulatory directives, regulations and policies emanating from Europe.

Food Trading Relationships

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many representations his Department has received on the trading relationships through the food supply chain from primary producers to supermarkets in each of the last three years. [87517]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, myself, our predecessors and DTI officials have received a significant number of representations, including from the Association of Convenience Stores, the British Retail Consortium, supplier representatives, the Independent Retailers Association, the National Consumer Council, individual members of the public, interested MPs and the major supermarkets.

Figures for the number of representations are not held centrally.

Fuel Bills

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much on average domestic gas and electricity bills have increased in real terms between the first quarter of 2003 and the most recent quarter for which information is available. [87435]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows:

Domestic gas prices have risen by 31 per cent. in real terms in the first quarter of 2006 compared to the first quarter of 2003. This increase has resulted in domestic gas prices being at their highest level since the third quarter of 1988.

Domestic electricity prices have risen by 20 per cent. in real terms in the first quarter of 2006 compared to the first quarter of 2003. Despite this increase, prices are still 12 per cent. below 1990 levels in real terms.

Fuel Supply Mix Options

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the fuel supply mix options for the power generation sector that would be available should a policy decision be taken not to enable new nuclear plants to be built. [82095]

Malcolm Wicks: In its Energy Review Report, published on 11 July, the Government concluded that, over the next few years, new investment in power generation is likely to be in renewables and gas-fired power stations. Longer term there are other low carbon forms of generation that can contribute to meeting our goals. In particular, the Government concluded that new nuclear power stations could make a significant contribution to meeting our energy policy goals. It will be for the power sector to initiate, fund, construct and operate new power generation and to meet all associated costs.

Furniture Imports

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to the letter of 18 April 2006 from the hon. Member for Billericay about sofas imported from eastern Europe. [70339]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 12 May 2006]:* A response to this letter was sent on 24 May.

Grant Schemes

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much he expects will be distributed to companies under grant schemes administered by the Department in 2006-07. [86752]

Margaret Hodge: The Department of Trade and Industry expects to distribute £314 million to companies under the grant schemes for 2006-07.

Heat Delivery Networks

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what work his Department sponsors into the development of local distributed networks for heat delivery. [87634]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI co-chairs with Ofgem the Electricity Networks Strategy Group. This is a body made up of industry representatives who advise on how the networks can help deliver energy goals. Work programmes, largely funded by the DTI, research a variety of issues. Previous work has addressed barriers which prevented distributed generation connecting to the network. This has helped remove barriers to the development of combined heat and power.

High Energy-Using Industries

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the change in the number of jobs in *(a)* ceramics, *(b)* glass, *(c)* paper and *(d)* other high energy using industries was in the last year for which figures are available. [86756]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Changes in the average yearly employment between 2003 and 2004 for the 15 highest energy using production industry groups (3-digit Standard Industrial Classification level, except for construction) in terms of consumption of tonnes of oil equivalents are shown in the table. Information is included for the ceramics production industry groups, which are not high energy using industries applying this definition.

	UK energy consumption	*Average yearly employment, UK*			
	2003 (Thousand)	*2003 (Thousand)*	*2004 (Thousand)*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*
Manufacture of refined petroleum products[1]	5,625	26	25	-1	-4
Manufacture of basic chemicals	4,935	62	60	-2	-3
Manufacture of coke oven products[1]	3,422	26	25	-1	-4
Manufacture of plastic products	2,089	187	187	0	0
Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys	1,709	29	22	-7	-24
Manufacture of other food products	1,220	193	186	-7	-4
Manufacture of articles of paper and paperboard	1,161	69	66	3	-4
Printing and service activities related to printing	1,118	185	170	-15	-8
Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster	992	4	5	1	25
Manufacture of basic precious and non-ferrous metals	967	20	20	0	0
Manufacture of beverages	795	53	52	-1	-2
Manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemicals and botanical products	793	73	73	0	0
Manufacture of rubber products	730	34	31	-3	-9
Construction	727	1,329	1,347	18	1
Manufacture of glass and glass products	716	33	31	-2	-6
Manufacture of non-refractory ceramic goods other than for construction purposes; refractory ceramic products	137	24	22	-2	-8
Manufacture of ceramic tiles and flags	14	2	3	1	50

[1] Employment information provided for these industries is for the 2-digit manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel, as information at the 3-digit industry group level has been suppressed to avoid disclosure.

Sources:

1. DTI UK energy industrial consumption tables.
2. ONS Annual Business Inquiry.

Home Computer Initiative Scheme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date his most recent assessment of the Home Computer Initiative scheme was passed to the Treasury; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [64380]

Mr. Darling: *[holding answer 19 April 2006]:* I would like to apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying to the matter raised. In response to his query I can confirm that the DTI have regular discussions with the Treasury on budgetary initiatives. We do not publish details of these for reasons of confidentiality.

Hydro Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for development of low-head hydro power in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* Wales in the Energy Review. [87632]

Malcolm Wicks: In 1987 the then Department of Energy commissioned the University of Salford to

undertake a comprehensive assessment of the economic potential for small-scale hydro-electric generation throughout the UK.

The scope of the study extended to sites with installed capacities in the range 25kW to 5MW. Further limiting conditions were to disregard sites with hydraulic heads of less than 2 metres, with existing civil works, or less than 3 metres with no existing civil works.

The comprehensive results of the study were published in report, "Small Scale Hydroelectricity Generation Potential in the UK" ETSU-SSH-4063 (Parts 1-3), a copy of which is available in the Libraries of the House.

Information Tribunal

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what dates communication between his Department and Treasury Counsel took place on the subject of Appeal No. EA/2005/0023 to the Information Tribunal, broken down by type of communication. [72393]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I can neither confirm nor deny whether communication of any type took place between the Department and Treasury Counsel in relation to the Appeal No. EA/2005/0023 to the Information Tribunal. There is a public interest that decisions taken by government are taken in a fully informed legal context, to ensure good decision-making. Disclosure of whether the Department has sought legal advice has a significant potential to prejudice the government's ability to defend its legal interests.

The decision neither to confirm nor deny the existence of information in this case should not be taken as an indication that the information does, in fact, exist. The concern is to protect the public interest by ensuring that the Department is at all times able to seek legal advice in an uninhibited fashion where it is appropriate to do so.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88977]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has a main information technology contract which is a private finance initiative (PFI) agreement with Fujitsu Services and has been in place for more than five years. The Department has also recently awarded a competed services framework arrangement to six other suppliers and this will enable an element of additional competition for future IT projects. To-date no significant contracts have been awarded to these suppliers.

For the Department's PFI agreement with Fujitsu, covering desktop services and application development and support, spend in the last five years has been:

	£ million
2001-02	36
2002-03	35
2003-04	37
2004-05	32
2005-06	30

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88978]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During the last five years the Department has not abandoned any IT contracts awarded during that period. The Department has a main information technology contract which is a private finance initiative (PFI) agreement with Fujitsu Services and has been in place for more than five years. The Department has also recently awarded a competed services framework arrangement to six other suppliers but to-date no significant contracts have been awarded to these suppliers.

Local Distribution Grids

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the adequacy of investment in local distribution grids by the distribution network operators; and if he will make a statement. [86936]

Malcolm Wicks: Price controls for the period 2005-10, which set the operational and capital expenditure for the 14 electricity distribution networks, were agreed between the regulator (Ofgem) and the distribution network operators in January 2005. Ofgem has to allow the networks sufficient revenue to invest in their businesses to deliver licence conditions, which include having safe and reliable networks. At the same time, Ofgem seeks to keep costs down for consumers. The reliability of the distribution networks in Britain has improved, with power cuts relating to underlying performance (i.e. taking out major storms) down by 16 per cent. since performance incentives were introduced in 2002.

For the 2005-10 price control, £5.7 billion has been allowed for investment in the distribution networks. These allowances are 48 per cent. above the 2000-05 price control. Specific measures have been introduced to assist renewables and distributed generation. The 2005-10 price controls addresses three key areas: the need to increase investment and efficiency, to improve quality of service and to accommodate the growth in distributed generation.

Low Carbon Buildings

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total value is of household grants applied for since the start of the Low Carbon Buildings programme. [78486]

Malcolm Wicks: The total value of household grants applied for since the start of the Low Carbon Buildings programme is £1,670,730. This figure represents applications received some of which will not go forward. Actual grants offered up to 7 July 2006 is £527,763.

Minimum Wage

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when his Department expects the next revision to the youth rate of the national minimum wage; what representations he has received on this matter; and what plans he has to make representations on this matter. [87126]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In line with the recommendation of the Low Pay Commission, on 1 October the development rate for 16-17 year olds will increase to £3.30 an hour.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what trade-related *(a)* missions he plans to undertake and *(b)* meetings he plans to hold during the parliamentary recess. [86765]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry plans to visit Brazil in September, accompanied by a business delegation. During the recess he will continue to hold discussions on trade, investment and economic affairs, including with business, other non-governmental organisations, as well as European Union and non-European Union contacts, as necessary.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87643]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During this period the walls of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's office were repainted in 2005.

Additionally in 2002, some changes including redecoration were made to his office as part of a wider programme of works affecting the whole floor to make more efficient use of space and greater use of open plan working.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on how many occasions *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisors in his Department have stayed overnight in (i) five star, (ii) four star and (iii) three star hotels in each of the last three years. [69001]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not readily available and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [69002]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on overnight accommodation broken down as requested is not available and could be made available only at disproportionate cost. The following table shows the total expenditure on hotel accommodation for both DTI officials and Ministers, split between the UK and overseas, in the last three years.

Expenditure on overnight accommodation for DTI Ministers and officials

£

Financial year	UK hotels	Hotel overseas
2003-04	130,000	105,000
2004-05	345,000	340,000
2005-06	476,000	469,000

New Power Stations

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account he takes of different levels of forecast emissions of carbon dioxide in determining planning applications for new power stations. [86129]

Malcolm Wicks: There are no set limits for emissions of carbon dioxide when considering power station applications. However the Environmental Impact Assessment which accompanies an application includes a statement on how the proposal contributes to meeting the Government's target to reduce emissions of gases which contribute to global warming and acid rain. In addition, and before any consent is granted, we need confirmation from the Environment Agency that the impact of emissions would not be detrimental to the health of people and flora and fauna.

NIREX

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Nuclear Waste Management Organisation plan to replace NIREX will be independent of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; and if he will make a statement. [86363]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Future policy, and arrangements for implementing this, will be decided by Government in light of the Committee for Radioactive Waste Management's (CoRWM) final recommendations. CoRWM's report is due to be delivered to Government at the end of this month. Government will make a formal response to their report after the recess when the UK Government and Devolved Administrations are sitting.

Nuclear Power

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of

26 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 75-76W, on nuclear power, what nuclear decommissioning activity has been undertaken since 1 April 2005; and at what site the clean-up activity took place. [85962]

Malcolm Wicks: Details of the decommissioning activity carried out since 1 April 2005 will be set out in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06. The accounts are currently being finalised and audited. They will be published and laid in the House in due course after they have been signed off by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Full details of all the NDA's activities can be found on its website:

www.nda.gov.uk

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what reports his Department has received which identify sites suitable for building nuclear power stations in addition to those presently in service. [86711]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received no such reports identifying new potential sites for nuclear power stations.

October Bank Holiday

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward legislation to amend the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 to provide for an additional bank holiday on the last Monday in October each year; what recent representations he has received calling for an additional bank holiday; and if he will make a statement. [87109]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government receive a variety of suggestions for new or different bank holidays. The present pattern of bank holidays is well established and accepted, and we have no current plans to change the arrangements.

The Government are currently consulting on proposals to increase the statutory annual leave entitlement to ensure that time off equivalent to bank and public holidays is additional to the existing annual leave entitlement.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what administrative functions for which his Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment he has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81557]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not outsourced any of its administrative functions overseas nor are there currently any plans in place to do so.

Personal Debt

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account he has taken of increased casework caused by high levels of personal debt in the allocation of funding for donations to the Citizens Advice Bureaux by his Department. [88130]

Mr. McCartney: The Citizens Advice Bureaux have been very successful in bidding for support under the £45 million Financial Inclusion Fund for debt advice. They have led 10 of the 16 selected advice-giving projects that have resulted in around £30 million of funds being granted to them. Their casework evidence was a crucial factor in deciding this allocation.

Peugeot

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what conditions were applied to the grant offer made to Peugeot in November for the manufacture of the 207 at Ryton; and what reasons were given to his Department for the refusal of the grant. [86206]

Margaret Hodge: The terms and conditions of the £14.4 million Regional Selective Assistance grant offered to Peugeot for the manufacture of the 207 model at Ryton are confidential between the Government and Peugeot. The company did not take up the offer as they decided not to proceed with the project.

Planning (Energy Generation)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what role *(a)* he and *(b)* ministers in his Department play in planning decisions for (i) new power plants and (ii) wind turbines. [86851]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the specialised regime of section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 onshore power stations, however fuelled, over 50 MW and offshore renewable power stations over 1 MW, in England and Wales fall to the Secretary of State to determine. Onshore power station proposals of 50 MW or less are dealt with under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by local planning authorities and Ministers in this Department have no role to play in deciding those applications.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people visited each of the post offices in Chorley constituency using the Post Office card account to withdraw *(a)* benefit and *(b)* pensions in the last 12 months. [87433]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I understand from Post Office Ltd. (POL) that the information is not available in the format requested. POL cannot provide a breakdown of which benefits customers are withdrawing cash for as they may have a range of benefits paid into a Post Office card account (POCA) and then withdraw cash from any Post Office branch via their POCA. Also, they do not capture information on which customers are making visits or their withdrawal pattern.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will publish a consultation paper on banding the Renewables Obligation, as announced in the Energy Review Report. [87614]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government intend to publish the consultation document on the banding of the Renewables Obligation in the autumn this year.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the outcome has been of the project for Renewable Energy Systems at Beaufort Court; how much public money was involved in the project; and if he will make a statement. [75377]

Malcolm Wicks: Renewable Energy System's development at Beaufort Court has not received any financing from UK Government but has, according to the website (http://www.beaufortcourt.com), received funding from the European Union through the EC framework 5 programme

Royal Mail (Complaints)

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints from customers were received by the Royal Mail *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the York postal area (i) in 2005-06 and (ii) each of the previous four years; and whether it is the Government's policy that the Royal Mail should continue to publish information about complaints received in each post code area. [87050]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. Adam Crozier, the Chief Executive of Royal Mail has been asked to reply direct to my hon. Friend .

Postcomm, the postal regulator is responsible for licensing postal operators. Under the terms of Royal Mail's licence they are required to publish details of complaints received, incorporating number of claims of compensation. They must be published in a manner that ensures reasonable publicity.

Russia

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations he has made to his Russian counterpart regarding security of British investments in Russia. [85087]

Mr. McCartney: Senior officials have regular contact with the Russians on investment questions, including the importance of legal and administrative arrangements which secure and promote British investment in Russia. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not yet had the opportunity personally to meet his Russian counterparts but investment issues will form part of the discussion when he does.

Science Centres

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent meetings he has held with representatives of science centres to discuss their future role and funding. [87026]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 651-52W.

Small Businesses

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many small businesses operated in *(a)* Brent, East and *(b)* Brent in each year since 1997. [87423]

Margaret Hodge: Estimates of the total number of small businesses are only available at a regional level. However, figures for the number of VAT registered businesses are available at the local level. Latest data on the stock of VAT registered businesses at the end of each year since 1997 are shown in the following table for *(a)* Brent, East constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Brent.

End year stock of VAT registered businesses, 1997-2004[1]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Brent, East Constituency	2,755	2,855	2,960	2,920	2,965	2,990	3,035	3,015
Brent Borough	7,750	8,045	8,260	8,385	8,430	8,450	8,550	8,560

[1] VAT registration and de-registration data are not available by size of business. However, in Brent borough 98 per cent. of the total stock of VAT registered businesses are small (0-49 employees).

Sources:

Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available from the Library of the House and also at http://WWW.sbs.gov.uk/vats

Office for National Statistics, UK Business: Activity, Size and Location—2005, available from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933

In Brent borough the stock of VAT registered businesses increased each year from 1997 to 2004, rising by 10 per cent. overall. In Brent, East the VAT registered stock rose by 9 per cent. between 1997 and 2004.

Figures based on VAT registered businesses only do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many working days were lost to his Department and its executive agencies in each

year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [78082]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The average annual number of absent days per DTI (core DTI/HQ) employee in each year since 2000 is:

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
2005	5.7	5.9
2004	8.0	8.2
2003	7.0	7.2
2002	7.0	7.2
2001	6.7	6.9
2000	6.6	6.8

Using the figure of £1098 pa per person absent used in the "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service 2004" report, the estimated total cost of sick absence to DTI HQ in each year 2000 to 2005 is:

	£
2005	79,056
2004	129,564
2003	114,192
2002	109,800
2001	101,016
2000	98,820

The DTI does not hold the sick absence data for earlier than 2000.

Supermarket Code of Practice

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Competition Commission, *(b)* the Office of Fair Trading and *(c)* the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the supermarket code of practice. [87518]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Ministers meet with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), Competition Commission (CC) and colleagues at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on a regular basis to discuss topics of mutual interest.

The OFT referred the grocery market to the CC on 9 May for a market inquiry. Competition in the supermarket and grocery sectors is a matter for the independent competition authorities.

Television Licences

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussion took place between his Department and the BBC about the decision not to renew the contract for renewal and purchase of television licences supplied at post offices. [87428]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. The decision was a commercial one made by the BBC as the television licensing authority looking to the interests of licence fee payers and seeking to ensure the best deal for the public in this capacity.

TPS

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households have signed up to the Telephone Preference Service (TPS); and how many householders live in premises that are protected by TPS regulations by virtue of a previous occupant having registered with the service. [75598]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows:

(a) The Direct Marketing Association runs the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) scheme under the terms of contract on behalf of the Office of Communications and the Information Commissioner's Office has responsibility for enforcement. The TPS estimates that there are currently 12.7 million numbers registered with them. It should be noted that the TPS enables consumers to register individual telephone numbers including mobile numbers, rather than households. At the time of registration the TPS records the consumer's name, address and telephone number, but this does not give an accurate assessment of how many households are registered with the TPS.

(b) In view of the fact that the TPS registers individual numbers rather than households it is not possible to assess how many householders live in premises protected by the previous occupant's TPS registration. However, within the next 12 months the TPS intends to identify any TPS registered numbers, which were not registered by the current consumer and will contact them to confirm if they still wish to remain registered.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many individuals have registered with the Telephone Preference Service on more than one occasion. [75600]

Margaret Hodge: The Direct Marketing Association runs the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) scheme on behalf of the Office of Communications and the Information Commissioner's Office has responsibility for enforcement. The TPS estimates that currently 833,825 consumers have registered the same number on more than one occasion with them. It should be noted that duplicate numbers are not present on the TPS register as they are removed when the TPS carries out their checks to update their records.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints have been made against the 10 companies breaching Telephone Preference Service regulations most frequently in the last 12 months. [75701]

Margaret Hodge: The Direct Marketing Association runs the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) scheme on behalf of the Office of Communications and the Information Commissioner's Office has responsibility for enforcement. The TPS records indicate that the total number of complaints made against the top 10

companies for 2005 was 7,701. It should be noted that this figure includes complaints where consumers may not have been registered with the TPS or had not allowed the necessary 28 days to elapse before their registration took effect.

Trade Descriptions Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the operation of the Trade Descriptions (Place of Production) (Marking) Order 1988; how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* companies have been prosecuted under this Order and the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 in each year since 1989; and what recent representations he has received on the operation of this Order. [82891]

Mr. McCartney: According to information obtained from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), the number of prosecutions notified to them by Trading Standards Services under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 in each year since 1989 are:

	Individuals	*Companies*	*Total*
1989	974	448	1,422
1990	1,083	422	1,505
1991	1,111	381	1,492
1992	1,405	395	1,800
1993	1,527	387	1,914
1994	1,234	310	1,544
1995	1,204	318	1,522
1996	847	281	1,128
1997	871	345	1,216
1998	756	238	994
1999	599	162	761
2000	441	154	595
2001	563	168	731
2002	361	114	475
2003	426	151	577
2004	294	86	380
2005	285	76	361
2006	130	34	164
Total	14,111	4,470	18,581

OFT confirm that they received no details of any prosecutions made under the Trade Descriptions (Place of Production) (Marking) Order 1988, which was repealed in 1996 by the Trade Descriptions (Place of Production) (Marking) (Revocation) Order 1996.

UK Trade

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of UK trade was with *(a)* Romania and *(b)* Bulgaria in the latest period for which figures are available. [84722]

Mr. McCartney: The percentage of total UK trade with Romania in 2005 was 0.3 per cent. The percentage of total UK trade with Bulgaria in 2005 was 0.08 per cent.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of how UK trade with *(a)* Romania and *(b)* Bulgaria will develop once those nations have joined the European Union. [84723]

Mr. McCartney: Assessments carried out by United Kingdom Trade and Investment conclude that a growing level of interest in Bulgaria and Romania from UK business in the lead up to EU membership will increase yet further on accession because of the opportunities it affords. Furthermore EU accession in itself is only one of the catalysts for increased opportunity. Growing economic prosperity, the development of a market economy and rising standards of living will contribute to this process as well and are already well under way in the countries.

VAT

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many new businesses were registered for VAT in each region in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [86949]

Margaret Hodge: The latest available information on VAT registrations by region is published in "VAT Registrations UK, Country, Government Office Region, County, District and Constituency 1994-2004", a copy of which is available in the Libraries of the House.

This information is also available from the Small Business Service website at: www.sbs.gov.uk/vats (Table 1a).

World Trade Organisation Negotiations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the UK Government's position is on including services and trade facilitation in the Doha Round of World Trade Organisation negotiations. [81574]

Mr. McCartney: The UK remains strongly committed to ensuring an ambitious and pro-development outcome to the Doha Round that provides real benefits to developing countries and an overall stimulus to world trade in goods and services. The inclusion of services and trade facilitation in the Doha Ministerial Declaration that launched the Round in 2001 was welcomed by the UK Government. Both are important elements of the ambitious and balanced final agreement that is our objective for these negotiations, towards which we continue to work.

Youth Training

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to re-organise the system of training initiatives for young people; and what the rationale was behind launching Great Expectations. [76015]

Margaret Hodge: There are no plans in England to reorganise training for young people. The successful apprenticeships programme remains the primary vocational route for young people into skilled jobs.

Great Expectations is an Enterprise Challenge in which young people assume the roles of entrepreneurs. The strategic aims was to promote an entrepreneurial culture to young people through forms of delivery that excited interest, inspired and provided role models to young people.

It is included by Careers Scotland in their portfolio of schemes on offer in Scotland.

Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what information his Department holds on *(a)* publicly owned and *(b)* privately owned companies which are trading with Zimbabwe. [87231]

Mr. McCartney: Data are not available on which UK companies are trading with Zimbabwe. Information on the main exports and imports by product was provided in response to Parliamentary Question: 2005/5083.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations have been made to his Department regarding the actions of UK companies in Zimbabwe. [87232]

Mr. McCartney: As stated in my reply of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 148-150W there are no sanctions or embargoes against British companies doing business in Zimbabwe.

We do not maintain a separate record of representations made to this Department on Zimbabwe.

TREASURY

Access to Work Scheme

Roger Berry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82234]

John Healey: Applications for support through the Access to Work Scheme, made via the Treasury's diversity team are in the following table:

	Applications to Access to Work Scheme
2001	1, 2
2002	1, 2
2003	1
2004	0
2005	2
2006-07	0

[1] Data not available

[2] Records on applications to the Access to Work Scheme were kept from late 2003 onwards as the Treasury moved towards implementing a central reasonable adjustments budget (April 2004) and a more streamlined process for putting in place reasonable adjustments for its employees.

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87053]

John Healey: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) and the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 433W.

Alcohol Tax

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the consistency with which different strengths of alcohol are taxed. [87550]

John Healey: There are historic disparities in the rate at which different alcohol products are taxed. Since 1998, Government policy has been to seek a fairer balance of taxation between different alcohol products.

Business Energy Supplies Group

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the members of the group examining the provision of information and support on energy efficiency to business chaired by the Financial Secretary and Mr. Richard Ellis are; and when it has met. [87453]

John Healey: Budget 2006 announced that the Financial Secretary and Richard Ellis would co-chair a group to examine how best to provide information and support to business on energy efficiency. This group met recently. The organisations represented at this meeting were: the Carbon Trust, the CBI, the EEF, the British Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses.

Capita Group

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have held with directors and senior executives of (i) Capita Group plc and (ii) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2004; and whether (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries have provided input (1) in writing and (2) in person to policy discussions in his Department since 1 January 2004. [61062]

John Healey: As part of the normal process of contact with business, Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of individuals and organisations. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's usual practice to provide details of all such meetings. Treasury meetings are conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Code, as appropriate.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the value of contracts held by his

Department with *(a)* Capita plc and *(b)* its subsidiaries was in the last three financial years; [61459]

(2) how many tenders *(a)* Capita plc and *(b)* its subsidiaries have submitted to his Department in each of the last three years; and how many tenders were successful; [61460]

(3) how many contracts his Department holds with *(a)* Capita plc and *(b)* its subsidiaries which still have a potential duration of five years or more; [61461]

(4) how much business his Department has placed with *(a)* Capita Group plc and *(b)* its subsidiaries in each of the last five years; what the total value is of outstanding contracts placed with Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries by his Department; for which current tenders issued by his Department (i) Capita Group plc and (ii) its subsidiaries have been invited to bid; and whether (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries have seconded staff (1) temporarily and (2) on a longer-term basis to (X) his Department and (Y) its agencies. [61061]

John Healey: Any consultant engaged by a Department needs to pass through a rigorous and transparent procurement process in line with EU procurement directives.

Like every other Government Department the Treasury's annual accounts are scrutinised by the House and by the NAO.

The Treasury has two contracts with Capita. At no time was there any ministerial involvement in the contracts mentioned.

Figures for the costs of using consultants, including Capita, were released in a freedom of information request to the BBC on 23 January and have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

There are no staff seconded by Capita or its subsidiaries to the Treasury or its agencies.

Caravan Parks

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of people live in caravan parks in each local authority area in England and Wales in descending order according to percentage of the population resident in such parks. [88287]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 July 2006:

I am replying as National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many and what proportion of people live in caravan parks in each local authority area in England and Wales in descending order according to percentage of the population resident in that way. (88287)

The nearest information available from the 2001 census is accommodation type which includes a category for "caravans or other mobile or temporary structures". This includes caravans that are not in parks and other mobile structures such as boats. The data was published in table S050 in the "Census 2001 National report for England and Wales pt 1" which is available in the House of Commons library. However for convenience the relevant columns have been extracted and placed separately in the House of Commons library.

Casinos

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have held meetings in the last 12 months with casino operators interested in securing licences under the Gambling Act 2005; where each meeting took place; and what was discussed. [83364]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Company Acquisitions

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what data are collected by the Government related to *(a)* the acquisition of companies financed by the (i) exchange and (ii) issue of shares and *(b)* the financial performance of such companies, with particular reference to patterns of investment by them. [87131]

Ed Balls: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what data is collected by the Government related to (a) the acquisition of companies financed by the (i) exchange and (ii) issue of shares and (b) the financial performance of such companies, with particular reference to patterns of investment by them. (87131) The data requested are not available. However, ONS publish data on acquisitions in the UK by UK companies that are funded by share issues and exchanges. Table 9 of the ONS Mergers and Acquisitions First Release provides a breakdown of this information. Information is not collected on whether the shares involved are existing shares or new issues of shares.

This can be found using the following weblink:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=72&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=208

Consultancy Firms

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to collect centrally information on consultancy firms hired by Government Departments. [88201]

John Healey: OGC does not hold central information on public sector spend on consultancy and currently there are no plans to start to do so.

Copyright (Sports Sector)

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will ask the Gowers Intellectual Property review team to include within its terms of reference copyright issues affecting the sports sector; [84261]

(2) if he will ask the Gowers Intellectual Property review team to examine the impact of the EC Database Directive 1996 on the *(a)* English and *(b)* Scottish

football leagues' right to charge betting companies for the use of their fixtures lists. [84262]

John Healey: Mr. Andrew Gowers has been asked to conduct an independent review into the intellectual property system, to ensure it is fit for the digital age. The published terms of reference for the review are as follows:

The review will provide an analysis of the performance of the UK IP system, including inter alia,

the way in which Government administers the awarding of IP and their support to consumers and business;

how well businesses are able to negotiate the complexity and expense of the copyright and patent system, including copyright and patent licensing arrangements, litigation and enforcement; and

whether the current technical and legal IP infringement framework reflects the digital environment, and whether provisions for 'fair use' by citizens are reasonable.

The Government have previously committed to examining whether the current term of copyright protection on sound recordings and performers' rights is appropriate. This will also be conducted within the review.

This review is independent of Government, and Mr. Andrew Gowers is responsible for identifying and prioritising the issues of prime importance within the overall terms of reference outlined above. He will be making recommendations to Government toward the end of 2006 to address these issues.

Databases

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he has given the Home Secretary on managing complex computer databases. [82812]

Mr. Timms: The Office of Government Commerce, through its Gateway Review process, advises all Departments on acquisition and procurement projects.

Defence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what public spending on defence was in each year since 1997 in *(a)* cash terms, *(b)* at 2006 prices and *(c)* as a percentage of gross domestic product. [86990]

Mr. Timms: Final outturn figures for defence spending in financial years 1997-98 to 2004-05, expressed in terms of 2004-05 prices, and as a percentage of GDP, can be found in Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2006, tables 3.2 and 3.4 respectively. GDP deflators to adjust this data to 2005-06 prices are available on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/255/F4/gapdeflators_300606.xls

In addition, defence final outturn figures for 2005-06 can be found in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts for 2005-06.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on hotels *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad by his Department's employees in the last 12 months. [83498]

John Healey: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1850W.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on heating his Department's buildings in London in each year since 1997. [83505]

John Healey: The Treasury's heating is provided by the Whitehall District Heating System operated by OGCbuying solutions. The Whitehall District Heating System also supplies the Treasury's hot water except in the summer months. The total cost of the Treasury's use of the system since 2002-03 is set out in the following table. Figures for years prior to 2002-03 could be provided only at disproportionate cost due to a change in accounting system in that year.

	£000
2002-03	492
2003-04	381
2004-05	336
2005-06	310

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on artwork in each year since 1997. [83507]

John Healey: There was no spending by the Treasury on works of art in 2005-06. In relation to previous years, I refer to the answers given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 8 December 2003, *Official Report*, column 333W, and to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on 1 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 984W.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the total amount spent in a year on lighting his Department's buildings in London. [83587]

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on electricity use in each year since 2003-04. [83776]

John Healey: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 332W. Spending by the Treasury on electricity in 2005-06 was £431,000.

Disaggregated figures for lighting, separate from other electricity use, are not available.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of his Department spent on water and sewage services in each year since 2003-04. [83664]

John Healey: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 332W. Spending by the Treasury and its agencies in 2005-06 was as follows.

2005-06	Spending (£)
HMRC and VOA	3,339,547
HMT	21,575
OGC and OGC Buying Solutions	25,595
ONS	[1]—
GAD	2,246
DMO	[2]—
NS&I	[3]—
Royal Mint	371,384

[1] Information not yet available.
[2] DMO costs are included in the service charge and disaggregated data for water and sewerage services is unavailable.
[3] NS&I occupy a MOTO agreement with HMRC. Costs are included in the facilities charge and disaggregated data for water and sewerage services is unavailable.

Departmental Guidance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued to employees in his Department on *(a)* saving water, *(b)* conserving heat and *(c)* reducing electricity consumption. [83573]

John Healey: Treasury employees are encouraged to reduce utility consumption and wastage of resources routinely. The department works closely with contractors and staff to improve the efficient use of the building and workplace.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 414W, on sickness absence, to what he attributes the rise in the number of staff with *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four and *(d)* five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days in each of the last three years. [84075]

John Healey: Staff absenteeism recorded as sickness absence in each year since 1997 is contained in Cabinet Office publication of an annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service". This report gives a detailed analysis of the civil service data, including patterns, frequency and reasons for absence.

This is available in the Library and on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupational_health/publications/index.asp

Departmental Water Use

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* sprinklers and *(b)* irrigation systems are used by (i) his Department and (ii) other departments for which he is responsible in London. [83499]

John Healey: There are no sprinklers and one irrigation system in the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards Road. Information on other London based Departments is not held centrally and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Doha Round

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what action he plans to take over the next month to encourage revival of the Doha round of trade talks. [86766]

John Healey: As the Chancellor set out in his Mansion House speech on 21 June, the most powerful pro-globalisation signal we can send is to make possible the increase in world trade that an ambitious WTO settlement would bring.

The need for an ambitious and pro-development outcome to the Doha round of trade talks was a key message of the UK presidencies in 2005. This was reiterated by G8 heads of government at their St. Petersburg summit on 15-17 July 2006, where they noted their commitment to the development dimension of Doha, and urged all parties to work with the utmost urgency for the conclusion of the round by the end of 2006. As the G8 concluded, all countries should commit to the concerted leadership and action needed to reach a successful conclusion to the Doha round.

To this end Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings, conversations and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals as part of the process of policy development, analysis and delivery, including WTO and ED member states.

Dual Flush Toilets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many dual flush toilets there are in his Department. [83578]

John Healey: All of the 144 toilets in the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards Road have a dual flush facility.

ECOFIN

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the proposals tabled by the UK presidency at the December ECOFIN meeting regarding the next steps towards better European regulation have been implemented by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other member states. [88098]

Ed Balls: At the December 2005 ECOFIN, the UK, Austria and Finland issued a joint-presidency discussion paper setting out areas for future work by the Commission working together with member states to improve the regulatory framework in Europe. Since December progress has been made in a number of areas. The Commission has been piloting administrative burden measurement and plans to identify priority areas for action and options for setting targets to reduce administrative costs by the end of the year, enabling concrete proposals to be made next year. The Commission is also reviewing its Impact Assessment procedures and its processes for consulting with stakeholders and is due to report on progress on its simplification plan in the autumn.

The UK continues to take the lead in pushing for Better Regulation in Europe while in the UK we are

pressing ahead with implementation of the Hampton review recommendations on risk-based enforcement and the assessment of administrative burdens.

Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the reference to the high-level group in paragraph 3.103 of HC 968, the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report and Financial Statement and Budget Report, March 2006, who the members of the group are; on what dates it has met; when it will announce a strategy; and if he will place in the Library the minutes of its meetings. [87532]

Ed Balls: The Treasury will announce publicly the composition of the high-level group when it meets for the first time in the autumn, following a series of meetings at official level which have been under way since the spring. The Treasury will make an announcement on the strategy before the end of the year.

Financial Consumer Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority has assessed the merits of setting up a stand-alone financial consumer education initiative. [87386]

Ed Balls: The Financial Services Authority (FSA), in partnership with the Government, the financial services industry and voluntary organisations, leads the national strategy for financial capability.

In March 2006 the FSA published "Delivering Change", which sets out how it plans to improve financial capability in partnership with others. (http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/other/fincap_delivering.pdf). The programme includes promoting financial education in schools and in the workplace. The FSA also publishes information for consumers on its website including tools and resources for schools, young adults, workplace, new parents and two online consumer tools (the debt test and the financial healthcheck).

The Government have given strong support to the strategy and I announced last week that we would publish a 10-year strategy on financial capability and inclusion in the autumn.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for changes in spending on financial consumer education in connection with his target to educate all children in financial matters. [87387]

Ed Balls: The Financial Services Authority (FSA), in partnership with the Government, the financial services industry and voluntary organisations leads the national strategy for financial capability. One of the strands of the national strategy—"Learning Money Matters"—will provide schools with a comprehensive one-stop shop for help, support and advice to help them deliver effective personal finance education to their pupils. Learning Money Matters will be delivered by pfeg (the Personal Finance Education Group), an independent charity that works with schools to promote personal finance education for young people. The target is to reach 1.8 million children in 4,000 schools by 2010-11 to improve their financial knowledge, understanding and confidence.

While total costs incurred by all partners are not available, the FSA's contributions to financial capability (for all aspects not just schools) were £2.5 million in 2003-04, £4 million in 2004-05 and £8 million in 2005-06 and up to £10 million for 2006-07.

What is clear is that improving financial capability is a long-term initiative. The 10-year strategy that I announced last week will take an in-depth look at how the Government can best contribute.

Financial Services Authority

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress the Financial Services Authority has made in enforcing testable business continuity planning among its members; and if he will make a statement. [87906]

Ed Balls: The UK financial authorities (HM Treasury, Bank of England and FSA) work together closely to ensure that the financial sector is prepared for and able to respond to disruptive events. The FSA has responsibility for ensuring that the firms it regulates have business continuity plans in place, and provides the lead for the authorities in the areas of benchmarking and testing.

The FSA launched the Resilience Benchmarking Project in 2005 to assess the overall resilience of the financial sector. Findings were published in a Discussion Paper on 14 December and a draft Business Continuity Management Guide was recently issued for consultation.

The FSA also organises an annual market-wide exercise to test the contingency arrangements of the financial authorities with market participants.

Fundamental Savings Review

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his oral answer to the hon. Members for Bosworth (David Tredinnick) and for Livingston (Jim Devine) of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1470, on the Fundamental Savings review, whether trading enterprises owned by the public sector will be sold off in the planned sale of assets. [86755]

Mr. Timms: The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will take forward the Government's objective of realising £30 billion of asset disposals by 2010, and will examine options for disposing of other public assets, including public corporations and trading funds.

Gershon Review

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the change has been in staff numbers in Departments subject to Gershon review reduction. [86754]

Mr. Timms: As announced in "Releasing Resources to meet the challenges ahead: value for money in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review", by the end of March 2006 departments had delivered more than half of the 84,000 workforce reductions planned by 2007-08 with 45,547 gross reductions.

Departments publish data on the size of their workforce in their annual reports. The relationship between this data and the data used to measure progress against the SR04 Efficiency programme is set out in the technical note published by the Cabinet Office; (http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/doc/workforce_reductions_tech_note.doc).

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Bank of England has made of the potential effect of home information packs on the economy. [86827]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government recently published an assessment of the impact of Home Information Packs in a regulatory impact assessment accompanying regulations made under Part 5 of the Housing Act 2004. This assessment will be updated in the light of the findings of a baseline study of the home buying and selling process reporting later this year; information obtained during the dry-run of Home Information Packs, other research commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and in consultation with HM Treasury and Bank of England.

Household Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of families with three or more children in which neither parent works lived in each county in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England and *(d)* Northern Ireland in the most recent year for which figures are available. [87733]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many and what percentage of families with three or more children in which neither parent works for each county in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England and *(d)* Northern Ireland in the most recent year.

The table overleaf gives the estimates of the number and the percentage of families with three or more children for the three months ending June 2005. It shows people resident in the counties and unitary authorities in the UK.

Estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Families with three or more dependent children in which neither parent works by area of usual residence Not seasonally adjusted

	Families with three or more children	
Three months ending June 2005	*In which neither parent works (000)*	*As percentage of all such families*
United Kingdom	99	8.6
England [1]	85	8.8
Cheshire	2	12.4
Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly	1	12.5
Devon	1	7.9
Lancashire	3	13.2
Lincolnshire	2	14.1
North Yorkshire	1	18.6
Tyne and Wear Met County	1	5.4
Greater Manchester Met County	4	7.1
Merseyside Met County	3	9.9
South Yorkshire Met County	2	12.9
West Yorkshire Met County	4	10.1
West Midlands Met County	6	11.5
Inner London	15	18.2
Outer London	11	11.7
Leicester UA	1	14.4
Medway UA	1	20.0
Portsmouth UA	1	20.4
Wales [2]	5	9.3
Scotland [2]	5	6.3
Northern Ireland	4	8.6

[1] Includes estimates for counties not listed for which sample sizes are too small to provide reliable estimates.
[2] Small sizes for all individual counties in Wales and Scotland are too small to provide estimates.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

International Finance Facility

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which countries have committed to joining the international finance facility; and if he will make a statement. [88093]

Ed Balls: The international finance facility for immunisation was launched on 9 September 2005 by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), with announcements of financial contributions from the UK, France, Italy, Spain and Sweden. Norway, Brazil and South Africa have also agreed to contribute financially, their contributions were announced in December 2005, March 2006 and April 2006 respectively.

IFFIm will provide $4 billion over 10 years to support vaccinations in the world's poorest countries. We expect the first IFFIm disbursement to developing countries to take place later this year, and it is estimated that the frontloaded IFFIm resources will save a total of 10 million lives.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the first bond issue will be made under the international finance facility for immunisation; and if he will make a statement. [88094]

Ed Balls: The international finance facility for immunisation (IFFIm) was launched in September 2005 with contributions from France, Italy, Spain and Sweden, as well as the UK. Norway, Brazil and South Africa have since pledged contributions. The first IFFIm bonds will be issued in the next few months, and we expect that the IFFIm will begin purchasing vaccines and delivering these to the poorest countries through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) before the end of the year.

Inward Investment

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of inward investment in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area in each year since 1997. [87363]

Mr. Timms: The Office for National Statistics has reported levels of private sector investment in NUTS 1 regions and NUTS 2 sub-regions between 1998 and 2000 in table 17 of Economic Trends, December 2003 and can be viewed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/economic_trends/ETDecCope.pdf

More recent information on private sector investment at the regional level only can be accessed at:

http://www.dtistats.net/sd/rci/

Public sector investment can be viewed in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses.

Life Expectancy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the life expectancy is in each London borough, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnicity. [87508]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the life expectancy is in each London borough broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age. (87508)

Figures on life expectancy at birth for local authorities, including London boroughs, are published annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for males and females, based on three-year rolling averages. Results from 1991-93 to 2002-04 are available on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

ONS does not publish life expectancy results for other ages. Figures for life expectancy at age 65 for local authorities have however previously been calculated for the most recent time period available, 2002-04. Figures for London boroughs are provided in the following table.

Life expectancy at age 65 by London borough[1], 2002-04[2]

London borough	Life expectancy at age 65 (years) Males	Females
Barking and Dagenham	15.1	18.3
Barnet	17.7	20.4
Bexley	17.1	19.3
Brent	17.3	20.8
Bromley	17.5	20.4
Camden	16.6	19.6
Croydon	17.1	19.2
Ealing	16.7	20.0
Enfield	16.8	19.6
Greenwich	15.3	19.1
Hackney	16.8	20.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	17.1	21.0
Haringey	15.8	19.4
Harrow	18.1	21.0
Havering	16.5	19.2
Hillingdon	16.7	19.7
Hounslow	15.8	18.6
Islington	15.9	18.6
Kensington and Chelsea	20.4	23.4
Kingston upon Thames	17.4	19.4
Lambeth	16.1	18.9
Lewisham	15.6	18.3
Merton	17.3	20.5
Newham	15.7	18.5
Redbridge	16.9	19.6
Richmond upon Thames	17.5	20.3
Southwark	16.3	19.5
Sutton	17.3	19.2
Tower Hamlets	15.6	18.4
Waltham Forest	15.6	18.8
Wandsworth	16.3	19.1
Westminster	18.0	21.4

[1] City of London has been excluded because of small numbers of deaths and populations in this area.
[2] Results are based on deaths registered in 2002-04 and mid-year population estimates for these years.

Merlin Biosciences

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has met *(a)* Sir Christopher Evans and *(b)* representatives of Merlin Biosciences Limited on official business in the past 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [61480]

John Healey: As part of the normal process of contact with business, Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of individuals and organisations. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's usual practice to provide details of all such meetings. Treasury meetings are conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Code, as appropriate.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what trade related *(a)* missions he plans to undertake and *(b)* meetings he plans to hold during the parliamentary recess. [86763]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals throughout the year as part of the process of policy development, analysis and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of every such meeting.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87638]

John Healey: The Chancellor's office was decorated once during this period as part of the refurbishment of 1 Horse Guards road.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which countries he has visited in Africa since 1997; and what the *(a)* dates, *(b)* objectives and *(c)* outcomes were of each visit. [87411]

John Healey: Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for 2005-06 is currently being compiled and will be published shortly. All ministerial travel by Treasury Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code and Travel" by Ministers.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when and for how long he has visited *(a)* each member state of the European Union, *(b)* Japan, *(c)* India, *(d)* Brazil, *(e)* Canada, *(f)* New Zealand, *(g)* Australia, *(h)* South Korea, *(i)* Russia, *(j)* Singapore, *(k)* Thailand and *(l)* Mexico since 1997. [87738]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1643W, on his official visit (Nigeria), what the normal procedures are; and on what date they were completed. [87893]

John Healey: Appropriate parties were notified prior to the visit. In addition the visit itself was widely publicised before it happened.

Ministry of Defence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer further to Releasing the resources to meet the challenge ahead, Cm 6889, what reduction in the administration budget he will require of the Ministry of Defence. [86916]

Mr. Timms: While the Government are committed to controlling the overheads of all Government Departments, "Releasing the resources to meet the challenge ahead" cm 6889 does not set targets for individual Government Departments. The Government have affirmed their commitment to bear down on administration costs over the CSR period.

MRSA

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many MRSA-related deaths there have been in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each region in each of the last five years. [88152]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunell, dated 24 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many MRSA-related deaths there have been in (a) the UK and (b) each region in each of the last five years.

Figures on deaths involving MRS A are not available for the whole of the UK on a consistent basis. Figures for England and Wales are published annually in *Health Statistics Quarterly* - the most recent figures are for 2004 and were published in *Health Statistics Quarterly* 29 in February 2006. Figures for Northern Ireland are published annually - figures for the last five years were given in Hansard Written Answer 83964, Column 1774W.

Figures on deaths mentioning MRSA for Government Office Regions of England, and Wales, are given in the attached table for the years 2000 to 2004.

Number of deaths where MRSA was a contributory factor[1], Government office regions of England, and Wales[2], 2000-2004[3]

Government office region	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
North East	25	28	38	49	68
North West	63	53	75	113	127
Yorkshire and the Humber	43	65	75	82	115
East Midlands	46	66	50	74	90
West Midlands	82	80	82	93	115
East of England	68	81	84	100	128
London	86	90	103	104	135
South East	134	140	143	167	178
South West	69	78	92	108	136
England Total	616	681	742	890	1,092
Wales	51	53	58	64	75
England and Wales[4]	669	734	800	955	1,168

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004) Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. *Health Statistics Quarterly* 21, 15-22.
[2] Usual residence of the deceased.
[3] Figures are for deaths occurring in the years 2000 to 2004.
[4] Includes non-residents.

Named Day Questions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer named day questions 61459, 61460 and 61461, concerning contracts and tenders with Capita plc., due for answer on 23 March. [83213]

John Healey *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* I have done so. I apologise on behalf of the Treasury that the answer to the hon. Member's questions was delayed.

Net Taxes/National Insurance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what net taxes and national insurance contributions were, excluding North Sea revenues as defined in footnote three to table C9 of the 2006 Budget report, HC 968, in each year since 1976-77; and what these figures represent as a percentage of gross domestic product in each year. [87533]

Mr. Timms: Data on net taxes and national insurance contributions and North Sea revenues as a percentage of GDP back to 1973-74 can be found in table C1 of the Public Finances Databank (available on the web at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pubsec_finance/psf_statistics.cfm).

Office of Government Commerce

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been employed in the Office of Government Commerce efficiency team in each of the last five years. [87456]

John Healey: The OGC Efficiency Team was set up in 2004-05 to implement the findings of Sir Peter Gershon's Report "Releasing Resources to the Front Line".

In March 2005, at the end of the 2004-05 financial year, there were 28 staff employed in the Efficiency Team and in March 2006, at the end of the 2005-06 financial year, there were 29 staff employed in the Efficiency Team.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he has met the Prime Minister to discuss reports received from the Office of Government Commerce efficiency team in the last 12 months. [87457]

John Healey: The Chancellor is in regular and frequent contact with the Prime Minister on a wide range of issues. As has been the practice of successive Administrations, it is not the practice of the Government to provide detailed information relating to discussions between Ministers.

Oxycodone Hydrochloride (Imports)

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* legal and *(b)* illegal imports of products manufactured from oxycodone hydrochloride from the Republic of Ireland. [80575]

Mr. Cooker: I have been asked to reply.

Legal imports from the republic of Ireland are shown in total figures in the following table:

	Oxycodone hydrochloride (kilogram)
2001	40.8
2002	0
2003	0
2004	0
2005	1.6
2006 (to date)	2.1

No assessment of illegal importation has been made.

Pensions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projections in respect of unfunded public sector pension schemes in the 2005 Long Term Public Finance Report would be if allowance were made for *(a)* the future impact on NHS payscales of the implementation of Agenda For Change and *(b)* the agreement of new contracts for general practitioners and hospital consultants. [87530]

Mr. Timms: Existing GAD analysis in the technical note "Unfunded Public Service Pension Schemes: 2005 Cash flow Projections: Assumptions and Data" placed in the House of Commons library on 12 June 2006 takes into account the 'one off' effect of Agenda for Change. The future impact on NHS payscales or the agreement of new contracts for GPs and Hospital Consultants were not considered. These will be factored in GAD analysis as evidence of their effect comes through in future. Providing detailed updated projections would incur disproportionate costs, although "Total Liability of unfunded Public Service occupational Pension Schemes" placed in the House of Commons Library on 2 March 2006 estimated that the impact during 2004-05 of Agenda for Change and new GP contracts increased the liability of the unfunded schemes by £46 billion.

Personal Debt

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average amount of personal debt per person and *(b)* total amount of personal debt was in (i) Brent and (ii) London in the last period for which figures are available. [87781]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on personal debt in the UK. (87781)

We are unable to provide levels of total personal debt by region. The following table shows estimates for the whole of the UK.

	Total personal debt (£ million)	*End-year Average personal total debt (£)*
2005	1,275,740	26,730

Note:
For average per head figures, the denominator is population aged 16+.

The estimates of debt and income are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. Estimates for households alone are not available. NPISHs are legal entities which are principally engaged in the production of non-market services for households and whose main resources are voluntary contributions by households. Examples of NPISHs are: charities; relief and aid organisations; educational establishments; Trade Unions; Professional Associations, Political Parties and Religious Organisations, and Sports Clubs and Associations.

Further data are available from table A64 in United Kingdom Economic Accounts which is available at the following address: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Petrol Additives (Tax Subsidies)

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax subsidies are available for the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether and other oxygenates instead of high aromatic blend stocks as an additive to petrol. [86860]

John Healey: Methyl tertiary butyl ether is liable to duty at the same rate as ultra-low sulphur petrol (currently 47.1 pence per litre).

Another oxygenated fuel, ethyl tertiary butyl ether, (ETBE) can be mixed with petrol for use as a road fuel. In this case, the proportion of the fuel that is made from ETBE attracts the duty rate applicable to bioethanol (27.1 pence per litre).

Planning Policy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations his Department has made on planning policy to the Department of Communities and Local Government or the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in the last 12 months; [86838]

(2) how many civil servants in his Department work on planning policy; [86839]

(3) what role his Department plays in the development of land-use planning policy and planning policy guidance. [86840]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) leads on planning policy. Treasury officials work closely, on an ongoing basis, with the DCLG on land-use planning policy and planning policy guidance issues.

The Housing and Urban Team in the Public Spending Directorate leads on liaising with DCLG on a range of spending and policy issues, including planning policy, it has 14 members of staff. The Treasury also supplies the secretariat for the Barker Review of Land Use Planning. This has six members of staff from the Treasury.

PSA Targets

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many PSA targets set in SR2002 *(a)* have and *(b)* have not been achieved. [87458]

Mr. Thomas: Departments report on progress against their PSA targets twice yearly in their Departmental and Autumn Performance Reports. It is not possible to provide a full tally due to lags in departmental data and the fact that some targets are still ongoing, with an end date in the future. However, when departments provided summary assessments for a majority of SR2002 targets in their latest Autumn Performance Reports over 80 per cent. of those targets were reported to be met or on course.

Public Relations Companies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public affairs and public relations companies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies of his Department have used since 1997. [83784]

John Healey: The Treasury and its agencies have reviewed their supplier and expenditure records for the past four financial years and found no suppliers which they know to be public affairs or public relations companies.

Registration On-line Computer Systems

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the reasons for the delays and backlog resulting from the purchase and installation of the Registration on-line computer system at register offices in England and Wales. [87860]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 24 July 2006:

The Registrar General has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what assessment he has made of the reasons for the delays and backlog resulting from the purchase and installation of the Registration On-line computer system at register offices in England and Wales. I am replying in her absence. (87860)

Civil partnership legislation took effect in England and Wales on 5 December 2005 and was available to those wishing to make use of it from that date, without delays. To avoid any risk of delay or inconvenience, Civil Partnerships were initially recorded on a manual system with the Registration On-line (RON) computer system coming into use on 6 March 2006. An exercise to capture details of the manual notices and registrations for ceremonies prior to 6 March, and put them on the RON database, is nearing completion.

Use of RON for registration of births, still births, and deaths is expected to commence later this year, with marriages following in 2007. This will take account of the experience of using RON to date, and will progressively replace existing systems in Register Offices across England and Wales.

Sir David Varney

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much Sir David Varney is being paid to act as a senior adviser on Transformational Government; and who is meeting the cost; [88214]

(2) whether Sir David Varney will be employed as *(a)* a civil servant and *(b)* a special adviser in his role as senior adviser on Transformational Government; [88215]

(3) how many people in the Treasury are working on the Transformational Government project, broken down by grade; and what the total salary cost is. [88217]

John Healey: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the 2006 Budget the appointment of Sir David Varney to advise him on opportunities for transforming the delivery of public services. Details of Sir David's work are set out in "Releasing the Resources to Meet the Challenges Ahead: Value for Money in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 6889). He will report to the Chancellor on his findings in time to inform the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Sir David will work full time as the Chancellor's senior adviser on transformational government until December 2006 and will be employed on civil service pay and conditions. His remuneration will be included in Her Majesty's Treasury's 2006-07 Resource Accounts.

Sir David's work on transformational government forms part of the work of Her Majesty's Treasury. No additional staff have been recruited and costs will be met from within existing budgets.

Small Business Investment Companies

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was spent on the creation of British small business investment companies in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement; [84806]

(2) how many British small business investment companies were created in each year since 2003. [84807]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

There is no small business investment company (SBIC) programme in the United Kingdom. The SBIC programme was created in the United States in 1958 and exists to provide equity finance to small businesses in the start-up and early growth stages of their business development.

Enterprise Capital Funds have recently been introduced to the United Kingdom and while based on the SBIC model have significant enhancements. Government investment of up to £106.5 million, subject to legal agreement, in the first six of these funds was announced between March and June 2006. Legal firms are currently being finalised, so no investment has yet been made.

Small Change Big Difference

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1857W, on Small Change Big Difference, what therapies are available to employees of his Department; how many people have made use of them; whether the therapies provided are subsidised by his Department; and what the total cost is to his Department of providing these therapies. [83493]

John Healey: All services are purchased privately by staff. No services are subsidised and there is no cost to the Department in providing them.

Tax Credits

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* individual and *(b)* late payments of working tax credits were made in each week in March and April 2006, up to the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [64468]

Dawn Primarolo: Individual payments made for each week in March and April are shown in the following table:

	Number
March 2006	
Week 1	1,900,000
Week 2	3,100,000
Week 3	3,000,000
Week 4	3,300,000
Week 5	3,400,000
April 2006	
Week 1	3,150,000
Week 2	3,600,000
Week 3	2,900,000
Week 4	4,300,000

There is no record of payments being made late during those weeks.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the tax credits e-portal was re-opened. [76419]

Dawn Primarolo: The tax credit e-portal has not yet been re-opened. DWP access to the e-portal was reinstated on 24 April 2006 and the "Do I qualify" element was restored on 31 May 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fraudulent tax credit claims have been made over the telephone since April 2004; and if he will make a statement. [76488]

Dawn Primarolo: A claim for tax credits cannot be made over the telephone.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average payment in family credit, working families tax credit and their successors was in each applicable year at current prices; and what the *(a)* total expenditure and *(b)* expenditure net of tax receipts was in each year. [80066]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the total expenditure and average finalised award for family credit, working families tax credit and their successors since 1991-92.

	Expenditure in nominal terms (£ billion)	Average award at current prices (£ per family per week)
Family Credit[1]		
1991-92	0.7	36
1992-93	1.0	43
1993-94	1.3	48
1994-95	1.5	50
1995-96	1.8	53
1996-97	2.2	59
1997-98	2.4	61
1998-99	2.5	62
1999-2000	2.0	65
Working Families Tax Credit[2]		
1999-2000	1.1	71
2000-01	4.6	82
2001-02	5.5	86
2002-03	6.3	91
2003-04	0.1	[3]n/a

[1] Excluding disability working allowance. This was phased out between October 1999 and March 2000.
[2] Excluding disabled person's tax credit. This was phased in between October 1999 and March 2000 and ceased in early April 2003.
[3] Working families tax credits ended 7 April 2003, therefore only small amount of expenditure recorded.

Information on annualised average awards for families benefiting from child and working tax credits in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are published in table 1.1 of the 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2003-04' and 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2004-05', which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Net expenditure of working families tax credits between 1999 and 2003 are as follows:

	£ billion
1999-2000	0.9
2000-01	3.8
2001-02	4.9
2002-03	5.5
2003-04	0.1

Total expenditure of new tax credits for 2003-04 is published in the Department of Inland Revenue Accounts 2003-04, Note 3 of the Trust Statement. The net expenditure for 2004-05 is calculated by removing the negative tax figure published in the PBR 2005 report from the net expenditure figure published in the Department of Inland Revenue Accounts 2004-05, Note 3 of the Trust Statement.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate has been made of the number of multiple separate cases of tax credit claims from the same address; how much fraud has been uncovered; and if he will make a statement; [78406]

(2) what action he has taken to reduce tax credit fraud by screening all multiple tax credit claims from a single address; and if he will make a statement. [81417]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC have measures in place to tackle such indication of possible fraud. However, it would be inappropriate to disclose detailed information relating to HMRC action to reduce tax credits fraud as to do so could provide assistance to those engaged in criminal activity.

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his assessment is of the ability of the tax credits computer system to recalculate tax credits payments to surviving spouses and families; and if he will make a statement. [81526]

Dawn Primarolo: The tax credit computer does not recalculate tax credits payments in these circumstances. A new claim is made by the surviving partner.

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in administering the tax credit system in each year since its inception; and how many hours overtime were paid in each of those years. [81527]

Dawn Primarolo: For the approximate number of staff deployed to tax credits work in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General published on 11 July 2006 which is available at http://www.nao.org.uk/home.htm Given that HMRC constantly monitor and balance the needs of their various work areas and deploy their resources accordingly, figures about the number of staff in HMRC who are working on tax credits at any one time can vary.

Separate information relating to the number of staff across HM Revenue and Customs working full-time or part-time in administering tax credits, and information on the number of hours of overtime paid for those staff, is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there have been *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful organised frauds of the tax credit system since 1 December 2005; and if he will make a statement. [81754]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the HMRC publication "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" available on the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm and to HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts: the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report, Part 2, available at http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/05-06/05061159.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people received tax credits while unemployed in each year since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [83904]

Dawn Primarolo: Working families tax credit awards, which were payable in 2001-02 and 2002-03, were not available to families who were out of work at the start of the award. Children's tax credit benefited only taxpayers and therefore were also only available for in-work families. No information is available on the number of families who received working families tax

credit or children's tax credits that included an adult who was out of work for all or part of the year.

Estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05 of the average numbers of out of work families receiving child tax credit in finalised awards, or equivalent support via income support or income based job seekers allowance, are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2004-05". This publication, and estimates of the equivalent numbers in provisional awards as at selected dates up to April 2006, are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Television Licences

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions took place between his Department and the BBC about the decision not to renew the contract for renewal and purchase of television licences supplied at post offices. [87430]

John Healey: The Treasury has had no discussions with the BBC in relation to the BBC's procurement exercise for its "over-the-counter" TV licensing business.

Temporary Workers

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of workers in each *(a)* industry sector and *(b)* occupational group were temporary in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) 2005; and what each sector's and group's share was of the total number of temporary workers in each year. [86546]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the percentage of temporary workers in employment in (a) industry sectors and (b) occupational groups for the years 1997, 2001 and 2005; and what each sector's and group's share was of the total number of temporary workers in each of those years. (86546)

The two tables attached show the available information covering the 12 month periods ending February 1999 and 2001, and December 2005. No comparable information is available for 1997.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Temporary employees as a percentage of all employees by occupation and industry, 1999, 2001 and 2005—United Kingdom

Twelve months ending:	*February 1999*	
	Number (Thousand)	*As percentage of total employees in industry*
All employees[1]	[2]	[2]
1 Managers and senior officials	[2]	[2]
2 Professional occupations	[2]	[2]
3 Associate professional and technical	[2]	[2]
4 Administrative and secretarial	[2]	[2]
5 Skilled trades occupations	[2]	[2]
6 Personal service occupations	[2]	[2]
7 Sales and customer service occupations	[2]	[2]
8 Process plant and machine operatives	[2]	[2]
9 Elementary occupations	[2]	[2]
All employees[3]	1,678	7.3
A-B: Agriculture and fishing	20	9.6
C E: Energy and water	28	9.9
D: Manufacturing	213	4.6
F: Construction	79	6.7
G-H: Distribution hotels and restaurants	262	5.7
I: Transport and communication	91	5.9
J-K: Banking finance and insurance etc	248	7.4
L-N: Public admin education and health	611	9.9
O-Q: Other services	125	10.6

Twelve months ending:	*February 2001*	
All employees[1]	*Number (Thousand)*	*As percentage of total employees in industry*
All employees[1]	[2]	[2]
1 Managers and senior officials	[2]	[2]
2 Professional occupations	[2]	[2]
3 Associate professional and technical	[2]	[2]
4 Administrative and secretarial	[2]	[2]
5 Skilled trades occupations	[2]	[2]
6 Personal service occupations	[2]	[2]
7 Sales and customer service occupations	[2]	[2]
8 Process plant and machine operatives	[2]	[2]
9 Elementary occupations	[2]	[2]
All emplovees[3]	1,616	6.8
A-B: Agriculture and fishing	17	8.3
C E: Energy and water	24	8.3
D: Manufacturing	179	4.2
F: Construction	74	5.9
G-H: Distribution hotels and restaurants	255	5.5
I: Transport and communication	93	5.6
J-K: Banking finance and insurance etc	230	6.5
L-N: Public admin education and health	616	9.4
O-Q: Other services	124	10.1

Twelve months ending:	December 2005	
	Number (Thousand)	As percentage of total employees in occupation/ industry
All employees[1]	1,346	5.5
1 Managers and senior officials	55	1.6
2 Professional occupations	269	8.8
3 Associate professional and technical	162	4.8
4 Administrative and secretarial	193	5.7
5 Skilled trades occupations	66	3.2
6 Personal service occupations	165	8.3
7 Sales and customer service occupations	117	5.6
8 Process plant and machine operatives	75	4.1
9 Elementary occupations	241	8.1
All employees[3]	1,346	5.5
A-B: Agriculture and fishing	10	5.5
C E: Energy and water	12	4.8
D: Manufacturing	121	3.5
F: Construction	48	3.6
G-H: Distribution hotels and restaurants	240	5.0
I: Transport and communication	67	4.0
J-K: Banking finance and insurance etc	175	4.8
L-N: Public admin education and health	574	7.5
O-Q: Other services	96	7.8

[1] Total includes those who did not state their occupation, whereas occupation group percentages exclude them.
[2] Data not available.
[3] Total includes those whose workplace is outside the UK, or who did not state their industry, whereas industry group percentages exclude them.
Source:
ONS: Labour Force Survey Annual datasets

Table 2: Temporary employees by occupation and industry 1999, 2001 and 2005—United Kingdom

Twelve months ending:	February 1999	
	Number (Thousand)	As percentage of all temporary employees
All temporary employees[1]	[2]	[2]
1 Managers and senior officials	[2]	[2]
2 Professional occupations	[2]	[2]
3 Associate professional and technical	[2]	[2]
4 Administrative and secretarial	[2]	[2]
5 Skilled trades occupations	[2]	[2]
6 Personal service occupations	[2]	[2]
7 Sales and customer service occupations	[2]	[2]
8 Process plant and machine operatives	[2]	[2]
9 Elementary occupations	[2]	[2]
AH temporary employees[3]	1,678	100.0

Table 2: Temporary employees by occupation and industry 1999, 2001 and 2005—United Kingdom

Twelve months ending:	February 1999	
	Number (Thousand)	As percentage of all temporary employees
A-B: Agriculture and fishing	20	1.2
C E: Energy and water	28	1.6
D: Manufacturing	213	12.7
F: Construction	79	4.7
G-H: Distribution hotels and restaurants	262	15.6
I: Transport and communication	91	5.4
J-K: Banking finance and insurance etc	248	14.8
L-N: Public admin education and health	611	36.5
O-Q: Other services	125	7.4

Twelve months ending:	February 2002	
	Number (Thousand)	As percentage of all temporary employees
All temporary employees[1]	[2]	[2]
1 Managers and senior officials	[2]	[2]
2 Professional occupations	[2]	[2]
3 Associate professional and technical	[2]	[2]
4 Administrative and secretarial	[2]	[2]
5 Skilled trades occupations	[2]	[2]
6 Personal service occupations	[2]	[2]
7 Sales and customer service occupations	[2]	[2]
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F: Construction	74	4.6
G-H: Distribution hotels and restaurants	255	15.8
I: Transport and communication	93	5.7
J-K: Banking finance and insurance etc	230	14.3
L-N: Public admin education and health	616	38.2
O-Q: Other services	124	7.7

Twelve months ending:	December 2005	
	Number (Thousand)	As percentage of all temporary employees
All temporary employees[3]	1,346	100.0
1 Managers and senior officials	55	4.1
2 Professional occupations	269	20.0

Twelve months ending:	December 2005 Number (Thousand)	As percentage of all temporary employees
3 Associate professional and technical	162	12.1
4 Administrative and secretarial	193	14.3
5 Skilled trades occupations	66	4.9
6 Personal service occupations	165	12.2
7 Sales and customer service occupations	117	8.7
8 Process plant and machine operatives	75	5.6
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A-B: Agriculture and fishing	10	0.7
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D: Manufacturing	121	9.0
F: Construction	48	3.6
G-H: Distribution hotels and restaurants	240	17.9
I: Transport and communication	67	5.0
J-K: Banking finance and insurance etc	175	13.0
L-N: Public admin education and health	574	42.7
O-Q: Other services	96	7.2

[1] Total includes those who did not state their occupation, whereas occupation group percentages exclude them.
[2] Data not available.
[3] Total includes those whose workplace is outside the UK, or who did not state their industry, whereas industry group percentages exclude them.
Source:
ONS: Labour

Terrorism

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to prevent the financing of terrorism since February 2006; and if he will make a statement. [88095]

Ed Balls: HM Treasury has continued to work closely with other policy departments, law enforcement agencies and international partners in order to better deter, detect and disrupt terrorism and the financing of terrorism.

The Treasury published a progress report on counter-terrorist financing at the pre-Budget report 2005 and a further progress report on activity in this area will be published in the autumn.

Unemployment (Brent, East)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* long-term unemployed in (i) Brent, East and (ii) Brent in each year since 1997. [87422]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about unemployment.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. The number of unemployed, resident in the Brent East Parliamentary Constituency was provided in Table 1 of an Answer on 11th July 2006 (Hansard column 1726W, reference 79828) up to the 12 months ending December 2004. The number of long-term unemployed was given in Table 3 of the same Answer. Table 1 attached shows more recent information from the APS. Table 2, attached, shows corresponding data for people resident in the London borough of Brent.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Data for all claimants resident in the Brent East constituency was provided in Table 6 of the above Answer and the number of long-term claimants (over 12 months) was given in Table 8 of the previous Answer. Table 3, attached, shows corresponding data for the London borough of Brent.

Table 1: Number of unemployed persons, aged 16 and over, resident in Brent East Parliamentary constituency

12 months ending	Number of unemployed	Thousand Long-term unemployed[1]
March 2005	3	1
December 2005	3	[2]

[1] Over 12 months.
[2] Sample size too small to provide estimate.
Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Number of unemployed persons, aged 16 and over, resident in the London borough of Brent

12 months ending	Number of unemployed	Thousand Long-term unemployed[1]
February 1998	15	n/a
February 1999	15	4
February 2000	10	4
February 2001	12	3
February 2002	12	3
February 2003	13	3
February 2004	9	2
March 2005	10	3
December 2005	11	3

[1] Over 12 months.
Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey

Table 3: Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the London borough of Brent

	All claimants	Long-term claimants[1,2]
1997	12,893	5,200
1998	10,463	3,640
1999	9,080	2,840

Table 3: Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the London borough of Brent

	All claimants	Long-term claimants[1,2]
2000	7,691	2,235
2001	6,885	1,605
2002	8,046	1,790
2003	8,383	2,065
2004	8,133	2,215
2005	7,680	1,765

[1] Computerised claims only. Dataset rounded to nearest 5
[2] Over 12 months.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data held on Nomis®

Volunteering

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the contribution to the UK economy of those on benefits who volunteer. [86735]

Dawn Primarolo: No such research has been undertaken. However, the Government recognises the potential impact of volunteering on helping benefit claimants return to work, and has taken a number of steps to facilitate volunteering. The Russell Commission looked at the experiences of young volunteers in receipt of benefits, and put forward a number of recommendations, as well as publishing the Guide to Volunteering on Benefits.

Whole of Government Accounts Process

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on the dry run of the Whole of Government Accounts process for 2005-06. [88090]

Mr. Timms: In December 2005, HM Treasury published a report entitled 'Delivering the benefits of accruals accounting for the whole public sector'. Within this document a full account was given of the Whole of Government process to date and the intended 2005-06 dry run. There is no current intention to publish any further account of the 2005-06 Whole of Government dry run process.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of abortions were performed on pregnancies of *(a)* under nine weeks, *(b)* nine to 12 weeks, *(c)* 13 to 16 weeks, *(d)* 17 to 19 weeks, *(e)* 20 to 23 weeks and *(f)* 24 weeks and over duration in 2005. [85147]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Abortions, residents: percentages by gestation, England and Wales, 2005

Gestation	Percentage
Under 9 weeks	53.6
9 to 12 weeks	35.7
13 to 16 weeks	7.2
17 to 19 weeks	2.1
20 to 23 weeks	1.3
24 weeks and over	0.1
Total abortions	100

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed under the terms of the Abortion Act 1967 as amended by section 34 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; and how many and what proportion were performed *(a)* in an emergency to save the life of the mother and *(b)* in cases of rape. [85170]

Caroline Flint: There were 5.3 million (5,289,701) abortions performed in England and Wales on residents between 1968 and 2005. In the period between 1968 and 2002, 410 were performed under Section 1(4), in an emergency to save the life of the mother. The proportion performed in cases of rape is not collected.

Notes:

We are unable to provide these data for confidentiality reasons as the totals for the three years 2003-05 are less than 10 and have not previously been published. It is intended that the Department will publish this information in a 10-year table (2003 to 2012) if numbers reach a total of 10 or more.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total number of abortions was in 2005 at *(a)* 26 weeks and *(b)* each week after the 26th, broken down by grounds for termination. [85171]

Caroline Flint: We are unable to provide these data for confidentiality reasons as set out in Statistical Bulletin 2006-01, "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2005"; copies of which are available from the Library and also on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/68/59/04136859.pdf.

Agenda for Change

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clerical and administrative staff have been allocated lower pay bands as a result of Agenda for Change. [84877]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From the available information on the computer aided job evaluation system it would suggest that the majority administrative and clerical posts are matching national profiles across bands one to five. This cannot readily be compared to the previous Whitley system.

Alcohol-related Conditions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 18 years were admitted to hospital for alcohol-related

problem in each year since 1997 for which figures are available, broken down by (i) region, (ii) health authority and (iii) primary care trust. [84911]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally in the format requested. However, data are provided in the following table for patients admitted to hospital for alcohol-related problems broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Count of patients admitted to hospital for alcohol-related conditions by region, SHA and age (ICD10 codes F10,K70,T51) Data for all NHS hospitals in England, data years 2003-04, 2004-05

		2004-05		2003-04	
Government office region	*SHA*	*under 18*	*18 and over*	*under 18*	*18 and over*
East of England	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	263	4,558	251	4,381
East of England	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	170	2,323	170	1,842
East of England	Essex	118	2,552	103	2,099
London	North West London	107	3,953	107	3,596
London	North Central London	91	2,683	75	2,275
London	North East London	77	2,930	109	2,916
London	South East London	130	3,812	121	3,131
South East	South West London	156	2,584	162	2,073
North East	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	306	6,032	246	5,512
North East	County Durham and Tees Valley	280	4,108	247	3,481
Yorkshire and The Humber	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	352	4,322	348	3,837
Yorkshire and The Humber	West Yorkshire	283	5,447	293	4,828
Yorkshire and The Humber	South Yorkshire	194	3,255	164	2,885
North West	Cumbria and Lancashire	447	6,763	380	6,130
North West	Greater Manchester	642	10,707	519	8,670
North West	Cheshire and Merseyside	546	11,228	540	10,496
South East	Thames Valley	231	3,677	201	3,050
South East	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	279	3,722	260	3,392
South East	Kent and Medway	226	3,049	191	2,650
South East	Surrey and Sussex	367	5,585	340	4,677
South West	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	281	5,687	264	4,402
South West	South West Peninsula	286	4,321	296	4,113
South West	Dorset and Somerset	159	2,643	145	2,216
East Midlands	Trent	399	6,897	356	6,233
East Midlands	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	139	2,964	131	2,530
West Midlands	Shropshire and Staffordshire	237	2,958	237	2,800
West Midlands	Birmingham and the Black Country	311	6,491	324	5,945
West Midlands	West Midlands South	216	2,994	222	2,746
	Other/unknown	133	4,995	107	3,758

Notes:
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data that is the data are ungrossed.
Patient counts
Patient counts are based on the unique patient identifier HESID. This identifier is derived based on patient's date of birth, postcode, sex, local patient identifier and NHS number, using an agreed algorithm. Where data are incomplete, HESID must erroneously link episodes or fail to recognise episodes for the same patient. Care is therefore needed, especially where duplicate records persist in the data. The patient count cannot be summed across a table where patients may have episodes in more than one cell.
ICD10 codes used: F10, T51, K70 - Alcohol related admissions.
Data have been provided for 2004-05 and 2003-04 only as data from earlier years are not comparable as a time series in the requested format due to boundary changes of SHA's.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Alzheimer's Disease

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account was taken by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence of the opinion of health professionals on the efficacy of Alzheimer drugs when drawing up its recommendations. [85212]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) follows a standard process when developing its guidance. This process encourages bodies representing health professionals to register as consultees. Consultees can submit written evidence, comment on the appraisal documents and appeal against the appraisal committee's final recommendations. All NICE guidance is subject to public consultation on the NICE website and any clinician can log on and give their comments in this way. Two clinical experts nominated by the consultee organisations give their expert personal view by attending the initial appraisal committee discussion

and/or providing written evidence to the committee. Evidence submitted by health professional groups and clinical experts is published on the NICE website throughout the guidance development process.

Assisted Reproductive Technology

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies have been born in each London borough through assisted reproductive technology in each year since 2000. [87116]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) does collect data on live births reported to it by HFEA licensed clinics resulting from treatment cycles involving in vitro fertilisation and donor insemination. Data for London are shown in the table.

Live births resulting from in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and donor insemination (DI) treatment cycles from in London from 2000-04

	District—London[1]
2000	3,115
2001	3,197
2002	2,838
2003	3,359
2004[2]	3,205

[1] The table identifies the total number of babies born according to their date of birth. HFEA has used the Patients Guide To Infertility definition of regions, which relates to the location in which the IVF or DI treatment took place. This is not necessarily the location of the birth or the place of residence of the patient.
[2] 2004 is the most recent year for which information is available.
Source:
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

Audiology Services

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients within the Coastal primary care trust and East Kent hospital trust areas are awaiting *(a)* assessment and *(b)* fitting of hearing aids for the first time. [87266]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the East Kent hospital trust will switch to the exclusive fitting of digital hearing aids. [87267]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to ensure their local population benefits from modernised hearing aid services.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many audiology posts are unfilled in England. [87268]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The March 2005 vacancy survey recorded 70 vacancies for audiologists which remained unfilled after three months or more in England. This was a three-month vacancy rate of 4.8 per cent.

The results of the 2006 vacancy survey are due to be published on the 27 July 2006.

Blood Pressure/Diabetes

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to inform the South Asian community about *(a)* high blood pressure and *(b)* diabetes. [84432]

Caroline Flint: The White Papers, "Choosing Health" and "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", set out a range of action to improve health and tackle health inequalities that can lead to ill health. General Government action promoting a balanced diet and increased physical activity helps to address the risk factors that may lead to high blood pressure and diabetes. In particular, tackling obesity and action to reduce the intake of salt, fat and sugar can help reduce these risks.

Specific action to inform the south Asian community about high blood pressure and diabetes includes the self-assessment Life Check, supporting individuals and communities at high risk of developing diabetes to get involved in more healthy lifestyles and environments. A Healthy Living DVD was launched recently to help raise awareness of and address potential inequalities in the identification and treatment of people from the Asian population with diabetes. The Department is also funding the Stroke Association to promote a blood pressure awareness campaign within African Caribbean and south Asian communities in England through relevant media, translated materials and pressure testing stations in community settings.

Brachytherapy

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether her Department has issued guidelines to primary care trusts on the funding of brachytherapy; [86456]

(2) what assessment she has made of the availability of brachytherapy on the NHS in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* England. [86457]

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the use of brachytherapy; and if she will make a statement. [87681]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department issued 'Advice on the Development of Permanent Seed Implant Brachytherapy Services (low dose brachytherapy) for Localised Prostate Cancer in England' for consultation in summer 2005. The consultation document can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/ClosedConsultations

The advice includes estimated costs for introducing and running a low dose rate prostate brachytherapy service but does not address sources of funding. It also provides the location of the 14 national health service prostate brachytherapy centres in England at that time. The framework is being finalised and will be published later in the year.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has also produced interventional procedures guidance to the NHS on the use of brachytherapy for prostate cancer and cervical cancer. The guidance confirms that these procedures are safe for use.

The Royal College of Radiologists is also producing a report on the development of brachytherapy services in general. This is due to be published in the autumn.

Breastfeeding

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account was taken of her Department's policy on breastfeeding when assessing whether to allow the Patch infant formula trial in NHS hospitals. [85736]

Caroline Flint: The Department's policy on the governance of research is set out in the research governance framework for health and social care (second edition, April 2005), a statement of standards issued by the Secretary of State for Health. Any research study involving national health service patients, their organs, tissues or data or the use of NHS premises or facilities has to have the favourable opinion of a NHS research ethics committee.

In their decision-making, research ethics committees are independent from political, institutional, profession-related and market influences. They reach an opinion on the basis of the ethical issues and not Government policy. They keep their own records. The Department cannot comment on their deliberations in a particular case.

In addition, the permission of each organisation where the research takes place is required. The research governance framework for health and social care provides guidance on the issues they have to take into consideration.

Capital Shifting

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms there are by which NHS organisations can give money to other NHS organisations; and what estimate she has made of capital shifting within the NHS in each month of 2006. [85624]

Andy Burnham: The Department uses the process of inter authority transfers (IATs) to effect revenue and capital resource and cash transfers between national health service organisations during a financial year. These adjustments can be requested on a monthly basis as part of the NHS financial monitoring arrangements and must be agreed by both parties to the transfer and the Department.

The process is also used to transfer funds from primary care trusts to the strategic health authority revenue reserves.

The Department does not collect data on estimates, profiled by month, for individual revenue and capital IATs.

Carr Hill Formula Review

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the recommendations made by the review of the Carr Hill formula to be published; and if she will make a statement on the conclusions of the first phase of the review. [84011]

Caroline Flint: It is anticipated that the group tasked with the review of general medical services funding will report on its findings and recommendations during 2006-07.

The first phase of the review is now complete. This involved initial assessment of all the factors in the existing formula and of factors, which could be included in a revised formula. The group will continue to carry out detailed modelling to enable a better understanding of the impact of a new formula at different population levels and for different types of practices.

No conclusions have yet been reached by the group.

Child Vaccinations

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibility general practitioners have to inform parents and guardians that children are due for vaccination. [85635]

Caroline Flint: Under the terms of their contract, general practitioners are required to provide essential services to their patients—which includes the provision of health promotion advice, for example on vaccinations and immunisations. Practices may also choose to provide childhood immunisations themselves under a directed enhanced service. This requires practices to offer recommended immunisations to children on its childhood immunisation scheme register and information to parents or guardians about its immunisation programme.

Clinical Care (Peter Halley)

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she made of clinical care following the death of Peter Halley of Southend-on-Sea at Southend hospital on 14 May 2004; and what existing policies were amended as a result. [87946]

Andy Burnham: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. The local national health service owes a duty of care to any patient it treats.

Community Care

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she has issued to NHS foundation trusts on provision of practical and clinically safe medical care in a community setting. [85094]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs) are bound to comply with national health care standards and targets under their terms of authorisation (terms and conditions of operation) and are accountable to Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator

of NHS foundation trusts) for complying with the authorisation. Monitor has powers of intervention in cases of significant failure.

The Healthcare Commission (the statutory name of which is the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection) assesses and inspects NHSFTs' performance against standards and targets in the same way as for NHS trusts. National Service Frameworks and guidance by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are integral to health care standards.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the full guidance following her letter sent in February to strategic health authorities identifying the criteria for enhancing the role of community hospitals for revenue purposes following the recent capital announcement. [84160]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The further guidance identified in the letter sent to strategic health authorities on 16 February entitled 'Moving care closer to home' was published on 5 July 2006. The publication is titled 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Community: investing in the future of community hospitals and services' and is available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/69/32/04136932.pdf

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many recent *(a)* letters and *(b)* representations her Department has received in relation to (i) Ludlow Community Hospital and (ii) Bishop's Castle Community Hospital in Shropshire. [85286]

Caroline Flint: The Department has received a large number of letters from both hon. Members and members of the public about the review of services in Shropshire, including letters about Ludlow Community Hospital and Bishop's Castle Community Hospital. An accurate figure could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has also received a petition in relation to Ludlow Community Hospital.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of community hospital beds in the Shropshire Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997; [85287]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of community hospital beds likely to be needed in *(a)* the area of South Shropshire district council and *(b)* the area of Bridgnorth district council over the next (i) five and (ii) 10 years. [85289]

Andy Burnham: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning services, including community beds and community hospital facilities, to meet the health needs of their local population. Shropshire County PCT and Telford and Wrekin PCT are currently consulting on proposed changes to community hospitals across Shropshire.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of community hospital beds in the Cotswolds and Vale Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997. [85428]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 826, on community hospitals, how many community hospitals have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Strategic Health Authority area since 1997; and for how many possible closure is being considered. [85434]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of community hospital beds in Kennet and North Wiltshire primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [85496]

Andy Burnham: It is for local primary care trusts in conjunction with their strategic health authorities to make an assessment of the local health service provision.

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North, of 13 June 2006, regarding a constituent. [87165]

Andy Burnham: A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 21 July 2006.

Crohn's Disease

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England have been diagnosed with Crohn's disease; what NHS funds are set aside to help treat those suffering from the disease; and what public funds have been allocated to help finance research into developing a DNA Crohn's disease vaccine. [87071]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* Information on the number of people diagnosed with Crohn's disease is not collected. NHS funds are not specifically set aside for the treatment of individual diseases.

No public funds have been allocated to finance research into developing a DNA Crohn's disease vaccine. The main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Office of Science and Innovation, part of the Department of Trade and Industry. The MRC allocates

research funding based on the merit of the individual research proposals. In 2003-04 the MRC spend on research relevant to inflammatory bowel diseases (which includes Crohn's disease) amounted to £1.6 million.

Dentistry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the quality of dental appliances entering the UK from (i) EU countries and (ii) countries outside the EU; and if she will make a statement. [85927]

Andy Burnham: No research has been commissioned on the quality of dental appliances entering the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU) or non-EU countries. All dental appliances being placed on the UK market must meet the safety and quality requirements in the Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EC.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices in Ruislip-Northwood constituency have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed since 1997. [86479]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the opening and closure of general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services (PDS) practices are not collected centrally. However, the number of practice addresses is available.

The number of GDS and PDS dental practices in Ruislip-Northwood constituency is shown in the table.

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Number of GDS or PDS dental practice addresses in Ruislip-Northwood constituency as at 31 March each year

	Number
1997	23
2006	23

Notes:
1. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much national health service treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the primary care trust. Information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual GDS or PDS dentists is not centrally available.
2. Areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics all fields postcode directory.
3. Data have been supplied by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care
NHS Business Services Authority

Diagnostic Tests

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to expand the choice available to patients over the provider of diagnostic tests which need to be completed as part of the patient's care pathway. [86213]

Andy Burnham: From 30 April 2006, patients awaiting diagnostic imaging tests who do not have an appointment scheduled within 20 weeks are being offered the choice of having their scan at another provider within a maximum of 20 weeks. From April 2007, patients who do not have an appointment scheduled within 13 weeks will be offered the choice of having their scan at another provider within a maximum of 13 weeks. Speeding up access to diagnostic imaging tests is a key element of the drive to reduce overall access time for the benefit of patients and central to delivering an 18-week referral to treatment patient pathway by 2008.

In the autumn, we will publish a framework setting out the next steps for choice policy. The framework will include policy guidance for choice of any provider in elective care for 2008. As part of the policy development for this we are scoping the opportunities to increase choice for patients along the elective care pathway, including in diagnostics. The framework will also include our priorities for extending choice beyond elective care into other service areas.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the total number of each type of diagnostic test carried out in a year. [86214]

Andy Burnham: Data on the total number of each type of diagnostic test carried out in a year is not centrally collected. However, it is estimated that around 630 million diagnostic tests are carried out each year for national health service patients.

Type	*Number*	
Imaging	Over 30 million tests	Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computerised tomography (CT), positron emission tomography (PET)/CT, ultrasound, plain film, X-ray, dual energy X-ray absortiometry (DEXA) and other imaging modalities
Endoscopy	Circa 1.1 million tests	Internal investigations using scopes
Physiological measurement	Up to 9 million tests	Over 200 tests across cardiology, neurophysiology, audiology, urology, ophthalmic vision science, vascular technology, respiratory physiology and gastrointestinal physiology
Pathology	Circa 600 million tests	Tests on blood and tissues, carried out in four main disciplines (histopathology, microbiology, haematology, biochemistry)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* commissioners and *(b)* providers have responsibility for the reduction of diagnostic waiting times in order to achieve the 18-week waiting time target. [86215]

Andy Burnham: Delivery of the 18-week patient pathway will be led by primary care trusts as commissioners of care for their local patients. All organisations delivering care along the pathway have a responsibility to ensure that the patient does not wait

more than 18 weeks from general practitioner referral to hospital treatment. This includes providers of diagnostic services.

Diet

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the multiple traffic light system for nutrients when dealing with portions of food on the basis of levels per 100 g. [83889]

Caroline Flint: The basis for the traffic light colour coding recommended by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) reflects expert advice on the most appropriate criteria for a signposting scheme which is intend to help consumers to make healthier choices. It incorporates a per 100 g element and a per portion element for food sold in large portion sizes. In addition, the FSA recommends that traffic light colour coded signposts declares information on the levels of nutrients in a manufacturer' recommended serving.

District Community Nursing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many district community nurses are employed by the South East London Strategic Health Authority. [81947]

Ms Rosie Winterton: South East London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) ceased to exist on 30 June 2006 but at 30 September 2005 568 community district nurses were employed by primary care trusts in its area. National health service London was established on 1 July 2006 as the SHA for London.

Doctor Registration

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors have been struck off in each health care trust in each of the last five years; and what the reason was in each case. [87309]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect this information centrally, and is not directly involved in the disciplining of individual doctors. Decisions about whether a doctor should be struck off the register are a matter for the General Medical Council.

Domiciliary Oxygen

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will instruct primary care trusts *(a)* to withdraw from contracts with Air Products for the supply of domiciliary oxygen and *(b)* to take steps to ensure a reliable supply of domiciliary oxygen to patients. [86078]

Andy Burnham: Since the start of a six-month transition programme on 1 February 2006, we have been working with primary care trusts to transfer patients to new service suppliers, including Air Products. This includes action to monitor closely each supplier's capacity to deliver the required standard of service to all patients using oxygen therapy in the home. There is continuous assessment of suppliers with regular meetings to discuss suppliers' reports on progress and action to tackle emerging issues.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the expected annual change in costs is of providing domiciliary oxygen services before and after the introduction of the new contract; [82544]

(2) what the cost has been of supplying domiciliary oxygen services in each of the last 12 months. [82545]

Andy Burnham: In 2004-05 the last full financial year of providing the service under former arrangements, the cost of providing domiciliary oxygen services was £32,809,524. It is not possible to make a direct comparison in the costs of these arrangements with the arrangements supporting service delivery before that date, as the costs are calculated on a different basis. Under the new arrangements, which began on 1 February 2006, the annual cost will reflect the regional contract per diem prices in the 10 oxygen service regions in England and local patterns in ordering these services. The full cost of the service for 2005-06 is not yet available and these will include costs associated with the introduction of the new arrangements on 1 February 2006. The first full year under the new service arrangement will be 2006-07 and we are only three months into the current financial year. In addition, in many parts of the country, primary care trusts have continued to work with local pharmacists to maintain a cylinder service in parallel with the new arrangements to safeguard continuity of supply to patients during action to transfer all patients to the new suppliers.

However, the cost of providing the domiciliary oxygen services in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available are as follows:

2005-06

	Total (£000)
April[1]	7,048
May	1,818
June	4,491
July	4,601
August	4,705
September[1]	7,761
October	1,841
November	5,048
December[1]	7,844
January	1,953
February	4,842
March	5,725
	57,677

[1] In some calendar months there are two payment dates as payments are made on the 1st of the month, unless this falls on a weekend or a bank holiday—in which case the payment in made earlier. Only 12 payments can be made in one financial year.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received from patients who have experienced difficulties with supplies of oxygen for home oxygen therapy. [R] [83991]

Andy Burnham: Since the introduction of the new contractual arrangements of domiciliary oxygen supply on the 1 February 2006, through to 19 July 2006, the Department has received 241 written representations concerned with this service.

Drug and Alcohol Dependency

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on tackling *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol dependency in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in the last period for which figures are available; what these figures represent per head of population in each case; and if she will make a statement. [85878]

Caroline Flint: Drugs funding is issued on a drug action team (DAT) basis, which does not allow us to identify the split in funding between rural and non-rural areas. The 2006-07 pooled drug treatment budget, allocated at DAT level is shown in the table. Mainstream investment by primary care trusts and local authorities in drug treatment is additional to this and is estimated nationally at £212[1] million in 2006-07.

Alcohol funding is entirely from national health service mainstream budgets which means we are unable to identify the split between rural and non-rural areas.

[1] Based on 2 per cent. inflation increase.

Pooled drug treatment budget channelled through primary care trust 2006-07

Region	DAT code	DAT	£
EA	G01B	Bedfordshire	1,690,725
EA	G03B	Cambridgeshire	2,366,762
EA	G05B	Essex	5,583,480
EA	G08B	Hertfordshire	4,794,280
EA	G02B	Luton	1,630,740
EA	G09B	Norfolk	4,199,065
EA	G04B	Peterborough	1,195,081
EA	G06B	Southend-on-Sea	1,035,701
EA	G10B	Suffolk	3,091,336
EA	G07B	Thurrock	789,010
EM	E05B	Derby	1,914,109
EM	E04B	Derbyshire	3,787,185
EM	E02B	Leicester	3,201,533
EM	E01B	Leicestershire	2,403,356
EM	E08B	Lincolnshire	2,514,788
EM	E09B	Northamptonshire	3,240,307
EM	E07B	Nottingham	3,644,663
EM	E06B	Nottinghamshire	4,274,000
EM	E03B	Rutland	55,526
LO	H01B	Barking and Dagenham	1,571,646
LO	H12B	Barnet	1,900,598
LO	H13B	Bexley	1,165,192
LO	H14B	Brent	3,300,438
LO	H15B	Bromley	1,405,345
LO	H03B	Camden	3,593,278
LO	H05B	City of London	57,317
LO	H16B	Croydon	2,600,768
LO	H17B	Ealing	3,006,747
LO	H18B	Enfield	2,512,926
LO	H19B	Greenwich	2,866,297
LO	H06B	Hackney	4,703,987
LO	H20B	Hammersmith and Fulham	2,356,354
LO	H21B	Haringey	3,671,890
LO	H31B	Harrow	1,115,367
LO	H02B	Havering	1,119,895
LO	H32B	Hillingdon	1,417,793
LO	H33B	Hounslow	1,500,309
LO	H04B	Islington	4,136,427
LO	H22B	Kensington and Chelsea	2,519,051
LO	H23B	Kingston upon Thames	893,679
LO	H07B	Lambeth	5,487,766
LO	H08B	Lewisham	4,217,134
LO	H24B	Merton	1,291,259
LO	H25B	Newham	5,172,481
LO	H10B	Redbridge	1,604,249
LO	H26B	Richmond upon Thames	919,246
LO	H09B	Southwark	5,453,924
LO	H27B	Sutton	856,408
LO	H28B	Tower Hamlets	4,584,339
LO	H11B	Waltham Forest	2,457,285
LO	H29B	Wandsworth	2,884,696
LO	H30B	Westminster	3,719,568
NE	A02B	County Durham	3,608,493
NE	A01B	Darlington	805,550
NE	A09B	Gateshead	1,520,801
NE	A03B	Hartlepool	921,121
NE	A05B	Middlesbrough	1,959,141
NE	A07B	Newcastle upon Tyne	3,078,651
NE	A08B	North Tyneside	1,617,587
NE	A10B	Northumberland	2,011,613
NE	A04B	Redcar and Cleveland	1,369,703
NE	A11B	South Tyneside	1,947,040
NE	A06B	Stockton-on-Tees	1,739,089
NE	A12B	Sunderland	2,879,787
NW	B03B	Blackburn with Darwen	1,087,442
NW	B04B	Blackpool	1,077,805
NW	B14B	Bolton	1,454,353
NW	B15B	Bury	777,816
NW	B20B	Cheshire	2,821,277
NW	B16B	Cumbria	2,814,650
NW	B08B	Halton	1,167,327
NW	B11B	Knowsley	2,224,471
NW	B05B	Lancashire	6,170,895
NW	B17B	Liverpool	7,182,848
NW	B18B	Manchester	6,868,189
NW	B13B	Oldham	1,533,187
NW	B09B	Rochdale	1,421,395
NW	B01B	Salford	1,930,717
NW	B19B	Sefton	2,115,704
NW	B10B	St. Helens	1,461,782
NW	B21B	Stockport	1,177,446

Pooled drug treatment budget channelled through primary care trust 2006-07

Region	DAT code	DAT	£
NW	B12B	Tameside	1,326,067
NW	B02B	Trafford	1,197,122
NW	B07B	Warrington	895,860
NW	B22B	Wigan	1,883,045
NW	B06B	Wirral	2,670,720
SE	J01B	Bracknell Forest	384,072
SE	J10B	Brighton and Hove	1,862,675
SE	J07B	Buckinghamshire	1,809,737
SE	J11B	East Sussex	1,808,113
SE	J15B	Hampshire	4,808,456
SE	J18B	Isle of Wight	849,622
SE	J13B	Kent	6,881,667
SE	J14B	Medway towns	1,615,355
SE	J08B	Milton Keynes	1,170,969
SE	J09B	Oxfordshire	3,448,552
SE	J16B	Portsmouth	1,462,012
SE	J02B	Reading	1,135,025
SE	J03B	Slough	1,044,564
SE	J17B	Southampton	1,702,815
SE	J19B	Surrey	3,183,674
SE	J04B	West Berkshire	429,361
SE	J12B	West Sussex	2,751,411
SE	J05B	Windsor and Maidenhead	538,700
SE	J06B	Wokingham	395,037
SW	K01B	Bath and North East Somerset	636,374
SW	K06B	Bournemouth	1,154,957
SW	K02B	Bristol	3,190,237
SW	K13B	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	2,822,297
SW	K08B	Devon	2,871,469
SW	K05B	Dorset	1,190,218
SW	K14B	Gloucestershire	2,659,287
SW	K04B	North Somerset	635,586
SW	K09B	Plymouth	1,736,978
SW	K07B	Poole	449,922
SW	K15B	Somerset	1,883,301
SW	K03B	South Gloucestershire	714,841
SW	K11B	Swindon	1,069,748
SW	K10B	Torbay	864,370
SW	K12B	Wiltshire	1,612,743
WM	F05B	Birmingham	12,950,880
WM	F06B	Coventry	2,679,926
WM	F07B	Dudley	2,217,683
WM	F08B	Herefordshire	743,368
WM	F09B	Sandwell	2,950,700
WM	F01B	Shropshire	1,208,071
WM	F10B	Solihull	1,019,774
WM	F03B	Staffordshire	3,772,829
WM	F04B	Stoke-on-Trent	1,713,917
WM	F02B	Telford and Wrekin	1,101,731
WM	F11B	Walsall	2,173,982
WM	F12B	Warwickshire	2,085,893
WM	F13B	Wolverhampton	2,636,078
WM	F14B	Worcestershire	2,355,456
YH	D09B	Barnsley	1,469,814
YH	D13B	Bradford	4,137,436
YH	D03B	Calderdale	1,296,361
YH	D14B	Doncaster	2,251,146
YH	D02B	East Riding of Yorkshire	1,507,417
YH	D01B	Kingston upon Hull	3,476,486
YH	D04B	Kirklees	2,605,185
YH	D12B	Leeds	5,900,475
YH	D08B	North East Lincolnshire	1,489,380
YH	D07B	North Lincolnshire	945,794
YH	D05B	North Yorkshire	2,400,559
YH	D15B	Rotherham	1,991,867
YH	D11B	Sheffield	4,793,764
YH	D10B	Wakefield	2,124,207
YH	D06B	York	1,031,677
			350,000,000

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of people in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas with (i) drug and (ii) alcohol dependency (A) in absolute terms and (B) per head of population; and if she will make a statement. [85881]

Caroline Flint: The Department's 2004 alcohol needs assessment research project is the first alcohol needs assessment in England conducted on a national scale, and reports there are 1.1 million people in England who meet the criteria of alcohol dependence. We are unable to supply a breakdown of rural and non-rural areas, however regional breakdown is shown in table 1.

Table 1

Region	Total
North East	83,356
North West	145,054
Yorkshire and Humber	163,889
East Midlands	42,656
West Midlands	126,658
East of England	95,808
London	217,429
South East	183,611
South West	95,257
Total for England	1,132,074

The Department does not hold data for the numbers of those with a drug dependency in the format requested but we can provide the following data on the prevalence of drug dependence.

Data on drug dependence is available from the survey Psychiatric Morbidity Among Adults (aged 16 to 74) Living in Private Households (in Great Britain) carried out in 2000, by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

We are unable to break down the prevalence by rural or non-rural areas, however the latest data we have available from the ONS survey is shown in table 2. This provides the prevalence of drug dependence of adults aged 16-74 by NHS regional office area, based on responses to five questions, about drug use in the year prior to interview.

Table 2: Prevalence of drug dependence of adults[1], by NHS regional office area and sex (rate per thousand population), 2000

Rate per thousand in past year

	Northern and Yorkshire	Trent	West Midlands	North West	Eastern	London	South East	South West	England
Women									
Dependence on:									
Cannabis	18	4	1	14	24	46	13	1	16
Amphetamines	1	2	—	4	5	—	2	—	2
Cocaine	1	—	—	4	—	1	1	—	1
Crack	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	0
Ecstasy	5	1	—	—	9	2	—	—	2
Heroin/Methadone	1	4	—	3	—	—	—	1	1
Tranquillisers	2	2	—	4	3	4	3	3	3
Volatile substances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cannabis only	17	—	1	14	16	43	11	1	14
Other drug(s) with or without cannabis dependence	7	10	—	10	12	7	5	4	7
Any drug dependence	24	10	1	25	27	50	16	5	21
Bases	528	414	405	559	435	490	722	432	3,985
Men									
Dependence on:									
Cannabis	31	32	30	68	27	37	58	51	43
Amphetamines	7	—	2	1	1	13	8	—	5
Cocaine	—	—	8	—	13	4	7	2	4
Crack	—	—	7	—	—	4	2	—	2
Ecstasy	3	10	10	12	4	5	17	9	9
Heroin/Methadone	1	2	7	4	—	4	—	—	2
Tranquillisers	1	—	—	7	—	4	—	—	2
Volatile substances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cannabis only	22	27	22	54	23	33	41	39	34
Other drug(s) with or without cannabis dependence	13	12	18	20	19	19	23	11	17
Any drug dependence	34	39	40	74	41	52	65	51	51
Bases	430	332	333	427	388	385	578	356	3,229
All adults									
Dependence on:									
Cannabis	25	18	16	41	26	41	36	25	30
Amphetamines	4	1	1	3	3	7	5	—	3
Cocaine	1	—	4	2	7	3	4	1	3
Crack	1	—	3	—	—	3	1	—	1
Ecstasy	4	6	5	6	7	4	9	5	6
Heroin/Methadone	1	3	3	3	—	2	—	1	2
Tranquillisers	2	1	—	6	1	4	2	1	2
Volatile substances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cannabis only	19	13	12	34	19	38	26	20	24
Other drug(s) with or without cannabis dependence	10	11	9	15	15	13	14	7	12
Any drug dependence	29	24	21	49	34	51	41	27	36
Bases	958	746	738	986	823	875	1,300	788	7,214

'—'denotes no cases
0 denotes values less than 0.5 per cent.
[1] Adults aged 16-74

Note:
The sample for England has been subdivided into eight NHS regional office areas, which should not be mistaken for the current Government office region structure. The sample sizes in a number of regions are quite small and there was differential non-response between regions.

Source:
Psychiatric Morbidity Among Adults Living in Private Households, 2000. Office for National Statistics carried out on behalf of Department of Health, the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales.

Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why her Department is not renewing its contract to provide the journal Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin to doctors and therapeutic advisers in England. [73867]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley), on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 366W.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate has been made of the number of local NHS organisations which will bulk subscribe to the Drugs and Therapeutic Bulletin following the ending of the NHS-wide subscription; [86770]

(2) what guidance she plans to issue to NHS managers responsible for deciding whether to purchase a bulk subscription to the Drugs and Therapeutic Bulletin for their local NHS organisation. [86771]

Andy Burnham: The Department has made no such estimate and has no plans to issue guidance to the national health service. I understand that Which? Limited, the publishers of the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin are examining a range of possible future subscription arrangements.

East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial out-turn of the East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust was in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [85366]

Caroline Flint: The following table provides the financial outturn of the East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust since 1999 to 2004-05.The first available data for this trust is for 1999-2000.

	£000
1999-2000	-1,197
2000-01	601
2001-02	600
2002-03	-11,371
2003-04	65
2004-05	453

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of:
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust (1999-2000 to 2004-05)
Provisional outturn for East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust (2005-06)

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments central Government made to East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust for 2005-06; whether there were payments that were undertaken to be made but were not made; what payments are planned for 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [85369]

Caroline Flint: Details of the payments made by central Government to East Kent Hospitals National Health Service Trust during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is available in the Library.

Public dividend capital (PDC) totalling £25,160,000 was issued to East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust in 2005-06. Of this, £22,160,000 was issued on a permanent basis, £3,000 on a temporary basis. The temporary PDC was repaid in year. To date no PDC has been issued to the trust in 2006-07.

Echo-cardiogram

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting time for an echo-cardiogram was in Croydon in the last period for which figures are available; and how many such procedures have been carried out in the last 12 months. [84666]

Andy Burnham: This information is not available in the format requested.

E-coli

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of e-coli were recorded in each London borough in each of the last five years. [85952]

Caroline Flint: Although food poisoning is notifiable, there is no specific requirement to identify the organism that is involved.

The numbers of confirmed cases of E.coli 0157 received from laboratories in the London health region between 2002 and 2005 are shown in the table[1].

[1] Before 2002, data collection was carried out using different geographical boundaries and are not therefore included.

	Number of confirmed cases of E.coli 0157
2002	54
2003	32
2004	37
2005	77
2006 (to 10 July)	50

Source:
Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens, Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections, Colindale

Data shown are for full years between 2002 and 20051. Also shown are provisional numbers of isolates that were received up to 10 July 2006.

Data on laboratory confirmed cases are not collected by London borough. Patients may be resident in one borough, whereas the hospital from which their isolate is received may be in another.

Elective Acute Procedures

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* targets, *(b)* instructions and *(c)* guidance have been set for primary care trusts in respect of the (i) type and (ii) proportion of elective acute procedures which should be procured from the independent sector; [87661]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 July to question 81980, on elective procedures, what *(a)* approach and *(b)* actions her Department will take in respect of those trusts which fail to secure or secure a very small proportion of their elective procedures through the independent sector. [88272]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no instructions or targets for the type or proportion of activity that primary care trusts (PCTs) must secure through the independent sector, so there is no question of PCTs failing to secure a given level of provision.

In April 2006, the Department published "Choice at Referral: Guidance Framework for 2006-07", which made clear that PCTs should offer patients referred for elective care the choice of at least four locally commissioned providers, together with appropriate national health service foundation trusts and nationally procured independent sector treatment centres.

Emergency Admissions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency admissions to hospital there were in each year since 1998-99. [82013]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Count of emergency admissions for all national health service hospitals in England

Data year	*Emergency admissions*
1998-99	3,784,954
1999-2000	3,833,667
2000-01	3,856,836
2001-02	3,885,780
2002-03	3,938,026
2003-04	4,199,299
2004-05	4,428,680

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Faculty of Medical Management and Leadership

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on the establishment of a Faculty of Medical Management and Leadership. [71421]

Andy Burnham: I have received no representations on this subject.

Food Labelling

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to ensure that *(a)* supermarkets and *(b)* manufacturers implement the recommendations of the Food Standards Agency concerning front of pack labelling. [81419]

Caroline Flint: The Government recommendations for voluntary front of pack signpost labelling based on four core principles:

provision of information for fat, saturated fat, sugar and salt;

use of red, amber, green colour coding to indicate at a glance whether the level of individual nutrients is high, medium and low;

information on the level of each nutrient present in a portion of the product; and

use of nutritional criteria developed by the agency.

Since then, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has been working with retailers and manufacturers to promote take-up of the recommended approach. I have also met representatives of several companies to encourage them to adopt this approach.

Sainsbury's already has a traffic light colour based scheme on its own-brand ready meals, breakfast cereals, pizzas and sandwiches. Waitrose has also introduced the scheme by applying it to sandwiches and intends to extend this to ready meals and pizzas later this year. Asda and the Co-op are to follow shortly.

We will continue to encourage industry to adopt its recommendations to ensure that consumers are provided with helpful nutritional information on front of pack, based on extensive consumer research.

Food Safety

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures the Government and their non-departmental public bodies have put in place to ensure food manufacturers report to the Food Standards Agency infections harmful to human health in their produce; and if she will make a statement. [84627]

Caroline Flint: Under the General Food Law Regulation (EC) 178/2002, it is illegal to place any food on the market if it is unsafe, that is, injurious to human health or unfit for human consumption. The regulation also requires food manufacturers to inform immediately both the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and their local authority of any food assessed to be potentially harmful to health. The food must then be withdrawn from the market and, if necessary, recalled from consumers. In order to facilitate food manufacturers' obligations to report food incidents under Regulation 178/2002, the FSA has made available to industry guidance on reporting which can be accessed from the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidelines the Food Standards Agency has issued regarding testing for salmonella by food manufacturers; and if she will make a statement. [84628]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has not issued specific guidance on salmonella testing since testing regimes should be established by food business operators, informed by their food safety management systems. The FSA has, however, issued a range of guidance documents to assist food businesses and enforcers with implementing the new hygiene legislation. These list sources of further technical guidance from industry representative bodies and expert organisations which will help businesses to establish appropriate hazard analysis critical control point-based procedures and testing regimes.

Food Standards Agency

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Food Standards Agency has made of whether guideline daily amounts on food assist consumers in making judgments about the healthiness of a food product. [83884]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency tested a total of seven different guideline daily amounts (GDA) signpost formats with consumers. The results indicated that many consumers could not use this information to correctly assess the nutritional quality of food. Understanding improved when the GDA information was provided in combination with traffic light colour coding.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Food Standards Agency has tested the effectiveness of monochrome guideline daily amounts showing nutrients as a percentage of guideline daily amounts. [83890]

Caroline Flint: A monochrome guideline daily amount (GDA) signpost format was included in the signpost formats the Food Standards Agency tested with consumers. The results indicated that in practice many consumers could not use this information to correctly assess the nutritional quality of food. Understanding improved when the GDA information was provided in combination with traffic light colour coding.

General Food Regulations

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of legal fee liability upon the prosecution of food and drink companies by competent authorities under the General Food Regulations 2004; and if she will make a statement. [85039]

Caroline Flint: There has been no assessment of the impact of legal fee liability upon prosecution of food and drink companies under the General Food Regulations 2004. This was not mentioned as a possible financial burden in any of the responses to the public consultation exercise before the general food regulations were introduced.

Genetic Disorders

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is made available to the public by the NHS on the incidence of genetic disorders for children of closely related parents; and if she will make a statement. [83017]

Andy Burnham: The provision of information to the public on this kind of issue is generally a matter for local national health service services taking into account the needs and cultural background of their local population.

The Human Genetics Commission supports the need for proper provision of education and information about marriage within a kin-ship group. This should entail access to counselling and support, preferably in the individual's or couple's preferred language, and a no-blame approach that enables at-risk couples to come forward for testing. Those wanting specific advice on their individual risk should consult a clinical geneticist or genetic counsellor in their local NHS regional genetics centre.

The Department is funding two pilot projects in areas with large Asian communities that are looking at how best to raise community awareness of genetics services and what they can provide. These pilots will provide valuable evidence on how best to provide culturally sensitive services that meet the particular needs of these populations.

The London IDEAS Genetic Knowledge Park (funded by the Department and Department of Trade and Industry) and the genetic interest group are preparing a leaflet dealing specifically with the possible increased risk of inherited disorders associated with consanguineous marriage for use by specialised genetics services as an adjunct to genetic counselling. This is part to of a larger project that aims to address the lack of availability of multilingual information on genetic disorders and risk.

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 264W, on genito-urinary medicine (GUM), what percentage of attenders at genito-urinary medicine clinics were recorded as not given an appointment within two weeks in the *(a)* February 2006 and *(b)* May 2006 audit of GUM clinic waiting times by the Health Protection Agency. [84674]

Caroline Flint: Figures for the February 2006 audit showed that 18 per cent. of attendees at genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics were not seen within two weeks since first contacting the clinic. However, some of these patients were offered an earlier appointment but could not attend.

Figures for the May 2006 audit showed that 15 per cent. of attendees at GUM clinics were not seen within two weeks since first contacting the clinic. However, some of these patients were offered an earlier appointment but could not attend.

The May 2006 summary data on the percentage of patients seen within 48 hours can be found in the GUM Clinic Waiting Times Reports May 2005 to May 2006, copies of which are available in the Library. Copies of the document are freely available at the following website.

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_st/epidemiology/wtimes.htm

Overall, the number of attendees at GUM clinics seen within 48 hours in England increased from 51 per cent. in February 2006 to 54 per cent. in May 2006 and a further 4 per cent.

Halal

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will promote the adoption of a Halal symbol to enable Muslim consumers easily to identify Halal products. [85576]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency works closely with the Muslim community through its Muslim organisations working group and its members are currently working on a voluntary halal code of practice to assist with producing a standardised halal certification system. Once this has been produced, it is hoped that it will be widely adopted by the Muslim community, allowing for food to be labelled or otherwise marked as halal in accordance with that code of practice and providing clearer advice for consumers.

Health Care Costs

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the level of expenditure on *(a)* primary care and *(b)* hospital care was in Islington in each of the past five years; and what the estimated level is in 2006-07. [84946]

Andy Burnham: The table shows data for Islington primary care trust (PCT) for the years that it has been in existence, 2002-03 to 2004-05, which is the latest year for which information is available. Prior to 2002-03, it is not possible to identify expenditure in Islington as it was not a separate reporting identity.

Data given relates expenditure by the PCT on purchase of primary healthcare and the purchase of secondary healthcare in each case. It is not possible to identify hospital care alone as this may include, for example, care in the community.

The allocations to Islington PCT for 2006-07 and 2007-08 were £336.9 million and £363.9 million respectively.

Expenditure by Islington PCT

£000

	Purchase of primary healthcare	*Purchase of secondary healthcare*
2002-03	38,807	202,020
2003-04	49,101	204,978
2004-05	50,761	259,649

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of Islington PCT.

Health Statistics (London)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with *(a)* diabetes and *(b)* Alzheimer's syndrome in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87495]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the number of patients diagnosed with diabetes are not held in the format requested. However, the number of patients with diabetes by London primary care trust (PCT) for March 2005 and March 2006 which are the latest figures available is shown in the following table.

Data on the number of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's syndrome are not collected centrally.

Number of patients with diabetes as identified on practice registers

London			*March 2006*	*March 2005*
North Central	Barnet PCT	5A9	12,423	12,041
North Central	Enfield PCT	5C1	10,559	9,616
North Central	Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	9,664	8,849
North Central	Camden PCT	5K7	5,897	5,691
North Central	Islington PCT	5K8	6,706	6,049
North East	Havering PCT	5A4	8,997	8,306
North East	Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	6,582	5,673
North East	City and Hackney PCT	5C3	9,225	8,644
North East	Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	9,995	9,402
North East	Newham PCT	5C5	14,404	13,948
North East	Redbridge PCT	5NA	11,522	10,975
North East	Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	10,399	9,898
North West	Hillingdon PCT	5AT	9,701	9,153
North West	Hammersmith and Fulham	5H1	4,651	4,960
North West	Ealing PCT	5HX	15,481	14,409
North West	Hounslow PCT	5HY	9,796	9,182
North West	Brent PCT	5K5	16,158	15,236
North West	Harrow PCT	5K6	10,846	8,963
North West	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	4,386	4,117
North West	Westminster PCT	5LC	5,998	5,801
South East	Bromley PCT	5A7	9,499	9,052
South East	Greenwich PCT	5A8	8,159	7,535
South East	Lambeth PCT	5LD	10,397	9,875
South East	Southwark PCT	5LE	9,294	8,759
South East	Lewisham PCT	5LF	10,161	8,819

Number of patients with diabetes as identified on practice registers

London			*March 2006*	*March 2005*
South East	Bexley Care Trust	TAK	7,770	7,589
South West	Kingston PCT	5A5	5,490	4,959
South West	Croydon PCT	5K9	13,781	13,252
South West	Wandsworth PCT	5LG	9,256	9,086
South West	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	4,698	4,235
South West	Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	13,330	12,373

Health Worker Recruitment Code of Practice

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations she has received from NHS employers regarding the effectiveness of the Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Workers; [81789]

(2) what advice has been given by her Department to NHS employers regarding the implementation of the Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Workers; [81790]

(3) what procedures are in place for the reporting to her Department of breaches of the Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Workers; [81791]

(4) how many recruitment agencies have signed the Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Workers; [81792]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1062W, on Healthcare Professionals Recruitment, how many recruitment agencies have breached the Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Workers since November 2005. [81801]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Employers is an independent body with responsibility for providing national health service employers with guidance about employment matters, this includes advice and support on the implementation of the code of practice.

NHS Employers also monitor breaches of the code and provide the Department with monthly returns which includes details of the following:

the number of agencies on the code of practice list;

ongoing investigations of alleged breaches of the code; and

removal of agencies from the list.

There are currently 279 commercial recruitment agencies on the code of practice list. One agency has been removed from the list since November 2005.

The Department has received no representations from NHS Employers regarding the effectiveness of the code of practice.

Healthcare Commission

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2098W, on the Healthcare Commission, when she expects to publish regulations to transfer the regulation of controlled drugs to the Healthcare Commission; and what consultation is planned prior to the publication of such regulations. [87737]

Andy Burnham: The Health Bill, which creates the regulation making powers, received Royal Assent on 19 July. The regulations will be laid, subject to parliamentary timetables, this autumn. The guidance on the new governance arrangements for controlled drugs was developed in conjunction with key stakeholders—professionals, regulators, police services, service providers and patient groups and was the subject of formal public consultation in the summer of 2005. The response to the consultation is available on the Department's website.

The controlled drugs advisory group commented on the draft regulations at their meeting on 28 June 2006 and self-nominated representatives from the advisory group meet for a more detailed workshop on the draft regulations on 7 July. The sub-group included many of the key regulators involved in controlled drugs inspection: the Healthcare Commission, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, General Medical Council, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, etc.

Although there are no plans to repeat the formal public consultation, the Department has just completed a series of six conferences around the country for service providers—both national health service and the independent sector and the key regulators—on the new framework for the use and management of controlled drugs created by the Health Act 2006 and subsequent regulations.

Herbal Medicines

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether manufacturers of products registered under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive will be able to indicate on their label whether they comply with organic standards of production; [85631]

(2) what steps she intends to take to ensure that consumers of products registered under the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive are able to identify whether they comply with organic standards of production. [85632]

Andy Burnham: Article 62 of Directive 2001/83/EC provides that, in addition to other mandatory information, the outer packaging and the package leaflet of a medicinal product covered by the requirements of the directive may include other information compatible with the summary of product characteristics which is useful for the patient, to the exclusion of any element of a promotional nature. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is currently investigating the issue raised and in particular whether there are circumstances in which references to organic production could be compatible with the summary of product characteristics.

The MHRA will also explore what scope there may be for companies to refer to organic production in advertising materials.

Hospital Telephone Calls

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the charge was per minute for telephone calls made *(a)* by patients from and *(b)* to patients in hospital, in each primary care trust in each of the past five years; and if she will make a statement. [87329]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Plan, published in July 2000, announced bedside televisions and telephones would be available in every major hospital by 2004. The systems have now been installed in around 80,000 beds in 160 major national health service hospitals.

Three private companies are licensed to provide bedside entertainment systems to major hospitals in England. They set the call charges.

The cost for patients to make telephone calls to these hospitals has remained constant at 10p per minute (minimum 20p) for local and national calls.

The incoming call charges have remained constant for two of the service provides at 39p per minute off peak and 49p per minute peak. Charges per minute for the third service provider were; 14p 2002, 17p in 2003, 20p in 2004 and they currently charge 35p.

Primary care trusts fall outside the NHS Plan remit for the availability of bedside televisions and telephones and they would therefore make their own provisions for telephone systems.

Housing (Health Hazards)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on joint action to prevent health hazards resulting from poorly heated and insulated housing; and if she will make a statement. [86591]

Caroline Flint: In the recent "The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy" fourth annual progress report it highlights in most areas that there has been a lot of cross departmental work to address fuel poverty across the regions including the role of the health sector in reducing health related harm. The National Energy Action (NEA) has undertaken a wide range of projects during 2004-05 and these have aimed to contribute to the co-ordination of delivery of energy efficiency services at local level, develop strategic fuel poverty alleviation activity by regional bodies and to continue work with partners in the health sector.

The energy efficiency partnership for homes holds a fuel poverty strategy group and during 2005-06 has held cross-partnership seminars to encourage the take up of fuel poverty initiatives by the partnerships 12 other main working groups. The work of the fuel poverty strategy group is further facilitated through its two sub-groups, of which one is a health sub-group which funds the health housing and fuel poverty forum, initiated in 2005.

The health, housing and fuel poverty forum held a national conference in February 2006, which focused on how to better engage the health sector via improved partnership working in order to minimise the health related harm due to cold homes and fuel poverty. More recently, in June 2006 the south east region has held round table discussions on how to take this work forward at national, regional and local levels.

Lymphoma

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of regional variations in availability of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved treatments for lymphoma; and if she will make a statement. [87740]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In June 2004, the National Cancer Director published a report into variations in usage of cancer drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) including Rituximab (Mabthera) for lymphoma. This showed a 2.6 fold variation in the use of rituximab across the 34 cancer networks—this was the narrowest variation of all the NICE approved drugs considered.

An update of Professor Richards's report will be published later this year and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government have spent on research into *(a)* prevention and *(b)* treatment of lymphoma in each year from 1997. [87741]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Lymphoma is the most common type of haematological cancer and includes Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The latter includes a wide range of conditions. Treatment depends on the type of lymphoma and staging of the disease.

Treatment ranges from low dose chemotherapy to high dose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue (similar to a bone marrow transplant). Patients may also require supportive treatments such as blood transfusions and plasma exchanges.

We do not routinely track our research spend on specific tumour sites and cannot provide a figure for the amount spent on research into lymphoma prevention or treatment, but the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) strategic analysis of cancer research in the United Kingdom directly funded by NCRI partner organisation in 2004 revealed that approximately 7 per cent. of research spend, approximately £21.5 million, was in lymphoma.

McTimoney Chiropractic Course (University of Wales)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the regulation of chiropractic, with particular reference to the proposals of the General Chiropractic Council to withdraw accreditation from the McTimoney Chiropractic course at the University of Wales. [53085]

Andy Burnham: I understand that agreement has been reached for those students currently in years three, four and five to graduate and be eligible for registration as chiropractors. The General Chiropractic Council and McTimoney College are continuing to work together to achieve a positive outcome for students currently in years one and two. However, the matter remains subjudice whilst discussions continue about the position of these students.

Medical Devices Directive

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to make representations to the European Commission on revising the Medical Devices Directive. [86282]

Andy Burnham: The Commission published a proposed directive revising the medical devices directive in December 2005 which is currently being negotiated in the Council of Ministers working group. Given that these negotiations are ongoing there are no plans to request the Commission to undertake another revision exercise.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent advice she has received from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency with regards to the revision of the Medical Devices Directive. [85929]

Andy Burnham: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has the responsibility for negotiating the proposal to revise the Medical Devices Directive in the Council of Ministers working group. The United Kingdom's negotiating position has been agreed by Ministers.

Mental Health Bill

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many service users from black and minority ethnic backgrounds attended each of the consultation events relating to the Race Equality Impact Assessment on the Mental Health Bill. [81978]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Care services improvement partnership and the National Assembly for Wales organised a series of seven consultation events to gather views on the proposed amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983, as part of the race equality impact assessment. The events, held in Cardiff, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Leicester and London, attracted approximately 430 people from a variety of backgrounds and organisations. Delegates were not asked to record their ethnicity, so we do not have a specific record of how many service users from black and minority ethnic backgrounds attended the events. However, of the organisations that registered their attendance there were representatives of service users groups from a range of black and minority ethnic backgrounds: Black, African, Afro-Caribbean, Somali, United Kingdom Asian, South Asian, Indian, Pakistani, Chinese and Irish.

Midwives

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were practising in the National Health Service in *(a)* London and *(b)* England in each year since 1992, expressed as a (i) headcount and (ii) whole-time equivalent figure. [84431]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of midwives in London and England in each year since 1992 is shown in the table.

National Health Service Hospital and Community Health Services: Qualified Midwifery Staff in England and the London Strategic Health Authority (SHA) Area as at 30 September each specified year

	England	*Headcount Of which: London SHA total*[1]
1992	24,020	[3]
1993	23,353	[3]
1994	23,050	[3]
1995[2]	22,022	[3]
1996	22,595	3,243
1997	22,385	3,370
1998	22,841	3,406
1999	22,799	3,581
2000	22,572	3,399
2001	23,075	3,526
2002	23,249	3,601
2003	23,941	3,981
2004	24,844	3,950
2005	24,808	4,338

	England	*Full-time equivalent Of which: London SHA total*[1]
1992	20,283	[3]
1993	19,554	[3]
1994	19,291	[3]
1995[2]	18,034	[3]
1996	18,262	2,746
1997	18,053	2,809
1998	18,168	2,777
1999	17,876	2,789
2000	17,662	2,673
2001	18,048	2,813
2002	18,119	2,812
2003	18,444	3,026
2004	18,854	3,040
2005	18,949	3,326

[1] London SHA figures 1996-2001 are estimated based on the 2005 organisational structure. Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] A new system of occupation coding for NHS non-medical staff was introduced in 1995. The new codes classify staff according to what they do rather than the terms and conditions under which they are employed i.e. national pay scales. Figures based on new occupation codes are not directly comparable with those based on the old pay scale classification, therefore figures since 1995 are not comparable with earlier years.

[3] Not available.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 330W, on ministerial meetings, which two dates were cancelled for a meeting between the hon. Member for Chorley and the Minister of State for Health. [84145]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* A meeting was scheduled to take place between the hon. Member for Chorley and the Minister of State for Health on Monday 5 June at 8 p.m. in Interview Room 1, Portcullis House. The meeting was postponed. The Minister of State for Health had hoped to offer the hon. Member further dates for this meeting on the evenings of 12 and 19 June but was prevented from doing so by parliamentary business.

A meeting did subsequently take place between the hon. Member for Chorley and the Minister of State for Health on Mon 26 June at 8.30pm at the above venue.

Another meeting was arranged on 22 June. Representatives of the hon. Member attended.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS establishments Ministers in her Department have visited in North East Cambridgeshire constituency in the last 12 months. [85981]

Andy Burnham: Departmental Ministers have not visited any national health service establishments in the North East Cambridgeshire constituency in the last 12 months. However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health visited Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon on 26 May 2005 and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership Trust in Fulborne on 26 June 2006.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS establishments Ministers in her Department have visited in East Yorkshire constituency in the last 12 months. [85324]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* My hon. Friend, the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint), Minister of State for Public Health visited health trainers from East and West Hull primary care trusts on 23 March 2006.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, Central (Ms Rosie Winterton), Minister of State for Health Services visited the Greentrees facility, a nurse consultant-led service in Willerby, Hull on 4 April 2006.

MMR

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make an assessment of recent research by the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina on a possible link between the MMR triple vaccine and autism and bowel disease in children; and if she will make a statement. [84799]

Caroline Flint: The recent study by the Wake Forest University School of Medicine into a possible link between the triple vaccine and autism and bowel disease in children (the Krigsman study) cannot be given credibility since it did not include any control groups. The same investigation in Dr Wakefield's own laboratories showed no evidence of measles virus in bowel tissue from autistic children. Several properly conducted studies that include control groups, have failed to find measles virus persisting in the blood cells of autistic children and therefore we believe that there remains no convincing epidemiological or virological evidence for measles, mumps and rubella playing a part in causing autism.

National Blood Service

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how often her Department reviews medical evidence which forms the basis for blood donation rules that *(a)* permanently exclude men who have had sex with men and *(b)* temporarily exclude female sexual partners of those men; when the last review of the medical evidence was carried out; and when the next review is scheduled to take place. [76928]

Caroline Flint: Donor selection criteria are set by the Joint UK Blood Transfusion Services and National Institute of Biological Standards and Control Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC). The rules regarding blood donation are guided by epidemiological data relating to the United Kingdom and are regularly subject to review.

The donor selection criterion which excludes men who have sex with men is kept under review by the expert advisory committee on the microbiological safety of blood, tissues and organs for transplantation (MSBTO). MSBTO discussed a recent review of the epidemiological data relating to this issue at a meeting held on 20 June. The Committee considered an evaluation of the effects of changes in the donor selection criterion for men who have had sex with men on the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections in England and Wales, 2002 to 2004. The Committee is expected to discuss this issue again at its next meeting in October.

The current Donor Selection Guidelines (202, November 2005) state that female partners of a man who has had sex with another man must not donate, even if a condom or other protection has been used. There is discretionary provision to accept such an individual if at least 12 months have elapsed since the last sexual contact with a male partner who has sex with another man. This policy is currently under review by the UK Blood Services.

National Procurement

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department will invite primary care trusts to take part in the national procurement process. [84462]

Andy Burnham: An advert was submitted to the Official Journal of the European Union on 13 July which notified of a national procurement of management and support services to help deliver primary care trusts' (PCT) commissioning obligations.

Applicants will be assessed on quality and financial grounds. Once providers have been accredited and a framework agreement established they will be made

available to the national health service locally to support PCTs in their commissioning functions, should they need such expertise or support.

PCTs are and will remain public, statutory bodies accountable and responsible for using their growing budgets to commission the best possible services for local people.

NHS Bursaries

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's press release of 29 June, on NHS bursaries, what size bursary uplift *(a)* nursing, *(b)* midwifery, *(c)* medical, *(d)* dental and *(e)* allied health professional students received in each year since 1997. [84020]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the national health service bursary rates for the basic awards, not including additional allowances, for the period 1997 to 2007 and the annual percentage increases. The majority of nurses and midwives receive the non-means tested bursary. Medical and dental students and the majority of allied health professional students receive the means-tested NHS bursary. The NHS bursary scheme has supported allied health professional students since 1998 and medical and dental undergraduate students since September 2002 from their fifth and subsequent years of study. During the first four years' of study medical and dental students receive support under the Department for Education and Skills regulations.

In addition to the basic NHS bursary awards there are a number of other allowances. These include allowances for students aged 26 and over and dependents' allowances. Since 1999, we have also provided better support for student travel costs in respect of practice placements. In 2004, we introduced the childcare allowance and in 2005 continuing payments for students on maternity leave.

Basic NHS bursary rates for academic years 1997-98 to 2006-07

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
NHS means tested bursary										
London	n/a	2,225	2,280	2,335	2,578	2,640	2,703	2,768	2,837	2,908
Elsewhere	n/a	1,810	1,855	1,900	2,098	2,148	2,200	2,253	2,309	2,367
Parental home	n/a	1,480	1,515	1,555	1,717	1,758	1,800	1,843	1,889	1,936
NHS non-means tested bursary										
London	5,230	5,374	5,508	5,645	6,232	6,382	6,535	6,692	6,859	7,030
Elsewhere/ parental home	4,450	4,572	4,686	4,805	5,305	5,432	5,562	5,695	5,837	5,983
Percentage increase on previous year	—	2.75	2.5	2.4	10.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5

NHS Commissioning

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she intends to publish her Department's framework for commissioning, practice-based commissioning and the national contract template for 2007-08; [84453]

(2) when she plans to publish her Department's framework for *(a)* the future of provider reform, *(b)* future workforce development and *(c)* the management and regulation of the healthcare system. [84457]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On Friday 14 July, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health made a written statement announcing the publication of "Health Reform in England: Update and Commissioning Framework". This document contains a detailed commissioning framework, which includes proposals for strengthening practice based commissioning and a new model of contracting. It also provides updates on the future of provider reform, workforce development and system management and regulation. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

A consultation document on system management and regulation will be published in the autumn and further information on workforce will be published later this year.

NHS Direct

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 231-2W, on NHS Direct, what proportion of total NHS Direct sites the proposed closure of 12 sites represents; and what proportion of the total NHS Direct workforce 573 posts represents. [81937]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Direct currently has 54 sites. A number of the 12 sites proposed for closure, representing 22 per cent. of the estate, are small and do not provide suitable accommodation that meets the future needs of NHS Direct for either facilities or good support for staff through supervision.

The consultation document sets out that the organisation has 2,796 posts. The possible reduction in posts in the organisation could be around 400, representing 14 per cent. of the current posts.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment her Department has made of the impact of NHS Direct on front line services; and if she will make a statement; [81974]

(2) what assessment she has made of the likely impact of proposed *(a)* site closures and *(b)* staff redundancies on NHS Direct front-line services. [82035]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The proposals set out in the consultation document are designed to ensure that NHS Direct can continue to provide a high quality service to patients and can improve the value for money offered to commissioners and to taxpayers. The proposals aim to increase efficiency of NHS Direct operations, improve the patient experience, improve the working experience for staff, and make better use of specialist skills throughout the organisation. NHS Direct recognise that this is a difficult time for staff and are working to ensure that all staff have the opportunity to comment on the proposals, through formal and informal means, as well as working closely with union representatives.

NHS Employees

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the progress of the review by her Department of the financial support available to students studying for employment in the NHS. [83683]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have started to review the national health service bursary scheme, in particular to ensure it complies with age discrimination and eligibility legislation. We will also introduce a formal policy to pay for students absent due to maternity and childbirth to replace the current interim arrangements. A consultative meeting has taken place with the Royal College of Nursing, Unison and the British Medical Association. Further meetings are planned during the summer with student representatives and other stakeholders.

NHS Finance

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional net resources will be available to the NHS in 2006-07 after taking into account *(a)* NHS inflation and *(b)* the 2005-06 deficit. [58168]

Andy Burnham: There will be £6,540 million additional net resources available to the national health service in 2006-07. This represents a real terms increase of 5.8 per cent. on NHS expenditure in 2005-06. This growth takes into account the 2005-06 deficit position. The following able provides the total net NHS expenditure in each of the years.

	2005-06 (Estimated outturn)	*2006-07 (Plan)*
Net NHS expenditure (£ billion)	77.847	84.387
Percentage increase (cash)	—	8.4
Percentage increase (real-gross domestic product deflator 29 March)	—	5.8

These figures are as reported in Department Report 2006 (DR2006) Table 3.4.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the capital underspend was for the NHS in 2005-06; and whether her Department plans to redirect the underspend to health authorities with financial deficits. [87114]

Andy Burnham: The 2005-06 provisional outturn is the most recently published data on the national health service financial position. This data shows that the provisional capital underspend in 2005-06 was £1,162 million.

Capital and revenue are managed and controlled separately by HM Treasury. The Department is voted separate budgets for both capital and revenue and does not have the power to vire funding from the capital budget to the revenue budget.

NHS Life Check

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 22, on health and social care services, what progress she has made in developing an NHS life check. [84641]

Caroline Flint: We have made good progress developing the national health service life check. Following a very successful stakeholder workshop there will initially be NHS life checks for three key life stages: early years, adolescence, and mid-life.

We have established a small project delivery team and are currently setting up a steering group of key stakeholders. A review of existing online self-assessment tools has also been completed, which will inform the development of the NHS life check assessment tools. The Department has applied to the Patent Office for the NHS life check trademark.

NHS Litigation Authority

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written statement of 11 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 64WS, on the NHS Litigation Authority, for what reasons the NHS Litigation Authority achieved an underspend of £205 million in 2005-06; and whether she expects the change in the discount rate in 2005-06 to lead to additional costs for the Authority in future years. [86211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) forecasts in advance the likely claims expenditure and number of new claims reported to the schemes, neither of which is controlled by the NHSLA. The major impacting factor on the NHSLA's resource limit is the level of claims reported to the schemes. In 2005-06 fewer claims were made than forecast, meaning fewer new provisions and therefore an underspend in resource terms. As a consequence, NHSLA actuarial advisors reviewed the incurred but not reported provisions which led to a reduction in the resource requirement in year.

The additional costs to the NHSLA, which result from the change in the discount rate for provisions, have been taken into account in setting the departmental expenditure limit for the Department for 2006-07 and future years and in setting the budgets for the NHSLA.

NHS Staff Redundancies

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff *(a)* have been and *(b)* were expected to be made redundant (i) voluntarily and (ii) compulsorily at (A) Barnet primary care trust, (B) Barnet Chase Farm trust, (C) Royal Free trust and (D) Northwick Park; and if she will make a statement. [84351]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS Supply Chain Excellence Programme

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to allow health trusts to consider long-term cost effectiveness when making purchasing decisions following the introduction of the supply chain excellence programme. [86402]

Andy Burnham: The supply chain excellence programme approach to procurement is to blend national health service clinical expertise with best in-class procurement methodology. This methodology includes a review of whole-life costs, where appropriate, of the goods and services the NHS uses.

This approach to strategic sourcing is being embedded across the NHS in order to ensure best value to the taxpayer and quality of care for patients. NHS trusts have a duty of care to deliver both of these objectives.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the NHS supply chain excellence programme on the uptake and use of medical technology in the NHS. [86403]

Andy Burnham: It is expected that the supply chain excellence programme will have a positive impact on the uptake and use of medical technology in the national health service.

Increasingly there is a more strategic approach to procurement of goods and services, and to markets, across the service. A strategic approach that will ensure that the NHS is getting best value for money from the significant amount it spends on goods and services, including medical technology.

If best value for money is achieved there will be more resources to spend on patient care and as a result there will be a need for more medical technology to support that care.

In securing best value, mechanisms are in place to ensure that procurement takes account of clinical choice which in itself will help to ensure uptake.

NHS Trusts (Financial Management)

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will introduce financial management training for chief executives of NHS trusts which are in financial deficit. [86377]

Andy Burnham: All NHS chief executives, as accountable officers, need the skills and experience to ensure proper financial controls are in place and that all resources are well managed. This is assessed as part of the appointment process.

Where chief executives of NHS trusts are in financial deficit, the strategic health authority agrees what action is needed to bring finances back under control including an assessment of senior leadership skills.

There are no plans to introduce mandatory financial management training for any chief executives. However, sound financial management is a critical issue and a comprehensive capability-building programme is being developed for finance directors throughout the NHS, and it is anticipated that a number of chief executives may wish to participate.

The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement and Monitor are co-commissioning the commercially focused development programme for NHS finance directors. The first wave will commence in November this year, with a service wide roll out from spring 2007. This programme is expected to be pivotal in delivering transformational change in NHS financial management performance.

NICE

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the cost per quality-adjusted life-year used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in assessing cost effectiveness was originally established; whether she plans to have NICE raise it in line with price inflation; and if she will make a statement. [87746]

Andy Burnham: The cost per quality-adjusted-life-year calculation is one of the factors that informs the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) when reaching a decision on the clinical and cost effectiveness of health technologies. NICE does not have a set limit. NICE'S approach to appraising clinical and cost-effectiveness is set out in its methods guide published in April 2004 and available on its website at:

www.nice.org.uk

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the guidance resulting from National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence technology appraisals is implemented across the whole NHS within three months; and if she will make a statement. [86404]

Andy Burnham: Strategic health authorities manage the national health service locally on behalf of the Secretary of State. They hold all local NHS organisations (apart from NHS foundation trusts) to account for performance and make sure national priorities—for example, National Institute for Health

and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance—are integrated into local health service plans.

Technology appraisals from NICE are reflected in core standard C5 of "Standards for Better Health" published by the Department in July 2004.

The Healthcare Commission started assessing NHS bodies' performance against the core standards in April 2005, and the first ratings based on this assessment will be published later this year.

Non-medical Professional Regulation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the review of non-medical professional regulation being undertaken by her Department's Director of Workforce. [85784]

Andy Burnham: The Department published its review of non-medical regulation on 14 July, at the same time as the Chief Medical Officer published his review of medical regulation. A joint public consultation has been launched on the recommendations, which closes on 10 November 2006. Copies of the consultation document, both reports and other related documents are available in the Library.

Non-practising Doctors

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of non-practising medically qualified doctors in the UK. [85524]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Nut Allergies

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are being taken to ensure that all food labels clearly indicate whether foods contain nuts. [84264]

Caroline Flint: The provisions of Directive 2003/89/EC require that, as from 25 November 2005, a specified list of allergenic foods, including nuts and peanuts, have to be clearly declared on the label whenever they are used in all pre-packed food, including alcoholic drinks.

However, the directive does not cover allergenic foods that may be present unintentionally as a result of allergen cross-contamination at some point during the manufacture or transportation of the food. Therefore, the Food Standards Agency has produced voluntary best practice guidance on allergen management and advisory labelling. This guidance was published on Monday 10 July.

Osteopathy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will introduce proposals to change the practice of osteopaths determining the profession's own standards *(a)* of training, *(b)* of practice and *(c)* for access to the statutory register. [80389]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1565W.

PFI Schemes

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by her Department on private finance initiative schemes in the last nine years; and how many of those schemes have been completed on time. [85415]

Andy Burnham: Information on completed private finance initiative projects which have opened late is not routinely collected centrally. To provide such information for each of the past nine years would incur disproportionate costs.

A key aspect of the private finance initiative (PFI) is the transfer of risk. PFI incentivises the consortium to complete construction on schedule because the consortium does not begin to receive payments until the asset is ready for use and the service is being delivered.

The following tables show all PFI schemes which have reached financial close and are operational to date:

Prioritised PFI schemes by financial and operational (defined as first patient day) date

Strategic health authority	*NHS trust*	*Financial close/tender award date*	*Operational date*	*Capital value (£ million)*
North East	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals—Carlisle	3 November 1997	10 April 2000	67
South East Coast	Dartford and Gravesham	30 July 1997	11 September 2000	94
South Central	Buckinghamshire Hospitals	14 December 1997	17 October 2000	45
London	Queen Elizabeth Hospital—Greenwich	1 July 1998	28 February 2001	96
North East	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals—Dryburn	31 March 1998	2 April 2001	61
Yorkshire and the Humber	Calderdale and Huddersfield	31 July 1998	8 April 2001	65
North West	South Manchester University	8 June 1998	25 July 2001	67
East of England	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals	9 January 1998	21 September 2001	158
West Midlands	Hereford Hospitals	31 March 1999	1 March 2002	64
London	Barnet and Chase Farm	1 February 1999	2 March 2002	54
West Midlands	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals	18 March 1999	18 March 2002	87
North East	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals—Bishop Auckland	28 May 1999	8 June 2002	48

Prioritised PFI schemes by financial and operational (defined as first patient day) date

Strategic health authority	NHS trust	Financial close/tender award date	Operational date	Capital value (£ million)
London	King's College Hospital	6 December 1999	7 October 2002	76
South West	Swindon and Marlborough	5 October 1999	3 December 2002	100
Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds Mental Health Teaching	1 March 2000	16 December 2002	47
London	Bromley Hospitals	19 November 1998	29 March 2003	118
Yorkshire and the Humber	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	8 December 2000	29 March 2003	22
South Central	Berkshire Healthcare	2 May 2001	29 April 2003	30
London	West Middlesex University Hospital	30 January 2001	16 May 2003	60
North East	South Tees Acute Hospitals	16 August 1999	1 August 2003	122
London	St George's Healthcare	20 March 2000	11 September 2003	46
South West	Gloucestershire Hospitals	1 May 2002	13 November 2004	32
West Midlands	Dudley Group of Hospitals	1 May 2001	1 April 2005	137
London	University College London Hospitals	12 July 2000	12 June 2005	422
London	North West London Hospitals —Central Middlesex	6 November 2003	19 March 2006	69
South West	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership	1 March 2004	13 June 2006	83
North West	East Lancashire Hospitals—Blackburn	9 July 2003	8 July 2006	110
West Midlands	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire—Walsgrave	27 November 2002	10 July 2006	379

All other non prioritised PFI schemes over £10 million by financial and operational (defined as first patient) date

Strategic health authority	NHS trust	Financial close/tender award date	Operational date	Capital value (£ million)
London	Queen Mary's Sidcup	11 December 1998	30 March 2000	15
East Midlands	Nottingham University Hospitals -QMC	24 May 1999	1 October 2000	17
South East Coast	Sussex Partnership	24 June 1999	31 January 2001	22
West Midlands	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare	8 December 1999	1 September 2001	28
London	Oxleas	4 July 2000	20 December 2001	11
London	North East London Mental Health	4 July 2000	4 March 2002	11
West Midlands	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health	15 August 2000	18 March 2002	18
South West	Cornwall Partnership—Bodmin	31 October 2000	1 June 2002	10
London	East London and The City Mental Health—Newham	5 September 2000	11 June 2002	15
East of England	Luton and Dunstable	21 November 2000	9 September 2002	15
North East	Northumbria Healthcare—Wansbeck	16 November 2000	25 March 2003	18
East of England	Royston, Buntingford and Bishop Stortford PCT	4 May 2001	28 April 2003	15
West Midlands	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals	20 March 2002	23 June 2003	13
North East	Northumbria Healthcare—Hexham	27 April 2001	12 July 2003	29
South East coast	Guildford and Waverley PCT—Farnham	29 October 2001	1 November 2003	29
North East	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals—Chester-le-street	30 May 2002	18 November 2003	10
South Central	Newbury and Community PCT	4 July 2002	1 March 2004	19
South West	Mid Devon PC— Tiverton	1 July 2002	25 May 2004	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds Teaching Hospitals—Wharfedale	20 September 2002	4 November 2004	14
North East	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys—West Park	4 July 2003	13 December 2004	16
London	Brent PCT—Willesden	5 December 2002	21 April 2005	21
Yorkshire and the Humber	Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare	11 August 2003	6 June 2005	15
Yorkshire and the Humber	North Kirklees PCT	21 April 2004	14 November 2005	27
West Midlands	Sandwell and W Birmingham Hospitals—City Hospital	9 December 2002	28 November 2005	26
London	Wandsworth PCT—Queen Mary's Roehampton	6 May 2004	10 March 2006	75

All other non prioritised PFI schemes over £10 million by financial and operational (defined as first patient) date

Strategic health authority	*NHS trust*	*Financial close/tender award date*	*Operational date*	*Capital value (£ million)*
South Central	Buckinghamshire Hospitals—Stoke Mandeville	21 May 2004	15 April 2006	47
North East	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear—Morpeth	10 May 2004	15 May 2006	32
South West	Salisbury Health Care	4 March 2004	19 May 2006	24
North East	East Lancashire Hospitals—Burnley	13 October 2003	23 May 2006	30
London	Newham University Hospital	27 January 2004	8 July 2006	55

Pharmacies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of parishes in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas have a pharmacy. [85133]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally.

Physiotherapists

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which NHS trusts are recruiting new junior physiotherapists in 2006-07; [87409]

(2) how many people have qualified as physiotherapists in each of the past five years; and what proportion of those are employed in the NHS. [87410]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Preventative Health Spending

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has established an expert group on preventative health spending. [84465]

Caroline Flint: The White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for Community Services" sets out a vision to provide people with good quality social care and national health service services in the communities where they live.

It sets out proposals for "an expert group to develop robust definitions and measures of preventative health spending, to report later in 2006;..."(Paragraph 6.34).

The national reference group for health and wellbeing is being established which will take forward this and other related White Paper commitments. Membership and remit of the group will be published when discussions with stakeholders are complete.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1792W, on primary care trusts, what the overall level of investment in enhanced services by primary care trusts (PCTs) was in 2005-06; what the originally planned level of national investment in enhanced services by PCTs was; and if she will make a statement. [85828]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The overall level of national investment in enhanced services by primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2005-06 is forecast to be £649 million. The planned level of national investment (known as the enhanced service floor) was £676 million.

Any issues raised by either PCTs or their local medical committee regarding enhanced service investment can, if all local routes have been exhausted, be referred to the jointly chaired NHS Employers/ General Practitioners Committee Implementation Coordination Group for advice.

Road Accidents (Compensation)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was recovered by hospitals from insurers towards the cost of treatment of persons injured in road accidents in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [83767]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Hospitals have for more than 70 years been able to recover the costs of providing treatment to the victims of road traffic accidents where the injured person successfully claims personal injury compensation from the person responsible for causing the injury, through their insurer. However, the Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Act 1999 introduced a streamlined, centralised recovery scheme, operated by the compensation recovery unit, part of the Department for Work and Pensions, on behalf of the Secretary of State. Recoveries since that scheme was introduced in April 1999 are as shown in the table.

	Amount recovered (£)
1999-2000	30,046,572
2000-01	75,847,629
2001-02	98,278,603
2002-03	105,025,336
2003-04	105,654,936
2004-05	117,504,738
2005-06	121,500

Skin Cancer

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of skin cancer there have been in each constituency in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [86530]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of skin cancer there have been in each constituency in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [86530]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2003. A table which shows the number of cases of melanoma skin cancer by age and sex for each parliamentary constituency in England, for the years 1999 to 2003, has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Speech Therapy (Children)

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effects of treating children with speech and language difficulties in *(a)* inclusive settings and *(b)* on a one-to-one basis; and if she will make a statement. [87150]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No assessment has been carried out centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities, local authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of speech and language therapy.

Local healthcare professionals are best placed to decide whether speech and language therapy services should be provided in inclusive or one-to-one settings based on the assessed need of each child. Both methods can have positive outcomes.

Strategic Health Authorities (Amalgamation)

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of staff who have been *(a)* made redundant, *(b)* redeployed and *(c)* prematurely retired as a result of the amalgamation of strategic health authorities; and what the financial cost of these redundancies and early retirements has been. [86589]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 20 July 2006]*: There will be a number of redundancies in strategic health authorities following the restructuring brought about by "Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS". However until the detail of the new arrangements is agreed, it is difficult to make accurate forecasts.

A human resource framework, jointly agreed between the service and trade unions has been produced to support staff through the transition. It contains key information for dealing with staff affected by this change process including measures for minimising redundancies, that is, restrictions on recruitment and maximising opportunities for redeployment.

Syphilis

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of syphilis have been reported in each London borough in each of the last five years. [84223]

Caroline Flint: Data on the number of sexually transmitted infections for 2005 for each region were published in 'Diagnoses of selected STIs by region, sex and age group United Kingdom: 1996-2005', by the Health Protection Agency on 4 July. A copy of the document is available in the Library. The report is freely available from their website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/epidemiology/datatables2005.htm.

Telephones (Hospitals)

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines her Department provides to hospital trusts on the use of mobile telephones by patients in hospitals. [82270]

Andy Burnham: The use of mobile telephones and other communication equipment in close proximity to certain electrically sensitive medical equipment is not advised, as the consequences of disrupting such equipment may cause direct harm to patients.

However, it is the responsibility of individual trusts to assess the areas within hospitals where a total ban on the use of mobile telephones is appropriate on safety grounds. Restrictions in other areas of the hospital premises may be introduced for reasons other than their impact on the safety of medical equipment, such as the desire to reduce the disruption caused by the uncontrolled use of mobile telephones and the possible invasion of patients' privacy from telephones with built in cameras, for example.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has recently published "Frequently asked questions on the use of mobile telephones in hospitals" on its website at www.mhra.gov.uk. This has links to other MHRA publications on the effects of mobile telephones on medical equipment.

UK Emergency Care Research

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will make detailed guidance available to NHS research and development departments on the implementation of the regulations in relation to UK Emergency Care Research and the introduction of the Medicine for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004; and if she will make a statement. [87344]

Andy Burnham: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest (Dr. Taylor), on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1619-20W. An amendment is under consideration which would allow researchers to enter incapacitated adults into trials of medicines for emergency treatments which have to be administered before there is time to obtain the consent of a legal representative. A further announcement will be made in the autumn.

Vocational General Practice Training Scheme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had their posts on the Vocational General Practice Training Scheme suspended due to the Deanery's financial situation in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [84363]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2004-05, seven trainee general practitioners had their training deferred for six months, from August 2004 to February 2005, to help with the financial situation at London Deanery. This is the only time that this has happened in the last five years. In 2006-07, 29 trainees are having their training deferred until February 2007 but this is because fewer doctors have left their training posts than expected. All 29 have now been offered or have found alternative employment until February 2007.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures have been put in place to safeguard places on the Vocational General Practice Training Scheme in the event of a budget overspend by the Deanery. [84364]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The priorities for investment of education and training funding are a matter for local strategic health authorities (SHAs), working with their deaneries in respect of medical education. This is therefore essentially a local matter for the SHA and their deanery to determine. We have been assured however that there is no intention to cut the number of funded training places on the London Deanery vocational general practice training scheme.

Weight Management Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what strategy the Department is using to extend weight management services to all who wish to access them; and what incentives are available to GPs to offer these services. [85876]

Caroline Flint: The White Papers "Choosing Health" and "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", set out a range of action to improve health and tackle obesity. The Department has published tools to support frontline health professionals in managing obesity locally and extend weight loss services. These include: "Guidance to Primary Care Trusts on Weighing and Measuring Children; an Obesity Care Pathway; a Weight Loss Guide; and a Patient Activity Questionnaire for over 16's". These tools were released in April and May this year and copies are available in the Library.

Regarding incentives available to general practitioners (GPs) offering weight management services, the quality and outcomes framework for 2006-07 rewards GP practices for maintaining an obesity register. The recording of body mass index for the register is intended to be part of a practice's routine care.

York Hospital

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medical, *(b)* nursing and *(c)* other professional staff were employed by York NHS Trust and NHS primary care services in Selby and York in 1996-97; and how many in each category are employed by York Hospital and Selby and York primary care trust (PCT), including the mental health services staff transferred from the hospital to the PCT. [86523]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

National health service staff [1, 2, 3, 4] by specified organisation within the North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire strategic health authority (SHA)

Number (headcount)[5]
1997

	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Q11	*York Hospitals NHS Trust RCB*	*Selby and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) 5E2*
All doctors[1, 3]	2,348	271	n/a
Of which:			
All Hospital and community health services (HCHS) medical and dental staff[3]	1,349	271	n/a
All practitioners (excluding retainers)[1, 4]	999	n/a	n/a
GP (general practitioner) practice nurses[2]	639	n/a	n/a
Practice staff other than practice nurses	3,283	n/a	n/a
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	8,708	1,928	n/a
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	2,453	506	n/a
Qualified ambulance service staff	448	0	n/a

Number (headcount)[5]
2005

	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Q11	*York Hospitals NHS Trust RCB*	*Selby and York Primary Care Trust PCT 5E2*
All doctors[1, 3]	3,351	352	276
Of which:			
All Hospital and community health services (HCHS) medical and dental staff[3]	2,173	352	48
All practitioners (excluding retainers)[1, 4]	1,178	n/a	228
GP (general practitioner) practice nurses[2]	782	n/a	123
Practice staff other than practice nurses	3,238	n/a	549
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	10,500	1,335	697

			– Number (headcount)[2] 2005
	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Q11	York Hospitals NHS Trust RCB	Selby and York Primary Care Trust 5E2
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	3,612	482	259
Qualified ambulance service staff	691	0	0

n/a = Not available

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers) includes contracted GPs, CMS Others, personal medical services (PMS) others and GP registrars. Prior to September 2004 this group included general medical services (GMS) unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, GP registrars, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

[2] Practice staff includes practice nurses, direct patient care, admin and clerical, and other.

[3] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals

[4] GP retainers were first collected in 1999 and have been omitted for comparability purposes

[5] GP data as at 1 October 1997-1999, 30 September 2000-2005, HCHS Medical and Dental data as at 30 September each year, Non-Medical data as at 30

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census

The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics

The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol-related Crime (Humberside)

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol related crimes have *(a)* been reported and *(b)* resulted in convictions in Humberside Police Authority area in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [86908]

Mr. McNulty: From the information collected centrally, it is not possible to identify those offences which are alcohol-related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in either the recorded crime or court proceedings data series.

Antisocial Behaviour

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has conducted on the level of anti-social behaviour in local authority areas *(a)* in England and *(b)* in Wales. [77788]

John Reid: The following research covers some rather than all local authorities:

A survey of perceptions of antisocial behaviour in 10 trailblazer areas (Birmingham, Brighton and Hove, Bristol, Camden, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Sunderland and Westminster);

A survey of the use of powers to tackle antisocial behaviour among Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas; and

The Anti-Social behaviour Unit (ASBU) One Day Count of antisocial behaviour which collected data on all reports of antisocial behaviour made to a range of agencies in September 2003.

Statistical data are also collected on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) by local authority area, published at:

www.crimereduction.gov.uk

At police force level, there are two main sources of statistical data which are routinely collected and published by the Home Office. The British Crime Survey which measures experiences of criminal victimisation, perceptions of various types of disorder and experiences of antisocial behaviour in the last 12 months, and, the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey which measures levels of involvement in antisocial behaviour among 10 to 25-year-olds.

Results from both the British Crime Survey and Offending, Crime and Justice Survey are available in the Home Office Online Report 49/04 (2004) "Perceptions and Experience of Antisocial Behaviour: Findings from the British Crime Survey", by Martin Wood and Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/05 (2005) "Young People and Crime: Findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey" by Budd et al. These reports are available on:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment is made of the effectiveness of measures taken to tackle antisocial behaviour in the Vale of Clwyd; [86985]

(2) what assessment he has made of the take-up of provisions of anti-social behaviour legislation introduced since 1997 in each local authority area. [86986]

Mr. McNulty: Although the data are not available in the form requested, we know that there has been a huge response both from practitioners (such as local authorities and the police) and from local communities in taking a stand to tackle antisocial behaviour. The tools and powers we have provided since 1997 are being used widely and wisely.

For the last two years, we have carried out a survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England, and Community Safety Partnerships in Wales, asking about their actions taken to tackle antisocial behaviour. From those who responded to the surveys, the results are shown in the table.

A Home Office data collection exercise carried out in July 2005 estimated that between January 2004 and June 2005, 809 areas were designated as dispersal areas.

The latest number of Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued in England between April 1999 and September 2005 as reported to the Home Office is

7,026; there were 330 ASBOs issued in Wales, and 13 in Denbighshire, in the same period.

Although we have made much progress there is still much more to be done. We must ensure that our approach is taken nationally so that, no matter where they live, communities should not have to suffer long-term antisocial behaviour problems. Therefore, as part of our work to rebalance the criminal justice system in favour of the law abiding majority, we intend to increase the take up of antisocial behaviour powers, and to reduce the variation in local performance.

Intervention	*1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004*	*1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005*
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts	5,094	8,654
Parenting Contracts	307	1296
Parenting Orders	229	537
Injunctions	946	1614
Evictions	654	822
Closure Orders	[1]176	338

[1]This is for the period 20 January 2004 to 30 September 2004. The crack house closure power was introduced in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 and came into force on 20 January 2004.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued in West Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [83657]

Mr. McNulty: The data are not available in the form requested. However, for the last two years the Home Office Anti-social Behaviour Unit has carried out a survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England and Community safety Partnerships in Wales asking about their actions taken to tackle antisocial behaviour. From those who responded to the surveys the results are as follows.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004—5,094

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005—8,654

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the recidivism rate of individuals who have received an antisocial behaviour order; and what steps he is taking to reduce the recidivism rate. [86421]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not available.

National re-offending rates are published annually. The most recent data are published in 'Adult re-offending: results from the 2002 cohort'. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 25/05'. This is available on the Home Office's website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbpubs1.html. The start point for calculating these rates is an offender being discharged from a custodial sentence or starting a community sentence. Antisocial behaviour orders are civil orders, not criminal penalties, and are therefore not included in this exercise.

Armed Robbery

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of robbery of a premises with a firearm occurred in each London borough in each of the last five years. [86531]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested cannot be provided at a borough level.

Table A: Offences of robbery recorded by City of London and Metropolitan police in which firearms were reported to have been used by location of offence,2000-01 to 2001-02

	2000-01	*2001-02*[1]
Shops, stall, etc	557	734
Garage service station	63	73
Post office	52	65
Bank	63	69
Building society	26	29
Residential[2]	513	717
Public highway	1,390	2,061
Other premises or public space	372	451
Total	3,036	4,199

[1] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

[2] These crimes are mostly burglaries where firearms have been used immediately before, or at the time of stealing items from a residential property, and in order to steal these items. If firearms are used in a get-away, then it is classed as a burglary and will not be included here.

Table B: Offences of robbery recorded by City of London and Metropolitan police in which firearms were reported to have been used by location of offence,2002-03 to 2004-05

	2002-03[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Shops, stall, etc	604	496	376
Garage service station	73	46	49
Post office	55	25	12
Bank	39	10	42
Building society	15	8	4
Residential[2]	786	909	832
Public highway	2,100	1,919	1,488
Other premises or public space	529	478	894
Total	4,201	3,891	3,697

[1] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[2] These crimes are mostly burglaries where firearms have been used immediately before, or at the time of stealing items from a residential property, and in order to steal these items. If firearms are used in a get-away, then it is classed as a burglary and will not be included here.

Chelmsford Prison

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many toilets are provided in the temporary accommodation for visitors to Chelmsford Prison; and how many are connected to the main sewers. [86954]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are two toilets available in the temporary accommodation for visitors to Chelmsford Prison. One can be used by both able-bodied visitors and those with a disability. The second toilet provides a baby changing facility. Both are connected to the main sewers.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people each week visited prisoners at Chelmsford Prison on average in the last 12 months; and how many he estimates were children aged *(a)* up to five, *(b)* six to 11 and *(c)* 12 to 16. [86955]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Over the past 12 months there has been an average of 533 visitors per week at Chelmsford. Of these an average of 39 were under five years of age, 15 were aged between six-11 years and 10 were aged between 12-16 years.

These figures do not include children visiting the Ormiston Trust or the Homework Club, for which figures are not available.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the temporary accommodation for visitors to Chelmsford Prison was installed; and for how long it was expected to last. [86958]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The first portacabin was installed seven years ago and the second three years ago to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors. The portacabins were always intended to provide a long term facility.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to provide permanent facilities for visitors to Chelmsford Prison; and if he will make a statement. [86959]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of a larger £36 million development, a new purpose-built facility is currently under construction and should be available from December 2006.

Child Prisoners

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many safe beds are available for child prisoners. [86240]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The term "safe beds" is not used in the young people's estate, but there are several design specifications that make rooms safer in terms of protecting young people from self-harm. The different specifications reflect improvements in design over time. Information on the number of rooms of the different safer specifications is not held centrally.

Communications Masts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the rollout of the TETRA mast network; and what plans the Government has to ensure inter-operability and improve communications between the police and the other emergency services. [86846]

Mr. McNulty: Airwave is the new radio communications system for the police service in England, Wales and Scotland. The rollout of the TETRA mast network is the responsibility of O2 Airwave who own the network. The network is already in place. Officers across the country using the network are able to communicate directly with each other, regardless of location. The other emergency services are currently updating their radio communications networks on a national basis and will also be using the Airwave service. When their new systems are fully operational their communications systems will interoperate seamlessly with the police network. Existing interoperability arrangements on the old radios used by the services will be maintained until the new systems are fully operational.

Community Punishments

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of community punishments in each region were completed in each year since 2001; in how many cases a period of imprisonment was then imposed for the original offence; and if he will make a statement. [86951]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information for England and Wales on the completion rates the main types of community sentence, for each year since 1994, can be found in Table 5.1 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. Information on the numbers and percentages of those given immediate custody for breach of the main types of community sentence can be found in Table 5.5 of the same publication. Provisional data on completion rates in 2005 has been published in the latest Offender Management Caseload Quarterly Brief (October to December 2005) which is available on the Home Office website. The reliability of this data at the regional level is not sufficiently robust for publication.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Community Support Officers

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers are in training; what the cost is per person for such training; and if he will make a statement. [86313]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers are employed in Lancashire. [88269]

Mr. McNulty: At the end of September 2005 Lancashire constabulary had 159 police community support officers (PCSOs). With the additional funding we are providing in 2006-07 Lancashire has a target to reach a total of 417 PCSOs by April 2007.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers were in training in Humberside Police Authority area on the last date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [86905]

Mr. McNulty: Humberside Police are currently in the process of training 34 police community support officers (PCSOs). They expect to train 195 during 2006-07.

Controlled Drugs

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration he has given to a re-assignment of the duties of the inspectorate responsible for controlled drugs; and if he will make a statement. [87264]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office continues to examine ways of improving and streamlining existing Home Office licensing and inspection activities but no final decisions have yet been made.

Correspondence

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk's correspondence of 30 January regarding the handling of complaints by the Prison Service about prison governors. [66562]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I met with the hon. Gentleman on 12 July to discuss the various issues raised in his correspondence. I will write to him shortly to cover a range of related matters.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average Band D police precept on council tax was in each year since 1997-98 in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* England and Wales. [66294]

Mr. McNulty: The information is set out in the following table:

Average Band D council tax of police authorities for England and Wales in real terms at 2004-05 prices

£

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
England[1]	65	68	72	77	84	94	115	126	130	134
Wales[1]	57	65	74	89	93	98	118	133	135	139
England and Wales[1]	64	68	72	77	85	94	115	126	130	134

[1] Real Term values calculated using Treasury GDP deflators as at March 2006

Notes:

England figures exclude the City of London

Source:

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and National Assembly for Wales

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were sent to prison for non-payment of council tax in each year since 1993, broken down by age group. [83786]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on number of prisoners received into prison under non-criminal categories of imprisonment is to be found in table 7.10 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004. This is a web-only table and can be found at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html

Figures are shown for all years since 1993 for the categories community charge/council tax and rates. The data, which are obtained from the prison IT system, are not shown separately by age group because the numbers are small and the accuracy at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will extend the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme to British victims of terrorist attacks abroad. [83284]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have no plans to extend the scope of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme to cover injuries sustained abroad. However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are developing proposals for establishing a charitable fund to help victims of terrorist attacks overseas, and hope to be able to announce further details in the coming months.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts for offences relating to drunkenness in Suffolk police force area[1,2] 1997 to 2004

	Offence description—drunkenness with aggravation[3]
1997	254
1998	194
1999	197
2000	202
2001	244
2002	301
2003	317
2004	293

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the offence of "drunk and disorderly" (Criminal Justice Act 1967 sec. 91) and other miscellaneous offences of drunkenness with aggravations.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal Justice

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average period elapsed between sentencing and tariff setting in each year since 1997. [86054]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Custody

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of children and young adults *(a)* on remand and *(b)* after conviction have been placed in custody more than 100 miles from their home. [86205]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In October 2005, the latest date for which figures are available, 40 young people under 18 and 49 18 to 20-year-olds were placed on remand or committal for sentence more than 100 miles from home. Expressed as a percentage, 7.7 per cent. of unconvicted under-18-year-olds and 4.1 per cent. of unconvicted 18 to 20-year-olds were placed more than 100 miles from home.

As to sentenced offenders: 176 under-18-year-olds (9.5 per cent.) and 738 18 to 20-year-olds (11 per cent.) were placed over 100 miles from home.

This information is derived from the Prison Service and Youth Justice Board databases. Home address details are not held for all offenders: where the home address is not recorded, the address of the court before which he or she appeared is used as a proxy. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of children and young adults with a mental illness while in custody in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1995 and *(c)* 2005. [86224]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not available in the form requested. A survey of psychiatric morbidity among prisoners in England and Wales in 1997, by the Office for National Statistics, examined for five types of mental disorder: personality disorder; psychosis; neurotic disorder; drug dependence; and hazardous drinking. A copy is available in the Library.

Source:

Psychiatric Morbidity Amongst Prisoners in England and Wales (ONS, 1998)

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of self-harm and abuse of children and young adults in custody have been recorded *(a)* in the past 12 months and *(b)* since 2000, broken down by sex of victim. [86243]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information available centrally is incomplete and could be misleading, because different categories of secure establishment have used different counting methods. The Youth Justice Board is currently working with the Prison Service, operators of secure training centres and secure children's homes to agree common recording standards and reporting practices for statistical data. We believe this will both improve the quality and increase the range of available aggregated information about young people in custody.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children and young adults are in custody, broken down by *(a)* ethnic origin and *(b)* religious belief. [86249]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on *(a)* the ethnic origin and *(b)* the religious beliefs of the population in prison establishments in England and Wales by age group is given in the web-only tables 8.30 and 8.33 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, available at the following web address.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1705section8.xls

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what draft Bills have been produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; what draft Bills are still to be produced by his Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if he will make a statement. [81311]

Mr. McNulty: Since October 2005, no draft Bills have been produced by the Home Office.

Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Departmental War Room

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department's War Room was established; how many officials are allocated to it, broken down by grade; what its *(a)* objectives and *(b)* purposes are; and if he will make a statement. [81584]

Mr. Byrne: The composition of the team working on the Home Office and the Immigration Nationality Directorate reviews has varied in number and skills week by week as the project moved through phases of work.

Detention Occupancy Rates

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the occupancy rate was for each *(a)* prison, *(b)* young offenders institution, *(c)* secure training centre and *(d)* local authority secure unit in each of the past 20 years. [86248]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the occupancy rate of all prison establishments (including young offender institutions) in England and Wales between 1992 and 2006 can be found in monthly tables held by the House of Commons Library Statistical Resource Unit. Equivalent information for 1986 to 1992 cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

Information on the occupancy rate of Secure Children's Homes in England and Wales is provided by the Department for Education and Skills. Information for 2001 to 2005 is published on their website (http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/index.shtml); information for 1998 to 2000 is in the following table; earlier years are not available. Information on the occupancy rate of Secure Training Centres is not available in this form.

Secure children's homes: occupancy rate at 31 March 1998

	Percentage
All units	80
Aycliffe Centre	80
Netherton Park	56
Kyloe House	75
Sutton Place	90
Aldine House	75
East Moor CH	100
Redsands CC	88
Briars Hey CH	50
Dales House	100
Barton Moss SU	95
Dyson Hall CH	100
St. Helens/Redbank	65
Redbank CH-VH	100
St. Catherines CH	100
Watling House	42
St. Johns Safe Centre	100
Stoke House	81
125C Market St	100
Kesteven House	75
Tiffied St. John's	100
Clayfields House	61
Salters	69
Thornbury House	67
Stamford House	94
Orchard Lodge	88
Robeson Unit	100
Pankhurst Unit	100
Swanick Lodge	50
Landsdowne CC	80
Beechfield	50
Vinney Green	82
Neath Hillside	78

Source:
Department for Education and Skills

Secure children's homes: occupancy rate at 31 March 1999

	Percentage
All units	75
Aycliffe Centre	59
Kyloe House	100
Sutton Place	100
Aldine House	88
East Moor CH	83
Redsands CC	88
Dales House	50
Barton Moss SU	80
Dyson Hall CH	10
Redbank CH-SU	31
Redbank CH-VH	67
St. Catherines CH	100
Watling House	67
St. Johns Safe Centre	100
Stoke House	100
125C Market St	75
Kesteven House	75
Tiffied St. John's	81
Clayfields House	78
Salters	100
Leverton	94
Stamford House	81
Orchard Lodge	100
Pankhurst Unit	63
Swanick Lodge	56
Landsdowne CC	60
Beechficid	117
Vmney Green	100
Atkinson Unit	81
Neath Hillside	83
Briars Hey	—
Thornbury	—

Source:
Department for Education and Skills

Secure children's homes: occupancy rate at 31 March 2000

	Percentage
All units	82
Briars Hey	75
Beechfield	83
St. Catherines CH	100
Atkinson Unit	94
Swanick Lodge	38
Clare Lodge/Salters	100
Dyson Hall CH	100
Leverton	94
Landsdowne CC	100
Redsands CC	100
Dales House	75
Aldine House	88
Kesteven House	100
Watling House	83
St. Johns/Earlswood	100
Orchard Lodge	88
Redbank NH	93
Redbank VH	86
Redbank WH	86
125C Market St/Brunel	63
Sutton Place	40
Thornbury	71
Barton Moss SU	75
Kyloe House	100
Clayfields House	89
Tiffied St. John's	63
Vinney Green	91
Stoke House	100
Aycliffe Centre	65

Secure children's homes: occupancy rate at 31 March 2000

	Percentage
East Moor CH	100
Stamford House	74
Neath Hillside	61

Source:
Department for Education and Skills

Dispersal Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on dispersal orders, if he will make it his policy to collect information centrally on the number of dispersal orders authorised. [72665]

Mr. McNulty: We have been collecting the number of authorisations for dispersal powers by police force area since April 2006. This data will be collected on a quarterly basis. Data will be published later this year.

DNA Database

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone), of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 293-4W, on the DNA database, if he will break the figures down by country making the request. [86494]

Joan Ryan: The majority of requests for the exchange of DNA information between the United Kingdom and other countries are routed through the United Kingdom National Central Bureau for Interpol (UK NCB) based at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Other channels may include bi-lateral direct liaison between law enforcement authorities; and formal mutual legal assistance channels. Exchanges of DNA information via these channels will almost always be a response to the needs of a specific criminal investigation.

Requests from international law enforcement agencies for a search of the National DNA Database are only processed where it is clear that the request is in the interest of prevention and detection of crime, national security or the data subject. They are also subject to a risk assessment, taking into account the justification for and proportionality of disclosure of the information in line with human rights. If cleared for processing, a one-off speculative search of the Database is made by the Custodian and information fed back to UK NCB.

The UK NCB is not currently able to provide data on the number of requests received from other countries but only on the number of requests processed and dealt with by the Database Custodian. As indicated in the answer of 5 June, 519 search requests have been dealt with by the Database Custodian since 2004 and responses provided back to UK NCB in each case (this includes searches of the UK DNA Database at the request of other countries as well as preparing profiles in order for UK law enforcement agencies to request searches overseas).

Data on the countries to which DNA profiles have been sent in pursuit of specific criminal investigations could only be provided at disproportionate cost as the majority of the data are not currently held electronically. This information will be available later this year following the introduction of a new data collection system (this will not apply to retrospective data).

Data are not collected on the number of exchanges of DNA information which occur through direct liaison between law enforcement authorities or formal mutual legal assistance channels.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1409W, on the DNA database, if he will place in the Library the data on use of DNA for crime detection in 2005-06. [86496]

Joan Ryan: Data provided to the Home Office by police forces indicates that there were 20,349 direct DNA detections in 2005-06 i.e. there were 20,349 crimes detected in which a DNA match report was available. In addition, a further 19,960 crimes were detected in 2005-06 as a result of further investigations linked to the original case in which DNA was recovered. This gives a total of 40,309 detections in 2005-06 arising directly or indirectly from the DNA match, compared with 35,605 detections in 2004-05.

Drink-driving

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions for drink-driving resulted in custodial sentences in each year since 1997, broken down by police authority. [84913]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. Information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on convictions and custodial sentences for drink-driving offences by police force area 1997 to 2004 (latest available) is given in the table.

Data for 2005 will be available early in 2007.

Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by police force area, England and Wales 1997-2004

Number of offences

	1997		1998		1999	
	Findings of guilt	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Avon and Somerset	2,812	163	2,566	157	2,728	165
Bedfordshire	1,146	119	1,060	96	869	87
Cambridgeshire	1,092	56	1,060	62	941	43
Cheshire	1,969	97	1,903	119	1,827	133
Cleveland	926	61	870	63	811	57

Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by police force area, England and Wales 1997-2004

Number of offences

	1997		1998		1999	
	Findings of guilt	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Cumbria	931	49	856	51	871	37
Derbyshire	1,612	147	1,547	202	1,463	181
Devon and Cornwall	2,342	91	2,265	127	2,277	112
Dorset	1,214	93	1,186	88	1,120	96
Durham	1,044	66	1,035	53	1,137	81
Essex	2,736	228	2,438	233	2,528	261
Gloucestershire	1,067	48	985	36	889	51
Greater Manchester	4,806	440	4,715	453	4,850	464
Hampshire	3,774	243	3,597	231	3,725	213
Hertfordshire	1,670	90	1,672	91	1,679	90
Humberside	1,274	76	1,358	87	1,323	97
Kent	2,321	97	2,627	155	2,633	133
Lancashire	3,389	224	2,945	178	3,010	184
Leicestershire	1,648	183	1,485	140	1,624	188
Lincolnshire	1,088	47	979	36	941	44
London, City of	436	8	301	9	236	5
Merseyside	2,719	304	2,451	326	2,137	296
Met Police	16,165	1,270	13,889	1,050	12,414	838
Norfolk	1,116	49	1,118	43	1,010	64
Northamptonshire	1,107	109	1,062	73	1,058	91
Northumbria	2,625	184	2,457	194	2,463	229
North Yorkshire	1,365	77	1,205	77	1,124	60
Nottinghamshire	2,031	255	1,804	247	1,802	262
South Yorkshire	2,296	204	2,002	178	1,927	149
Staffordshire[2]	2,036	132	1,955	140	1,711	143
Suffolk	1,050	53	1,042	60	1,089	71
Surrey	1,380	64	1,328	58	1,417	47
Sussex	2,373	110	2,113	113	2,224	120
Thames Valley	4,070	215	3,896	195	3,725	216
Warwickshire	837	44	784	53	856	38
West Mercia	1,947	87	1,794	97	1,747	114
West Midlands	6,351	598	5,582	532	4,775	532
West Yorkshire	3,953	394	3,669	329	3,597	358
Wiltshire	1,043	27	1,108	39	1,009	45
England	93,761	6,802	86,709	6,471	83,567	6,395
Dyfed Powys	1,029	44	995	38	944	48
Gwent	1,166	61	1,203	84	1,079	78
North Wales	1,354	96	1,306	95	1,248	94
South Wales	2,892	257	2,903	239	2,526	282
Wales	6,441	458	6,407	456	5,797	502
England and Wales	100,202	7,260	93,116	6,927	89,364	6,897

Number of offences

	2000		2001		2002	
	Findings of guilt	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Avon and Somerset	2,462	152	2,197	129	2,401	124
Bedfordshire	797	89	914	79	955	82
Cambridgeshire	793	41	813	51	852	41
Cheshire	1,652	122	1,529	96	1,993	103

Number of offences

	2000		2001		2002	
	Findings of guilt	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Cleveland	777	56	887	77	921	71
Cumbria	806	50	761	51	768	37
Derbyshire	1,417	126	1,411	140	1,465	164
Devon and Cornwall	2,199	104	2,369	128	2,441	95
Dorset	1,115	84	1,150	91	1,199	83
Durham	1,124	76	1,097	86	1,136	68
Essex	2,462	237	2,456	264	2,522	267
Gloucestershire	804	37	865	39	926	44
Greater Manchester	4,801	428	4,715	454	4,720	474
Hampshire	3,472	244	3,464	235	3,846	243
Hertfordshire	1,552	98	1,666	94	1,894	90
Humberside	1,371	128	1,259	126	1,395	113
Kent	2,592	134	2,575	165	2,745	152
Lancashire	2,584	163	2,304	148	2,599	159
Leicestershire	1,531	152	1,546	140	1,659	140
Lincolnshire	816	48	877	60	847	56
London, City of	162	4	162	10	221	12
Merseyside	2,128	286	2,195	217	2,293	216
Met Police	11,801	891	11,260	928	12,905	927
Norfolk	935	45	1,143	75	1,220	55
Northamptonshire	782	90	399	65	236	35
Northumbria	2,621	215	2,529	217	2,588	188
North Yorkshire	1,073	67	1,066	55	1,119	63
Nottinghamshire	1,722	210	1,598	187	1,420	129
South Yorkshire	2,122	170	2,020	159	1,945	165
Staffordshire[2]	n/a	n/a	1,513	136	1,704	143
Suffolk	902	74	920	43	1,105	79
Surrey	1,539	61	1,592	65	1,614	68
Sussex	2,112	136	2,358	128	2,306	149
Thames Valley	3,496	212	3,275	210	4,317	219
Warwickshire	786	42	880	33	841	40
West Mercia	1,631	101	1,740	91	1,719	93
West Midlands	4,559	451	4,914	471	5,050	438
West Yorkshire	3,375	287	3,220	331	3,564	268
Wiltshire	930	28	1,045	53	1,005	54
England	79,671	6,076	78,684	6,127	84,456	5,947
Dyfed Powys	858	45	867	36	927	47
Gwent	1,211	99	1,152	76	1,074	74
North Wales	1,332	92	1,227	87	1,270	71
South Wales	2,757	255	2,812	295	2,761	236
Wales	6,158	491	6,058	494	6,032	428
England and Wales	85,829	6,567	84,742	6,621	90,488	6,375

Number of offences

	2003		2004	
	Findings of guilt	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Avon and Somerset	2,666	167	2,692	145
Bedfordshire	1,072	72	1,028	65
Cambridgeshire	933	56	1,083	52
Cheshire	1,905	110	2,128	106
Cleveland	981	61	1,071	60
Cumbria	843	37	907	50

Number of offences

	2003		2004	
	Findings of guilt	*Immediate custody*[1]	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody*[1]
Derbyshire	1,617	168	1,874	143
Devon and Cornwall	2,667	121	2,560	120
Dorset	1,264	73	1,239	52
Durham	1,170	77	1,277	80
Essex	2,622	311	2,853	347
Gloucestershire	890	37	913	36
Greater Manchester	4,743	437	4,811	383
Hampshire	3,663	234	3,743	199
Hertfordshire	1,904	78	1,881	94
Humberside	1,445	150	1,623	112
Kent	2,811	179	3,010	155
Lancashire	2,652	146	2,706	125
Leicestershire	1,725	143	1,754	145
Lincolnshire	1,111	42	1,209	46
London, City of	235	4	169	5
Merseyside	2,687	215	2,849	261
Met Police	12,621	922	13,227	832
Norfolk	1,274	59	1,240	64
Northamptonshire	799	65	922	73
Northumbria	2,747	187	2,675	183
North Yorkshire	1,194	51	1,131	40
Nottinghamshire	1,644	149	1,669	111
South Yorkshire	2,089	125	2,224	140
Staffordshire[2]	1,733	141	1,733	124
Suffolk	1,213	66	1,332	89
Surrey	1,464	44	1,425	51
Sussex	2,430	120	2,368	104
Thames Valley	3,884	159	3,539	190
Warwickshire	918	33	845	23
West Mercia	1,797	100	1,689	103
West Midlands	5,233	420	5,584	423
West Yorkshire	3,720	260	3,897	276
Wiltshire	1,031	62	1,024	39
England	87,397	5,881	89,904	5,646
Dyfed Powys	995	46	986	6
Gwent	1,149	94	1,188	5
North Wales	1,326	76	1,349	6
South Wales	2,840	211	2,811	35
Wales	6,310	427	6,334	52
England and Wales	93,707	6,308	96,238	5,698

n/a = not available

[1] Immediate custody includes sentences of Secure Training Order, Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.

[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of drivers convicted of drink driving *(a)* received a fine, *(b)* received a jail sentence and *(c)* were banned from driving in the last year for which figures are available. [85897]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is given in the table for 2004 (latest available). Data for 2005 will be available early in 2007.

Findings of guilt at all courts and sentence and order imposed for the offences of 'driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs'[1], England and Wales, 2004

	Number of offences	
	Number	Percentage
Total findings of guilt	96,238	100
Sentence or order		
Fine	66,433	69
Immediate custody[2]	6,059	6
Disqualification[3]	90,308	94

[1] Offences under Road Traffic Act 1988 s4(1) and (2), 5(1a) and (b), 6(4), 7(6), and s7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s56.
[2] Immediate custody = detention and training order, young offender institution and unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.
[3] Secondary disposal.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Drugs

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for drug offences in Leicester South constituency in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by local authority ward. [86370]

Mr. McNulty: Drug offence data cannot be broken down by constituency or to a more local level. Available data relate to persons found guilty of drug offences at Leicester's crown, magistrate and youth courts and are given in the following table.

Persons[1] found guilty of drug offences in Leicester, 2002 to 2004

	Number
2002	679
2003	721
2004	669

[1] Where a person is found guilty of two or more drugs offences at the same court appearance the sentence or order shown in this table is the most severe penalty.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the differences between figures given in the England and Wales Findings Paper 265 and the latest Home Office Drug Seizures and Offenders Statistical bulletin in relation to seizures of methadone in 2000 and cocaine and heroin in 2001. [67894]

Mr. Coaker: After a very thorough review of data, I can confirm that the figures quoted in "Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales 2003" (Findings 265) for the number of seizures of methadone in 2000 (1,010) and both number/quantity of seizures of cocaine (6,530/5,210 kg) and heroin (14,630/4,000 kg) in 2001 are correct.

Seizures data for Her Majesty's Customs and Excise published in "Drug Seizure and Offender Statistics, UK, 2001 and 2002" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 08/04) were restricted to seizures at the London airports. However, data presented in Findings 265 were for all Customs' seizures in England and Wales. While the number of seizures were largely unaffected, it resulted in increased overall figures for the quantity of drugs seized.

The figure quoted in Findings 265 for the quantity of methadone seized in 2000 (380 kg) is, however, incorrect. Police in England and Wales seized 91.585 kg of methadone in 2000, with Customs seizing 0.68 kg as well as 284 tablets. For the purposes of reporting the tablets should not have been included in the Findings' tables. The revised total quantity figure is 92.265 kg, which will be rounded down to 90 kg in the next "Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales" Home Office Statistical Bulletin.

Education Act

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times prosecutions have been brought by North Tyneside local education authority under section 7 of the Education Act 1996 in each of the last five years. [85376]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* Prosecutions for truancy related to section seven are brought under section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

We do not collect prosecutions data under the Education Act 1996 by Local education authority. However, data from the Court Proceedings Database (held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform), for the Tyneside local justice area shows the number of prosecutions under the Education Act 1996 as:

Four in 2000, six in 2001, 36 in 2002,17 in 2003 and 10 in 2004. There were no prosecutions recorded specifically under sections 444(1) or 444(1 A) of the Act—though we consider the figures provided may include offences under section 444.

Court proceedings data for 2005 will be available in autumn of 2006.

Electronic Tagging

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in England and Wales are electronically tagged; and how many are *(a)* on the Home Detention Curfew Scheme and *(b)* under a curfew order passed down by the courts. [75702]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to the latest figures available, the total number of people who are subject to electronic monitoring in England and Wales is as shown in the table.

	Number
(a) Home Detention Curfew Scheme (at 2 June 2006)	2,804
(b) Court-imposed curfews (at 31 May 2006)	7,692
(c) Others (at 31 May 2006)	2,378

Feltham Young Offender Institution

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to satisfy himself that the *(a)* Governor and *(b)* management team at Feltham Young Offender Institution are able to carry out the recommendations of the Mubarek Report. [84403]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Mr. Justice Keith's report into the death of Zahid Mubarek contains recommendations to be implemented by the National Offender Management Service, Court Service, Department of Health, Department for Communities and Local Government and the police.

The recommendations do not specifically apply to Feltham prison they apply to all prisons. A full response to all the recommendations will be given within two months as stated by the Home Secretary in his statement of 29 June.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* fixed penalty notices were issued to drivers of commercial vehicles in each London borough in the last year for which figures are available. [87378]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information collected centrally by my department on motoring offences does not distinguish between the characteristics of the vehicles involved.

Foreign Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners have claimed to be from *(a)* Russia, *(b)* Romania, *(c)* Georgia, *(d)* Armenia, *(e)* Azerbaijan, *(f)* Ukraine, *(g)* China, *(h)* Belarus, *(i)* Iceland, *(j)* the United States, *(k)* Canada, *(l)* Antarctica, *(m)* Argentina, *(n)* Chile, *(o)* Peru, *(p)* Ecuador, *(q)* Bolivia, *(r)* Brazil, *(s)* Uruguay, *(t)* Paraguay, *(u)* Angola, *(v)* Namibia, *(w)* Botswana, *(x)* Zambia, *(y)* Burundi, *(z)* Tanzania and *(aa)* Malawi (i) on being sentenced to a custodial sentence and (ii) on arrival in custody in each of the last nine years for which figures are available. [82237]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of foreign nationals who have claimed to be from the countries listed at (a)-(aa) (i) on being sentenced to a custodial sentence, and (ii) on arrival in custody in each of the last nine years is not held centrally.

In a written ministerial statement of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, Columns 28-30WS, my hon. Friend the Minister of State Minister of State for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality updated the House on the progress which has been made on the eight priority action areas to improve our effectiveness in deporting foreign national prisoners. He made clear that the criminal justice agencies are working together with the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to ensure that information on the nationality of those who come into contact with the criminal justice system are collected as early as possible.

Information on the nationality recorded on the central prison IT system for foreign nationals held in prison establishments in England and Wales is available as follows:

1997-2002: Table 6.2 of Prison Statistics England and Wales 1997 to 2002, available from the House of Commons Library.

2003: Table 8.27 of the web tables for Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003.

2004: Table 8.27 of the web tables for Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004.

2005: Detailed web table 2.14 of Population in Custody Quarterly Brief April to June 2005.

These web tables are available at the following web address.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html

Information is not presented separately for the following nationalities:-

Antarctica—this is not a recognised nationality and any such records are included in unrecorded/other in the statistical tables;

Ukraine and Belarus are not recorded separately on the current prison IT systems and are included in Russia;

Although the nationality recorded on the central prison IT system is likely to be based on prisoners' declared nationality, in some cases an individual's nationality may have been updated because of new information received.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners in each open prison were moved into closed prisons in (a) May and (b) June. [86629]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Fraud

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) will take of the National Fraud Strategy in planning its work; and whether SOCA will have specific targets for the prevention and reduction of fraud. [75258]

Mr. Coaker: We need to have a coherent strategy for preventing, detecting and bringing fraud to justice that meets our current need; this issue has been considered by the wide ranging cross Government Review of Fraud. The Home Secretary's letter setting priorities for the Serious Organised Crime Agency in its first three years of operation has been laid before Parliament. The priorities set out there include tackling organised crime threats from fraud against individuals and the private sector. The SOCA Board has subsequently determined that approximately 10 per cent. of its overall effort should be devoted to this area.

Headcam Technology

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the *(a)* reliability and *(b)* usefulness of headcam technology in tackling crime; if he will make resources available to make this technology more widely available to the police; and if he will make a statement. [86256]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* The potential for this technology to assist in tackling crime is recognised. The Police Standards Unit, supported by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch and the Police Information Technology Organisation is consequently organising and funding a six-month trial to evaluate reliability, usefulness and other aspects. The trial is planned to commence on 1 September 2006 in conjunction with Devon and Cornwall constabulary, with the intention of establishing good practice and procedure by the end of the year.

Once the results of the trial are available, an assessment will be made of the cost-benefit of making the technology more widely available to the police, in comparison with other investment options for tackling crime.

Heroin/Cocaine

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government's policy on reducing the supply of heroin and cocaine was informed by the Strategy Unit Phase one Drugs Report of 2003; and if he will make a statement. [85575]

Mr. Coaker: The report was submitted as a contribution to a debate across Government on drug strategy, and influenced the revised supply side strategy, adopted in 2004, which has as its objective the reduction of the harms caused by drug supply to UK communities.

Hizb-Ut-Tahrir

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from *(a)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* the security services on the proscription of Hizb-Ut-Tahrir; and if he will make a statement. [69261]

Mr. McNulty: We do not comment on individual groups that may be possible candidates for proscription.

HM Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is provided by HM Prison Service to governor grade staff on authorising release of prisoners *(a)* under the Criminal Justice Acts, *(b)* on temporary licence and *(c)* on home detention curfew; and whether this training is mandatory. [85480]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For the information about training provided by the Prison Service to governor grade staff, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 295W. Since February 2003 no training has been described as mandatory: training is provided when necessary to enable an individual to fulfil a role.

Honour Crimes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of honour crimes committed in each London borough in each of the last five years. [83679]

Mr. McNulty: Estimates on the number of honour crimes are not available from the recorded crime statistics.

Human Trafficking

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken by his Department to raise awareness of human trafficking amongst the clients of prostitutes. [81612]

Mr. Coaker: On 5 January 2006, the Home Office launched a three month national consultation exercise on proposals for a UK action plan on human trafficking. A summary of responses report was published on 21 June. A number of respondents commented on the issue of raising awareness amongst those who pay for sexual services of the consequences of having sexual intercourse with a trafficked person. We intend to consider the consultation responses over the next few months with the aim of producing a final UK Action Plan by the end of the year.

During the recent, police-led operation on trafficking for sexual exploitation (called Operation Pentameter) specific awareness raising measures were undertaken. These included writing to publishing houses that have men's magazines and pornographic titles asking for them to be informed on the issue of trafficking and for support in terms of editorial copy and advertising space. In addition, leaflets were produced and distributed at airports to raise awareness amongst men travelling to the World Cup. An article was also placed in the England supporter's magazine 'Fanzine' handed out before the England football matches in Germany. The work undertaken by Operation Pentameter will be carried on by the UK Human Trafficking Centre which was announced on 21 June.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of raising awareness of human trafficking amongst the clients of prostitutes. [81613]

Mr. Coaker: The recent consultation exercise on proposals for the UK Action Plan included questions on how to reduce demand for the services of trafficked persons. As part of the development of the final UK Action Plan consideration will be given to how awareness campaigns can be monitored for their effectiveness. During the course of Operation Pentameter internet websites for users of prostitutes were monitored. The monitoring demonstrated that

there was an increased awareness of the issue as a direct result of the activity undertaken by Operation Pentameter.

The work undertaken by Pentameter will be carried on by the UK Human Trafficking Centre, the establishment of which was announced on 21 June.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police and *(b)* government officials have been seconded to the source countries of victims of human trafficking to discuss and implement prevention strategies in the last five years; and how many reciprocated secondments of staff there have been from those countries. [82668]

Mr. Coaker: It would not be appropriate to comment on the operational deployment of law enforcement staff involved in the prevention of serious organised crime.

Identity Fraud

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent meetings he has had with other members of the Government to discuss tackling identity fraud; [86649]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with experts from *(a)* academia, *(b)* the private sector and *(c)* the police on tackling identity fraud. [86650]

Joan Ryan: Work on identity fraud reduction is led by the Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC) and supported by the Identity Fraud Forum (IFF). The IFSC and IFF members come from the police, academia, the private sector and Government Departments. The IFSC and the IFF meet regularly to take forward the Government's work on reducing identity fraud, and to co-ordinate this activity across all sectors. A number of sub-groups meets on a regular basis to identify, scope and prioritise opportunities to reduce identity fraud.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action has been taken by his Department to tackle identity fraud since July 2005; and what action is planned between July 2006 and July 2007. [86653]

Joan Ryan: The Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC) was established in 2003 to lead a cross public/private sector work programme to tackle identity fraud and there has been a great deal of activity to reduce identity fraud in the last year.

In September 2005 we launched a leaflet which provides the public with a quick and easy guide on things to look out for that indicate that they may be at risk of becoming a victim of identity theft or fraud, or that they are already a victim. The leaflet has been distributed to main police stations, public libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Identity and Passport Service regional offices, local DVLA offices and all MPs to assist when engaging with constituents. An online version can be found on the identity theft website. The leaflet has been co-branded by a number of organisations such as banks and credit reference agencies who have made it available to their customers and distributed by the National Neighbourhood Watch Association. We plan to continue our identity fraud awareness during the coming year by targeting particular social groups who are more at risk of identity fraud.

In December 2005 we established a network of Single Points of Contact (SPOC) in all police forces and a range of government departments and agencies for dealing with identity fraud investigations and prosecutions. The network will continue its work and a SPOC seminar is due to take place in September 2006.

We continue to make improvements to the security of the UK Passport. In March 2006 we began the introduction of biometric passports. Roll-out of the enhanced authentication and checking of passport applications via the Personal Identity Process was completed in June 2006. The Passport Validation Service has been operating during the past year and will be extended to other organisations. The introduction of interviews for first time adult passport applicants will also help to reduce identity fraud.

On 10 May 2006 we introduced an amendment to the Police and Justice Bill to allow information on the recently deceased to be shared with law enforcement agencies, and other organisations to be specified by order, to prevent the identities of deceased people being used to commit fraud. Subject to Royal Assent the sharing of death information will commence around July 2007.

On 7 June 2006 we brought into force the offences in the Identity Cards Act 2006 which create new criminal offences of being in possession of or controlling false identity documents. Investigation of offences under these provisions is already underway.

On 17 July 2006 the Home Office published a consultation document on combating organised and financial crime which includes proposals to improve the use of public and private sector data to prevent crime, in particular fraud and identity fraud. The consultation will finish on 17 October 2006.

Improving identity management and the development of ID cards are essential components in the fight against identity fraud and this work will continue next year.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much his Department spent on tackling identity fraud through public awareness campaigns in 1997 in each *(a)* year since and *(b)* month since July 2005; [86654]

(2) what advice his Department has issued to the public on steps to combat identity fraud. [86651]

Joan Ryan: The Home Office became responsible for identity fraud in 2003 following the Cabinet Office report Identity Fraud: A Study, published in 2002. We established the Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC) to lead a public-private sector work programme to tackle identity fraud. The IFSC set up a website www.identitytheft.org.uk which explains to the public how to keep personal information safe, how to get help if one is the victim of identity theft, and what is being done to tackle this growing crime. The website was set up and is maintained without Government funding.

Information on identity fraud is also available as a leaflet which provides the public with a quick and easy guide on things to look for that indicate they may be at risk of becoming a victim of identity theft or fraud, and what to do if they are already a victim. The leaflet has been distributed to main police stations, public libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Identity and Passport Service regional offices, local DVLA offices and all MPs (to assist when engaging with constituents). An online version can be found on the identity theft website. The leaflet has been co-branded by a number of organisations such as banks and credit reference agencies, who make it available to their customers. The leaflet has also been distributed by the National Neighbourhood Watch Association.

The Home Office spent £24,956.08 on identity fraud awareness campaign material in the financial year 2005-06 (the first year in which we paid for such material). There has been no expenditure so far this year; further activity is planned.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Humberside police authority area were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* victims of identity fraud in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [86907]

Joan Ryan: The Government take the problem of identity fraud very seriously. There is no single offence of identity fraud. On seven June 2006 we brought into force sections 25 and 26 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 which created new criminal offences of being in possession or control of false identity documents. These offences relate to a wide range of identity documents, including passports, driving licences, ID cards and immigration documents. The maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment for an offence of possession with intent to use the document for establishing registrable facts about another person, such as name, address, date of birth and other personal details, and two years imprisonment for possession without reasonable excuse. Investigation of offences under these provisions is already under way and statistics on the number of prosecutions and convictions will be published in due course.

There is also a range of other criminal offences to combat identity fraud. These include, for example, the offences in the Theft Acts of 1968 and 1978 of obtaining property by deception (property includes money), obtaining services by deception and obtaining a money transfer by deception. The number of these offences that were committed using a false or stolen identity is not recorded centrally and it is not possible to provide such figures for Humberside or any other area. However, identity theft and identity fraud questions were incorporated into the British Crime Survey in 2005 and the results should give us more information on the number of victims and the types of fraud that are being committed.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Immigration and Nationality Directorate officials failed security checks subsequent to their first day of employment in the Directorate in each year since 1997. [73692]

John Reid: It is not possible to provide this information in the form requested.

Intercept Evidence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government expects to conclude its review of the use of intercept evidence in court; and if he will make a statement. [86805]

Mr. McNulty: As my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, told the House on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1312, further Home Office-led work on possible legal models for evidential use of intercept will report to Ministers in November.

John Lennon Airport

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is a permanent police presence at John Lennon International Airport, Liverpool. [69433]

Mr. McNulty: John Lennon International Airport is not designated for policing purposes under the Aviation Security Act 1982. There is therefore no statutory requirement for the Chief Constable of Merseyside police to provide a permanent police presence. The level and nature of the policing resource at the airport is at the discretion of the Chief Constable.

Juvenile Detainees

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of vulnerable and at-risk children and young adults in *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* local authority secure units. [86277]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An initial assessment of vulnerability of under-18 offenders is carried out, before sentence, by the youth offending team . Figures provided by the Youth Justice Board show that during the period April 2004 to March 2005 the number of young people who were assessed as vulnerable in this way and subsequently placed in a young offender institution was 3,370. All young people placed in a secure training centre or a secure children's home are considered vulnerable, either on account of their age or because of other risk factors.

Vulnerability is a concept which embraces a wide range of possible factors, including physical and mental health and other special needs. Young people assessed as vulnerable by the youth offending team are not all at high risk. Also, the degree of vulnerability may change in the course of their period in custody. The youth offending team's assessment is therefore only a starting point. While the most vulnerable young people are accommodated in establishments with high staff-to-trainee ratios, safeguarding arrangements are in place in all establishments.

There is no formal definition of vulnerability for adult offenders and consequently no estimate has been made of young adults falling within this category.

However, there are systems in place to identify and assist vulnerable adult offenders in custody.

Local Authority Secure Units

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where each local authority secure unit is located; and how many places are available in each. [86278]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently 21 secure children's homes, 19 of which are provided by local authorities, operating in England and one in Wales. The location and number of places available in each of these homes as at 31 March 2005 is as shown in the following table:

Places approved at 31 March 2005 by individual secure children's home—England and Wales

Name of secure children's home	*Location*	*Number of places approved*
Beechfield	West Sussex	5
St. Catherines / Laboure House	St. Helens	15
Atkinson Unit	Devon	15
Swanwick Lodge	Hampshire	15
Clare Lodge / Salters	Peterborough	15
Gladstone House / Dyson Hall	Liverpool	20
Leverton Hall	Essex	15
Lansdowne SU	East Sussex	—
Aldine House	Sheffield	10
Lincolnshire SU	Lincolnshire	10
Watling House	Staffordshire	10
Orchard Lodge	Southwark	25
Redbank	St. Helens	30
Sutton Place SC	Kingston-upon-Hull	10
Barton Moss SCC	Salford	20
Kyloe House	Northumberland	10
Clayfields House	Nottinghamshire	20
Tiffield St. John's	Northamptonshire	15
Vinney Green SU	South Gloucestershire	25
Aycliffe Centre	County Durham	45
East Moor SU	Leeds	35
Neath Hillside	Neath Port Talbot	20

Notes:
1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Numbers between 1 and 4 are shown as a dash.
3. Redbank includes three units: Newton House, Vardy House and Willows House.
4. At March 2005 all homes were LA managed apart from St. Catherines which was managed by a voluntary provider.
5. Orchard Lodge transferred to an independent provider in March 2006.
6. The figures are from the 2004-05 DfES annual survey of secure children's homes (SA1).

M56

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists have been caught speeding in the roadworks on the slip road of junction seven of the M56 since 2001; and what total amount of fines they have paid. [84884]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on speeding fines paid in respect of offences at specific locations is not held centrally.

Mentally Ill Prisoners

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are taken by the Prison Service to liaise with mental health authorities to ensure continuity of care and post-release treatment for former prisoners with mental illnesses. [86232]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Offenders with identified mental health problems are subject to the Care Programme Approach (CPA) during their stay in prison and on release. CPA enables the planning of treatment and continuity of mental health care for the individual. It is supported in prisons through NHS mental health teams, comprising over 360 staff in England. This means that on release from prison offenders needing CPA should have a care plan and, pre-release, the prison mental health in-reach team inform and share information with the individual's local GP.

For those prisoners with identified severe and enduring mental illness, the prison will also contact the individuate community mental health team at the pre-release stage.

The Offender Mental Health Care Pathway (DH, 2005) sets out best practice for commissioners and providers of mental health services for those in the criminal justice system. It is available on the Department of Health's website at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/22/32/04102232.pdf

Motoring Offences

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the five most common driving offences were for which *(a)* men and *(b)* women were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted in each constituency in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [85518]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information required is not available centrally at constituency level.

Murderers

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted murderers have been sentenced since the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [86052]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Section 269 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 which relates to the determination of a minimum term in relation to mandatory life sentences came into force on 18 December 2003, and figures reported to the Home Office show that 371 persons were sentenced for murder between that date and 31 December 2004, the latest date for which sentencing information is currently available.

Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile such figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

We have started a programme of work in the Home Office looking at the quality of existing data on court sentencing and how this might be improved.

Operation Pentameter

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total value was of assets seized under Operation Pentameter. [82666]

Mr. Coaker: At present it is not possible to provide total values, since operations are still ongoing. The confirmed cash seized to date totals around £200,000.

Overseas HGVs

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers of heavy goods vehicles from overseas have *(a)* committed and *(b)* been prosecuted for traffic offences on British roads in each of the last three years. [86121]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not collected centrally on offending drivers of foreign registered vehicles who breach road traffic regulations.

Partnership Working

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to foster partnership working. [74611]

Mr. McNulty: Partnership working is central to the delivery of Home Office business. The National Community Safety Plan provides a clear statement of community safety priorities for local partners. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) are well established as the primary local delivery vehicle for community safety work. Earlier this year, the Government published a review of CDRPs, with the aim of further improving their effectiveness and strengthening their accountability to the communities they serve. Partnership working is also at the heart of neighbourhood policing. As part of the neighbourhood policing initiative the police will work with local partners and communities to tackle local priority issues. At the national level, the Home Office is working with stakeholders to ensure that neighbourhood policing is integrated into the wider community safety agenda.

The National Offender Management Service is giving high priority to fostering partnership working as part of its work to reduce re-offending, including through the Civic Society, Corporate and Faith, Community and Voluntary Sector Alliances.

Working with a range of external partners is vital for delivery of 'Integration Matters', our strategy for refugee integration. We recognise that statutory and voluntary sector organisations are best placed to help us to remove the barriers that can prevent refugees from integrating into their new communities. Partnership working is also essential for the National Refugee Integration Forum (NRIF). This body brings together 32 individuals with a range of experiences and perspectives in delivering refugee integration, and is tasked to review our work and ensure that we are delivering on the action plan set out in the strategy.

Placements

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many placements are provided for vulnerable and at risk children and young adults by the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector. [86242]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Youth Justice Board commissions 2,844 places for boys in 13 young offender institutions and 75 places for girls in four special units. It also commissions 274 places in secure training centres and 235 in secure children's homes. Younger and more vulnerable sentenced young people and those subject to court-ordered secure remands are placed into secure training centres or secure children's homes. All of the secure training centre places are provided by the private sector and all but one of the secure children's homes are in the public sector. Eleven of the 13 young offender institutions for boys and all four special units for girls are in the public sector. There are two privately run young offender institutions.

Although the most vulnerable young people are placed in secure training centres or secure children's homes, all establishments are able to accommodate young people who have some degree of vulnerability. There are safeguarding arrangements in place at all establishments for children and young people.

There is no formal definition of vulnerability for adult offenders but prisoners may be in need of support or protection for a number of reasons. Such prisoners are managed and supported in a range of ways including being located in vulnerable prisoner units, in units or establishments dealing with prisoners convicted of certain offences such as sexual offences, segregated for their own protection or transferred to another establishment where they are not known. The management of vulnerable prisoners is a progressive process and they are not necessarily held in designated accommodation.

Police

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the ratio of police to public was in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* each police force in (i) 1979, (ii) 1983, (iii) 1987, (iv) 1992, (v) each year from 1993 to 2004 and (vi) the last period for which figures are available. [70152]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* The information that is available for the ratio of police to 100,000 population for each police force area is provided in the table.

Information on basic command units has only been collected since 2003. In March 2003, Southend had 170 (full-time equivalent) officers per 100,000 population. This figure increased to 175 in March 2004 and 179 in March 2005.

Information on the number of police officers to population was published in the annual report of HM chief inspector of constabulary prior to 1998, but this information was based on the authorised establishment of each police force rather than its total strength and

was presented as the ratio of population to each police officer. Therefore it is not possible to provide data for earlier years as it is not directly comparable with the Home Office calculations from 1998 onwards.

Police officer strength[1] per 100,000 population[2], by police force area[3] in each year from 1998 to 2005

	Year ending 31 March:							
Police force area	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	202.8	202.9	197.1	197.2	204.8	213.0	229.3	225.3
Bedfordshire	196.5	188.5	184.7	184.2	188.9	197.5	210.1	214.6
Cambridgeshire	183.6	178.9	171.8	178.8	186.5	195.9	197.2	194.3
Cheshire	208.4	210.8	204.3	203.8	209.2	217.2	223.6	222.9
Cleveland	266.0	254.7	252.3	253.0	262.5	294.1	313.6	304.5
Cumbria	237.2	228.8	219.9	213.0	224.0	236.6	254.0	257.3
Derbyshire	184.2	182.2	183.2	187.1	189.0	210.1	216.5	213.3
Devon and Cornwall	192.0	186.1	182.3	186.9	192.4	203.6	208.2	212.3
Dorset	192.1	186.0	188.9	195.5	197.8	205.1	208.7	210.9
Durham	249.1	257.7	256.3	262.8	266.0	281.0	288.2	293.4
Essex	193.4	189.8	183.0	178.5	180.8	186.1	192.3	198.2
Gloucestershire	198.4	197.4	199.9	208.7	209.4	218.9	228.8	230.1
Greater Manchester	269.8	264.8	263.6	268.1	279.1	297.7	322.7	320.8
Hampshire	199.1	197.1	193.1	192.9	194.8	208.5	211.2	211.6
Hertfordshire	201.5	197.8	201.1	184.3	173.7	191.0	204.3	206.0
Humberside	227.9	223.2	218.8	217.5	233.6	244.3	256.3	255.4
Kent	208.7	204.4	203.5	209.1	209.9	220.6	227.9	226.9
Lancashire	228.6	227.7	222.8	228.3	231.1	238.8	251.7	250.8
Leicestershire	213.8	214.5	214.6	217.6	223.7	232.2	246.4	246.1
Lincolnshire	193.4	184.0	178.9	191.3	188.9	190.8	188.6	185.5
London, City of	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Merseyside	296.8	297.9	289.8	290.8	293.9	302.0	303.3	318.0
Metropolitan Police	355.6	352.4	341.0	351.1	365.9	404.0	420.0	432.5
Norfolk	184.0	176.4	174.8	178.3	182.6	189.1	189.8	191.7
Northamptonshire	193.4	186.4	181.4	186.3	194.0	193.8	197.6	200.5
Northumbria	262.7	268.5	265.7	271.9	277.8	290.3	293.9	293.6
North Yorkshire	186.1	181.2	172.9	174.6	188.0	193.2	203.1	205.5
Nottinghamshire	225.1	215.5	213.7	214.2	225.9	238.8	245.0	245.0
South Yorkshire	243.9	242.8	242.5	245.4	245.8	252.2	261.0	259.8
Staffordshire	217.1	211.0	204.4	200.7	201.3	212.3	218.2	220.1
Suffolk	179.2	178.5	170.7	167.9	176.9	187.9	195.6	195.1
Surrey	207.1	211.9	226.9	191.6	184.3	182.4	183.2	184.0
Sussex	203.5	191.4	188.3	188.5	190.0	203.1	206.0	205.4
Thames Valley	182.8	179.7	178.2	175.0	176.8	186.3	195.4	198.3
Warwickshire	184.6	180.3	177.5	182.4	189.9	197.5	197.2	194.8
West Mercia	179.8	179.8	166.0	171.0	176.0	195.6	202.5	202.8
West Midlands	270.8	278.3	273.7	282.6	293.3	306.6	310.9	316.2
West Yorkshire	244.4	236.1	228.2	227.6	230.5	242.1	254.3	270.6
Wiltshire	194.9	192.0	184.6	183.6	188.7	190.4	198.5	197.5
Dyfed Powys	210.3	214.8	216.9	219.4	234.5	236.8	236.1	237.1
Gwent	221.6	223.9	226.8	229.0	239.2	243.9	248.3	259.0
North Wales	212.9	212.0	213.4	219.5	228.1	234.1	243.2	249.8
South Wales	242.3	241.2	236.1	249.6	258.7	272.7	275.5	273.4
Total 43 forces	239.9	237.2	232.6	234.0	240.4	254.4	263.8	267.2

[1] The table contains calculations based on full-time equivalent figures for police officers which have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items in these and similar tables. The police officer strength figures used to calculate the number of police officers per 100,000 population for the years 1998 to 2002 excludes those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Figures from 2003 includes those police officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore figures prior to 2003 are not comparable with figures for 2003 onwards.

[2] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.

[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces. Therefore police to population ratios for these forces are not directly comparable for each of the years provided in the table.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the cross-government working group examining the transitional and ongoing financial arrangements for restructured police forces has met since January. [82366]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The finance working group met on 12 January, 10 February and 27 April.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress he has made in determining the changes required to the police precept following the creation of a single strategic force for Wales. [82369]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* There are no current plans to proceed with the enforced mergers of the four Welsh forces.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who represents the Welsh Assembly on the cross-government working group which is examining the transitional and ongoing financial arrangements for restructured police forces. [82574]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The head of local government finance at the Welsh Assembly Government represents the Welsh Assembly Government on the police restructuring finance working group.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much central funding has been given to the Shropshire constabulary since 1997. [85483]

Mr. McNulty: Grant is provided to the West Mercia police authority as a whole. Shropshire is one of five administrative policing divisions within the West Mercia police area. It is for the police authority and chief officer to deploy resources in line with local policing plans. I am informed by the chief constable that a significant proportion of the force budget is deployed on a force-wide basis and is not identifiable to individual areas.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the requirement to form specialist anti-terror units within Devon and Cornwall constabulary continues to apply following recent restructuring decisions. [86033]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The chief constable is responsible for operational policing matters in Devon and Cornwall constabulary. No requirement to form specialist anti-terrorist units within Devon and Cornwall constabulary was identified prior to or following the recent police restructuring decisions.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will meet the chief constable and acting chief constable of Cumbria and Lancashire and the chairs of their respective police authorities to discuss his proposals for merger of the forces. [86697]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* I have met the chief constable and acting chief constable of Cumbria and Lancashire constabularies and representatives of their police authorities to discuss the proposed merger of the two forces on a number of occasions, most recently on 10 July.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety in his Department plans to meet in connection with the police mergers in Wales over the next three months; and what the dates are of those meetings which have been arranged. [86880]

Mr. McNulty: Over the last two months I have held meetings and discussions with the four chief constables of Welsh forces, the four chairs of Welsh police authorities, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, Edwina Hart AM, members of the Welsh Assembly's Social, Justice and Regeneration Committee, my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Wales and his Minister my hon. Friend the member for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire the Welsh Group of Labour MPs, North Wales Labour MPs and the Welsh Local Government Association. I will hold further meetings as appropriate but no dates have yet been fixed.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has *(a)* to reduce the requirement on police officers to fill in forms and carry out other administrative tasks and *(b)* to establish increased clerical support for such tasks. [83674]

Mr. McNulty: We have already made good progress on reducing the bureaucratic burdens on police officers by cutting nearly 9,000 unnecessary forms; civilianising posts; rolling out the penalty notice for disorder scheme; and ensuring that forces have the best scientific and technological support like video identity parades and electronic fingerprinting.

The Government introduced a measure in 2003 to record the amount of time that police officers spend on frontline duties in order to help to maximise the time spent on their core roles of preventing and reducing crime. More police officer time was spent on front line duties in 2004-05 (64.1 per cent.) than in 2003-04 (63.6 per cent.) and we are determined to see this improvement continue, with police authorities setting robust targets for improvement.

The Home Office expects that the police service can increase this to a national average of around 72 per cent. in 2008. This will be a gain in time on frontline duties equivalent to an extra 12,000 police officers. To support this, police staff numbers have grown substantially over the last few years. In September 2005 there were 71,967 police staff, an increase of 18,956 (nearly 36 per cent.) since 1997.

Percentage of population in prison establishments[1] in England and Wales from a minority ethnic group[2] by establishment

Prison Establishment	*30 June 2005*	*31 May 2006*
Acklington	4	5
Albany	10	13
Altcourse	6	7
Ashfield	11	16
Ashwell	26	33
Askham Grange	21	18
Aylesbury	44	48
Bedford	31	40
Belmarsh	45	46
Birmingham	35	37
Blakenhurst	25	23

Percentage of population in prison establishments[1] in England and Wales from a minority ethnic group[2] by establishment

Prison Establishment	30 June 2005	31 May 2006
Blantyre House	27	29
Blundeston	44	43
Brinsford	31	35
Bristol	21	20
Brixton	54	55
Brockhill	25	17
Bronzfield	34	36
Buckley Hall	14	22
Bullingdon	29	32
Bullwood Hall	29	34
Camp Hill	34	35
Canterbury	21	37
Cardiff	12	13
Castington	3	7
Channings Wood	10	12
Chelmsford	25	28
Coldingly	45	43
Cookham Wood	35	37
Dartmoor	10	10
Deerbolt	11	14
Doncaster	16	19
Dorchester	12	16
Dovegate	32	33
Dover	85	83
Downview	50	57
Drake Hall	33	34
Durham	5	8
East Sutton Park	47	49
EastwoodPark	14	11
Elmley	18	19
Erlestoke	18	21
Everthorpe	14	17
Exeter	5	6
Featherstone	35	29
Feltham	59	65
Ford	37	27
Forest Bank	12	16
Foston Hall	13	10
Frankland	12	14
Full Sutton	23	24
Garth	22	17
Gartree	21	22
Glen Parva	24	27
Gloucester	13	17
Grendon (Spring Hill)	28	26
Guys Marsh	19	24
Haslar	78	81
Haverigg	12	12
Hewell Grange	41	32
Highdown	43	34
Highpoint North	48	38
Highpoint South	45	46
Hindley	16	14
HolleseyBay	34	30
Holloway	43	41
Holme House	6	10
Hull	8	8
Huntercombe	42	42

Percentage of population in prison establishments[1] in England and Wales from a minority ethnic group[2] by establishment

Prison Establishment	30 June 2005	31 May 2006
Kingston (Portsmouth)	16	18
Kirkham	16	9
Kirklevington	13	16
Lancaster	4	5
Lancaster Farms	11	11
Latchmere House	37	38
Leeds	19	21
Leicester	19	29
Lewes	12	15
Leyhill	17	16
Lincoln	6	11
Lindholme	27	29
Littlehey	16	20
Liverpool	10	13
LongLartin	31	37
Low Newton	9	7
Lowdham Grange	28	35
Maidstone	35	35
Manchester	22	25
Moorland	22	22
Moorland Open	18	23
Morton Hall	66	56
Mount	54	57
New Hall	9	9
North Sea Camp	18	17
Northallerton	11	11
Norwich	18	18
Nottingham	23	20
Onley	28	31
Pare	8	9
Parkhurst	32	31
Pentonville	54	49
Peterborough	17	22
Portland	41	37
Preston	12	10
Ranby	16	23
Reading	20	25
Risley	13	13
Rochester	42	43
Rye Hill	35	39
Send	39	33
Shepton Mallet	11	10
Shrewsbury	17	19
Stafford	18	20
Standford Hill	35	43
Stocken	22	24
Stoke Heath	21	20
Styal	10	11
Sudbury	26	28
Swaleside	40	38
Swansea	5	5
Swinfen Hall	31	32
Thorn Cross	19	22
Usk (Prescoed)	8	6
Verne	43	53
Wakefield	14	15
Wandsworth	42	42
Warren Hill	32	35
Wayland	32	33

Percentage of population in prison establishments[1] in England and Wales from a minority ethnic group[2] by establishment

Prison Establishment	30 June 2005	31 May 2006
Wealstun	19	25
Weare	40	—
Wellingborough	32	41
Werrington	23	26
Wetherby	18	16
Whatton	10	14
Whitemoor	28	28
Winchester	12	16
Wolds	13	14
Woodhill	27	31
Wormwood Scrubs	60	57
Wymott	10	8
Total	25	26

[1] Percentages are calculated as proportion of prisoners recorded as BME against total prisoners.
[2] Ethnicity is recorded on the basis of voluntary self-declaration

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the number of tourists to an area is considered in the annual grant calculation for police constabularies. [84737]

Mr. McNulty: No. The police funding formula was reviewed in 2005. It was concluded that data used in the tourism indicator were out of date. The use of more recent information was considered but this was unsatisfactory for inclusion in the new police formula.

Representatives from ACPO and the APA and the wider policing community were involved in the review. A full consultation on options for change took place last summer. All representations received were fully taken into account.

Overall, Dorset has benefited from the revised formula changes and their position was protected further by the application of a virtually flat rate grant increase for all police authorities for 2006-07.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the status is of the proposed merger between the Lancashire and Cumbria constabularies; and if he will make a statement. [85903]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* As my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, made clear on 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1383, the merger of Lancashire and Cumbria police forces will not be taking place.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the cost of amalgamating Cumbria and Lancashire police authorities; and how much will be provided by his Department in the form of Pathfinder support to cover the costs of amalgamation. [82967]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Cumbria and Lancashire police authorities have withdrawn their agreement to voluntary amalgamation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role the expected harmonisation of council tax precepts played in the Government's decision not to proceed with police force mergers. [86845]

Mr. McNulty: The proposed voluntary merger between Cumbria and Lancashire constabularies could not go ahead because it was not possible to resolve all outstanding issues, including harmonisation of the council tax precept, to the satisfaction of the two authorities concerned. They therefore do not wish to proceed with their voluntary merger.

With regard to other mergers, my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, made it clear on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1059, that he did not wish to proceed with enforced mergers.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in *(a)* Humberside, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* South Yorkshire and *(d)* West Yorkshire police authority area were involved in preparation work for the merger of the forces; how many hours of work were devoted to that work; how much the exercise cost; and if he will make a statement. [86906]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the police forces and police authorities concerned and the information is not held centrally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to increase funding to police constabularies for more *(a)* police officers and *(b)* community support officers on the beat. [88270]

Mr. McNulty: In November last year we announced a two-year funding settlement for police authorities in England and Wales. The increase in 2006-07 enabled a broadly flat-rate increase of 3.1 per cent. for each police authority. A provisional grant increase of 3.6 per cent. was announced for 2007-08. The utilisation of all available resources is a matter for the police authorities and chief officers of police.

We are also putting substantial resources into neighbourhood policing and police community support officers (PCSOs). With the £91 million from the Chancellor in the Budget, we are expecting to allocate over £220 million to police authorities this financial year to increase PCSO numbers to 16,000 by April 2007.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent already in relation to the proposed mergers between Lancashire and Cumbria police constabularies. [88268]

Mr. McNulty: The costs incurred by Lancashire and Cumbria police forces and police authorities are a matter for the bodies concerned and the information is not held centrally.

With regard to Home Office costs, it is not possible to identify separately those relating specifically to the proposed merger of Lancashire and Cumbria constabularies.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent in relation to the proposed merger between the Yorkshire police forces. [88382]

Mr. McNulty: The costs incurred by Yorkshire and Humberside police forces and police authorities are a matter for the bodies concerned and the information is not held centrally.

With regard to Home Office costs, it is not possible to identify separately those relating specifically to the proposed merger of the Yorkshire and Humberside police forces.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government have spent on the planned merger of the four Welsh police forces; and if he will make a statement. [89024]

Mr. McNulty: The costs incurred by the Welsh police forces and police authorities are a matter for the bodies concerned and the information is not held centrally.

With regard to Home Office costs, it is not possible to identify separately those relating specifically to the proposed merger of the Welsh police forces.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department allocated for the police force restructuring consultation; and if he will make a statement. [89109]

Mr. McNulty: The consultation exercise on police force mergers was part of routine Home Office business and no dedicated funds were set aside for this purpose.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on the police, what the *(a)* term and *(b)* negotiated price over the term is of each contract with the consultants employed by his Department to advise on police force amalgamations. [75222]

Mr. McNulty: The term of work for consultants employed to work on police force restructuring was 15 working days (16 January to 6 February). However, the term of work for some consultants exceeded this due to additional days worked. The negotiated price for the consultants varied from firm to firm and the level and specialism of personal within the firm that was employed.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether funding for the proposed single Welsh police force will be equivalent to the combined total of the funding for the four Welsh police constabularies in 2006-07. [78871]

Mr. McNulty: There are no current plans to proceed with the enforced mergers of the four Welsh forces.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the merits of the use of *(a)* anaesthetic, *(b)* malodorant and *(c)* calmative gases by police and security services. [85404]

John Reid: The Home Office Scientific Development Branch has carried out desk-based research into the area of calmatives, including anaesthetics, and malodorants. It concluded that neither calmatives nor malodorants currently meet the police requirements. Calmatives carry additional health risks compared to alternative options and malodorants do not appear to offer any tactical advantage over existing incapacitants available to the police. Further research will only be carried out on either of these areas if there are significant advances in the available technology.

Further details of this research can be found in chapter 9 of Fourth Report of the Research Programme into Alternative Policing Approaches Towards the Management of Conflict. This report is available on the Northern Ireland Office website (www.nio.gov.uk).

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police civilian staff each division of Greater Manchester police has had in each year since 1997. [86707]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is set out in the following table for 2003, 2004 and 2005. Comparable data on police officers and police civilian staff by BCU have only been available since 2003.

The year on year figures for Greater Manchester basic command units are not comparable because of changes to deployment in respect of Manchester airport and the centralisation of dog handlers in Greater Manchester police in 2003-04 and 2004-05. Deployment to basic command units and other specialist units is an operational matter for the chief constable.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received in relation to police numbers in Greater Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [86708]

Mr. McNulty: No specific representations have been received in relation to police numbers in Greater Manchester.

Prison Service

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults in penal institutions there were for *(a)* adults, *(b)* children and young people in each of the last 20 years, broken down into (i) prisoner on prisoner, (ii) staff on prisoner, (iii) prisoner on staff; and what the ratio was of total assaults to the relevant prisoner population in each year. [86245]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested can be provided reliably for only part of the period requested.

	Number of assaults	
Aged 21 years and over	*Prisoner on prisoner*	*Prisoner on officer*
1997	1,308	722
1998	2,240	1,093
1999	3,310	1,165
2000	3,578	1,112
2001	3,754	1,341
2002	4,386	1,442
2003	5,052	1,482

	Number of assaults	
	Prisoner on prisoner	Prisoner on officer
Aged 21 years and over		
2004	5,557	1,631
2005	6,203	1,870
Aged under 21 years		
1997	925	285
1998	1,957	475
1999	3,789	634
2000	6,254	774
2001	7,224	838
2002	7,184	847
2003	6,549	785
2004	6,532	839
2005	9,074	1,082

Notes:
These figures are a subset of the total number of assaults recorded in that they contain identified assailants.
The recording of assaults on prisoners by staff has been unsynchronised on this system and it is not possible to produce figures that can be substantiated.

	Rates of assault per 1000	
	Prisoner on Prisoner	Prisoner on officer
Aged 21 years and over		
1998	39	19
1999	58	20
2000	62	19
2001	63	23
2002	69	23
2003	77	23
2004	83	24
2005	91	27
Aged under 21 years		
1998	255	62
1999	489	82
2000	845	105
2001	979	114
2002	960	113
2003	893	107
2004	839	108
2005	1,155	138

Notes:
Rates are produced for only the more recent accurate assault totals.

Prisons

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* prisoners, *(b)* prison officers and *(c)* prison governors were from non-white ethnic groups in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) prison and (ii) ethnic group; and if he will make a statement. [82936]

Mr. Setcliffe: Information on the percentage of minority ethnic prisoners and prison officer grades and operational managers (for public sector prison establishments) is provided in the following table. Information on the ethnic breakdown from prisoners prior to June 2005 is not available on a comparable basis because the new ethnic categories based on the 2001 Census were introduced into the prison IT system in 2003 and information by these new categories was available from the middle of 2005.

Information on the ethnic breakdown of staffing in the contracted estate is not routinely collected and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The data on staffing by public sector prison establishment, which are obtained from the Prison Service Personnel Corporate Database, are not shown separately for prison officers and operational managers because the numbers are small and the accuracy at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed.

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

	Number of visitors arrested	Number of prisoners found guilty at adjudication of smuggling rugs through visits
1998-99	115	[1]—
1999-2000	118	[1]—
2000-01	76	[1]—
2001-02	90	167
2002-03	49	122
2003-04	67	92
2004-05	48	114
2005-06	44	120

[1] Figures not available

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were released on temporary licence from each prison in the London area in each of the last 24 months; and if he will make a statement. [74012]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the annual number of releases on temporary licence from prison establishments in England and Wales between 1994 and 2004 is published in table 10.6 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004. The data, which are obtained from the prison IT system, are not shown separately by month and establishment because the numbers are small and the accuracy at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed.

Release on temporary licence (ROTL) enables prisoners to participate in precisely defined and specific activities, which cannot be provided in prison, that directly contribute to their resettlement into the community and their development of a purposeful, law-abiding life.

All prisoners are rigorously risk assessed before release on temporary licence and prisoners are not released if there are concerns for public safety.

Full details of the eligibility criteria are set out in Prison Service Order 6300 Release on Temporary Licence which is available on the HM Prison Service website.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 819W, on prisons, what

categories of offences had been committed by each of the 33 foreign national prisoners who absconded from Ford Prison in 2006; what the term of the prison sentence was of each; whether the prisoner was *(a)* being considered for enforcement proceedings by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, *(b)* going to be deported and *(c)* remains at large in each case; and on what date each escaped. [77861]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1056W, on prisons, what estimate he has made of the cost of answering the question. [84671]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Just over 3,100 prisoners are currently being held in open prisons. To examine each prisoner's record would result in a resource cost well in excess of the £600 limit that Government Departments are advised is considered disproportionate.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in prison *(a)* have mental health problems, *(b)* are veterans and *(c)* are veterans with mental health problems; and if he will make a statement. [84854]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The prevalence of mental health problems among prisoners is considerably higher than for the general population. The most reliable evidence comes from the 1997 ONS study of psychiatric morbidity among prisoners which found that 90 per cent. of prisoners have at least one significant mental health problem, including personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis, alcohol misuse and drug dependence (Singleton et al, 1998).

Data from a Home Office survey of over 2,000 prisoners nearing release found that 5.6 per cent. were veterans of the armed forces (cited in Dandeker et al, 2003). Of these 85 per cent. had been in the Army, four per cent. in the RAF, and 11 per cent. in the Navy. However, there are no estimates available of the proportion of veterans in custody who have mental health problems.

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http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/Reports/ReportsForVeterans/ImprovingTheDeliveryOfCrossDepartmentalSupportAndServicesForVeterans.htm.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* rules, *(b)* instructions and *(c)* administrative practice are within the Prison Service governing the use of (i) handcuffs and (ii) other physical constraints on pregnant women attending maternity and other appointments in hospitals outside prison; and if he will make a statement. [85570]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The policy on the use of mechanical restraints is contained in the Prison Service's national security framework. Any use of restraints is based upon a thorough security risk assessment of the individual prisoner and this includes pregnant women. Where a need to use restraints is identified, the general expectation is that the restraints will be removed upon arrival at the hospital and not re-applied until the prisoner is ready to be returned to prison.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of intensive treatment programmes for prisoners with moderate to severe drug misuse problems and related offending behaviour in the West Midlands. [85589]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Seven intensive drug treatment programmes for prisoners are delivered in the West Midlands area. Research shows that intensive drug treatment programmes can reduce re-offending by 10-15 per cent. below predicted levels, where effective aftercare arrangements are made.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the availability of class A drugs in prison establishments; and what action he is taking to reduce the availability of drugs in prisons. [85591]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The best measure of drug misuse in prisons is provided by the random mandatory drug testing programme. The percentage positive rate for Class A drugs in 2005-06 was 4 per cent.

A comprehensive series of measures is in place to reduce the availability of drugs, from which establishments draw, based on local need.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for supplying illegal drugs in prisons in the West Midlands in each year since 1998. [85592]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Decisions to prosecute are taken by the Crown Prosecution Service and the number of prosecutions undertaken is not collated by NOMS. The number of visitors arrested on suspicion of supplying drugs and the number of prisoners found guilty at adjudication of offences involving drug smuggling through visits in prisons in the West Midlands is given in the following table.

Number

	Visitors arrested	*Prisoners found guilty at adjudication of smuggling drugs through visits*
1998-99	115	[1]
1999-2000	118	[1]
2000-01	76	[1]
2001-02	90	167

	Visitors arrested	Number Prisoners found guilty at adjudication of smuggling drugs through visits
2002-03	49	122
2003-04	67	92
2004-05	48	114
2005-06	44	120

[1] Figures not available.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2031W, on prisons, what estimate he has made of the cost of seeking the information necessary to answer the question, broken down by main cost area. [86911]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To obtain the information requested, each recaptured prisoner's file would have to be examined by the prison now holding them and enquiries made with both the police and the courts to check whether the prisoner is subject to further proceedings. The estimated resource cost of such enquiries would be in excess of the £600 limit recommended by HM Treasury.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisons have *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary accommodation providing facilities for visitors. [86956]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Records held centrally on facilities for visitors do not differentiate between permanent and temporary accommodation. In excess of 130 establishments have access to recognised facilities for visitors. It is recognised that these vary considerably in the amenities and the services which they are able to provide.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the provision of facilities for visitors to HM prisons; and if he will make a statement. [86957]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service policy states that all visits should take place in the most humane conditions possible, with regard to the physical environment in which visits take place as well as the treatment of visitors.

Responsibility for the provision of facilities to prisoners is devolved to governing Governors. Local practice in the range of facilities and services offered to visitors varies from one prison to another depending on the location of the prison, the needs of the visitor and security considerations. They include visitors' centres, play areas in visitors' centres and visits halls, family and children visits, and family contact workers.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times illegal drugs have been found in each prison in London in each of the past five years. [87147]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not hold centrally data on drugs' finds broken down by type of drug.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of suspected fraud have been investigated in *(a)* each London prison and *(b)* the London area office of the prison service in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [87439]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table relates to formal investigations commissioned in the London area (including by London area office), due to suspected fraud, in each of the past five financial years.

Investigations commissioned in the London area

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Brixton	1	3	—	—	—	4
Feltham	3	3	2	2	2	12
Holloway	1	3	1	—	1	6
L/House	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pentonville	1	6	—	2	—	9
Wandsworth	—	4	3	1	—	8
W/Scrubs	—	3	4	2	—	9
Area office	1	—	—	2	—	3
Total	8	22	10	9	3	52

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of managed moves within the Prison Service for the year from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 were approved by *(a)* the Director of Operations, *(b)* the Deputy Director General, *(c)* the Director General and *(d)* by other officials. [87441]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The official who approves a managed move within the Prison Service is not recorded centrally and information could be collected only at disproportionate cost. The level at which such moves are approved is set out in a Prison Service Order (number 8110).

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Prison Service Fraud Response Plan was last updated; and if he will place a copy of the plan in the Library. [87442]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Fraud Response Plan forms part of the Prison Service Anti-Fraud Strategy, which was last updated in September 2004 and published as a Prison Service Order (PSO) on 8 October 2004. The Prison Service Audit Committee reviews the anti-fraud strategy annually.

The Libraries of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords receive copies of PSOs shortly after their publication.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he has taken in response to the latest report from HM chief inspector of prisons into conditions at HM Prison Lincoln. [66570]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service has produced an action plan, which responds to each recommendation in Her Majesty's chief inspectorate of prison's report. The action plan details whether the Prison Service accepts the recommendation, what will be done to implement it, the person or department responsible

and a timescale. This action plan will be updated approximately 12 months after the report's publication date of 15 February 2006.

Probation (Hertfordshire)

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the expenditure on staffing in the Hertfordshire probation area in 2004-05 was. [16233]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The total salary costs recorded in the accounts of Hertfordshire Probation Board for 2004-05, are £6,194,000, including employer's national insurance and pension contributions.

Reading Training for Work Programme

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young offenders have come into contact with the Reading Training for Work Programme in each year since 2003. [84810]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Her Majesty's Young Offenders Institute Reading do not keep separate records of the number of young offenders who have come into contact with the National Grid Young Offender Programme.

Ritual Abuse

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of ritual abuse have *(a)* been reported and *(b)* resulted in (i) arrests and (ii) charges in each London borough in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [87332]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally. Ritual abuse cannot be separately identified from offences against the person in either the recorded crime statistics or the court proceedings statistics.

Robberies/Burglaries (London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* robberies and *(b)* burglaries were reported in each London borough in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in a conviction. [86792]

Mr. McNulty: Data collected centrally do not track individual offences to conclusion. Recorded offences are counted on the basis of crimes committed and are available by financial year for each London borough. Convictions are counted on the basis of offenders and are available by calendar year for each London court.

The available information is given in the tables.

Offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police for each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

	Burglary				
	2001-02	*[1]2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	2,220	2,012	2,240	2,175	1,921
Barnet	3,954	4,039	3,978	4,045	4,363
Bexley	2,394	2,341	2,226	1,986	2,366
Brent	4,099	3,859	4,062	3,987	3,904
Bromley	3,580	3,596	3,472	3,776	3,926
Camden	5,857	5,884	4,843	4,171	4,108
City of Westminster	5,646	5,264	4,296	4,497	4,158
Croydon	4,131	4,115	3,769	3,230	3,582
Ealing	4,533	4,543	4,375	4,350	4,999
Enfield	4,411	4,301	3,865	3,528	3,844
Greenwich	2,794	2,986	3,080	2,970	3,209
Hackney	4,287	4,807	4,327	3,897	3,547
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,789	3,089	2,827	3,023	3,052
Haringey	4,803	4,356	4,115	4,084	3,841
Harrow	2,623	2,736	2,626	2,178	2,446
Havering	2,567	2,386	2,161	2,315	2,453
Hillingdon	3,643	3,569	3,183	3,143	3,137
Hounslow	3,192	3,374	3,450	2,969	2,982
Islington	4,567	4,429	3,957	3,681	3,683
Kensington and Chelsea	2,826	2,512	2,576	2,580	2,444
Kingston upon Thames	1,180	985	939	984	1,188
Lambeth	6,974	5,694	4,980	4,150	3,884
Lewisham	3,490	3,708	3,837	3,778	3,524
Merton	1,967	1,930	2,034	1,764	1,796
Newham	3,886	3,494	3,398	3,410	4,112
Redbridge	2,899	2,974	2,990	3,058	3,282
Richmond upon Thames	2,174	2,120	1,787	2,017	2,395
Southwark	5,016	4,885	4,556	4,411	4,143
Sutton	1,820	1,446	1,397	1,429	1,480
Tower Hamlets	3,262	3,567	3,023	3,070	3,467

Offences recorded by the Metropolitan Police for each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

	Burglary				
	2001-02	*[1]2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Waltham Forest	4,012	3,812	3,284	3,144	3,131
Wandsworth	4,352	4,547	3,664	3,616	3,108

	Robbery				
	2001-02	*[1]2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	861	686	802	739	775
Barnet	1,335	1,059	1,082	1,211	1,226
Bexley	501	339	388	402	473
Brent	2,359	1,795	1,807	2084	2,355
Bromley	917	702	863	729	901
Camden	2,439	1,765	1,334	1,315	1,260
City of Westminster	2,763	1,752	1,437	1,505	1,577
Croydon	2,095	1,888	1,771	1,496	1,845
Ealing	2,264	1,823	1,473	1,565	2,012
Enfield	1,292	1,072	1,211	1,143	1,454
Greenwich	750	693	1,083	1,172	1,229
Hackney	3,009	2,466	2,441	1,926	1,856
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,343	1,271	1,146	1,386	1,285
Haringey	2,626	2,166	1,903	1,430	2,024
Harrow	892	613	624	699	862
Havering	549	479	512	442	459
Hillingdon	645	588	512	593	876
Hounslow	1,042	954	820	712	841
Islington	1,659	1,664	1,397	1,244	1,412
Kensington and Chelsea	1,189	673	794	792	906
Kingston upon Thames	318	305	292	257	337
Lambeth	6,465	4,017	3,298	3,021	2,998
Lewisham	1,966	1,627	1,924	1,783	2,304
Merton	634	684	584	459	625
Newham	2,400	2,150	2,242	1,939	2,501
Redbridge	1,221	1,096	1,188	1,241	1,329
Richmond upon Thames	353	291	257	376	455
Southwark	3,086	2,220	2,295	2,406	2,981
Sutton	339	276	354	231	411
Tower Hamlets	2,117	1,790	1,568	1,457	1,675
Waltham Forest	2,154	1,791	1,655	1,796	2,392
Wandsworth	1,948	1,788	1,574	1,475	1,668

[1] Because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Scottish Criminal Records Office

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases in England and Wales fingerprint evidence has been challenged on the basis of the misidentifications made by the Scottish Criminal Records Office in the case of Shirley McKie and David Asbury. [74091]

Joan Ryan: We are unable to answer this question as the information requested is not recorded.

Sea-going Vessels (Thefts)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sea-going vessels were stolen from around the coast of the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many were recovered. [86719]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally.

Security Industry

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what structure has been put in place for the renewal and re-evaluation of door supervisor licences. [82835]

John Reid: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) will not be making any major changes to the SIA licence core competency specifications for the first round of licence renewal, which commences in April 2007 with the door supervisor sector.

On first renewal of their licence, all door supervisors will have their criminality re-checked by the Criminal Records Bureau to ensure that no inappropriate criminal activity has taken place since the issue of the initial licence. They will not be required to undergo

refresher training or undertake a new qualification. The core competency specifications themselves will be reviewed in due course.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for door supervisors' licences are waiting for *(a)* approval and *(b)* processing by the Security Industry Authority. [81126]

Mr. Coaker: On the 5 July, there were 8,845 licence applications from door supervisors in the SIA's processing system. There was also a total of 4,694 applications from all licensable sectors waiting to enter the processing system, but it is not possible to calculate how many of these were from door supervisors because they had not been opened.

Sentences

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average minimum sentence was, before being considered for parole, for people convicted of *(a)* kidnapping, *(b)* rape and *(c)* sexual assault of children in each of the last five years. [79053]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the average custodial sentence lengths for determinate sentences for these offences is contained in the table.

Under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, those sentenced to determinate sentences of four years or more are eligible for parole half way through their sentence. If parole is not granted then release occurs at the two-thirds point of the sentence (or at a subsequent parole review if earlier). Release, when it occurs, is on licence and subject to supervision up to the three-quarters point (or to the end of the sentence in the case of some sex offenders), and they are liable to recall if they breach any of the licence conditions. All offenders risk serving the rest of their sentence in custody if they commit another offence before the end of the original sentence.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced new arrangements for the release on licence of determinate sentence prisoners. They apply only to offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. A new indeterminate public protection sentence was introduced. Those offenders judged to be dangerous, and who have committed serious sexual or violent offences, can be kept in prison until the parole board judges it is safe to release them. If they have committed less serious offences they may serve a determinate sentence followed by an extended period on licence after release of up to eight years for sexual offences and five years for violent offences.

Unless considered dangerous, those sentenced to 12 months or more will be released on licence at the halfway point of their sentence. They will remain on licence, subject to a recall if they breach the conditions of their licence, for the entire remaining period of their sentence instead of to the three-quarter point as under the 1991 Act.

Average custodial sentence length imposed (excluding life) for kidnapping, rape and sexual assault of persons under 16, all courts, England and Wales, 2000-04

Months

Offence	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Kidnapping	[1]—	46.7	48.6	51.4	42.4
Rape	83.2	81.1	83.7	86.4	84.4
Sexual assault on person under 16	[1]—	[1]—	28.5	28.5	28.7

[1] Not shown separately as less than 100 persons sentenced to custody. *Source:* RDS NOMS.

Sexual Offences

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average sentence was served for *(a)* sexual assault, *(b)* rape of a minor and *(c)* rape in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [86331]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data on average time served, which are obtained from the Prison IT system, are not available separately for specific offences as accuracy at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed.

The information contained in the following table shows the average length of custodial sentence (excluding life) imposed by the courts.

Average length of custodial sentences (excluding life) for sexual assault, rape of a minor and rape All courts England and Wales 2000-04

Average sentence length (months)

Offence	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Sexual Assault[1]	24.6	25.4	26.3	26.3	27.4
Rape of a person under 16	87.0	88.3	88.2	91.3	93.9
All Rape	83.2	81.1	83.7	86.4	84.4

[1] Indecent assault prior to 2004.

Source:
RDS NOMS

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he last met representatives of the National Organisation for Rape Crisis and Sex Abuse Victims. [86339]

Mr. Coaker: The Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group is represented on the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Sexual Violence, which is chaired by Ministers from the Home Office and the Department of Health. The Group met for the first time on the 28 June 2006.

Statutory Charge Document (Vehicle Removal)

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on a revision to the Statutory Charge document on the Removal, Storage and Disposal of Vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [87536]

Mr. McNulty: We receive regular correspondence from a range of interested parties on various issues related to the charges. These include the interpretation and application of the charges, whether we intend to review them, the nature and timing of any review,

suggestions for change and the contractual arrangements between removal operators and the police.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timescale he has set for review of statutory fees relating to vehicle removal, storage and disposal; and if he will make a statement. [87537]

Mr. McNulty: We have recently informed the parties chiefly concerned of our intention to conduct a wide ranging review of the charges for vehicle removal, storage and disposal, and indicated that we would welcome initial views. In preparing proposals on which we will consult all the parties, we will take into account any such view, together with views expressed in previous discussions, correspondence and meetings. We have set no formal timescale for the work which will proceed as swiftly as resources permit.

Terrorism

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of terrorist acts relating to the Irish Republican Movement between 1976 and 2000 in *(a)* Great Britain and *(b)* Northern Ireland. [86810]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested on convictions is not held by the Home Office. However, the publication "Statistics on the Operation of Prevention of Terrorism Legislation" includes statistics in connection with Northern Irish terrorism. This publication is available on the Science, Research and Statistics part of the Home Office website for the period 1979 to 2000.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 were from (i) Suffolk and (ii) the East of England. [85545]

Mr. McNulty: The statistics on arrests, charges and convictions under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT) are not broken down in the way requested. However, statistics compiled from police records show that between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2006, 997 people were arrested under TACT.

Of those people, 154 were charged with offences under the Act and 79 of these were also charged with offences under other legislation. A further 175 individuals were charged under different legislation. A total of 25 people were convicted under TACT during this period.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many personal computers have been seized by each police service from suspects detained under the Terrorism Act 2003. [86806]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held by the Home Office.

Ticket Touting

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted for ticket touting in each of the last five years; and what the average sentence *(a)* given and *(b)* served was in each year. [87307]

Mr. Coaker: Data for the 2005-06 football season are currently being collated and will be published later this year. The following table shows the number of convictions and cautions for ticket touting offences in the previous four seasons. Information on sentences imposed following conviction is not available centrally.

Season	*Convictions*	*Cautions*
2001-02	28	21
2002-03	25	18
2003-04	25	7
2004-05	28	7

US Department of Justice

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with representatives of the United States' Department of Justice in the last 12 months. [86489]

John Reid: Since my appointment as Home Secretary on 5 May 2006,1 have not yet had an opportunity to meet the US Attorney-General.

In the past 12 months, my predecessor had three meetings with the US Attorney-General (Department of Justice). He met the Attorney-General in the margins of the G8 conference in Sheffield in June 2005; during a visit to Washington in October 2005 and during the Trialogue with Australia in March 2006.

My officials frequently meet Department of Justice officials in a variety of fora. A list of all these meetings could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Violent Crime

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1661W, on violent crime, how many violent crimes were recorded in 2004. [80425]

Mr. McNulty: There were 1,175,363 violent crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2004. Data on recorded crime are not directly comparable with court proceedings data given in the previous answer.

Visa Charges

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has *(a)* to increase visa charges in 2007-08 and *(b)* to assess the potential impact of such an increase on the UK's income from tourism. [88784]

Dr. Howells: Visa application fees are kept under constant review. UKvisas has no plans to increase its fees in the current financial year and will review fees for 2007-08 later in the year. No decisions have been taken on fee levels in 2007-08. UKvisas is mandated by HM Treasury to recoup costs through fees without burdening the UK taxpayer. The Government need to ensure it is charging a fair rate for its services, and that it continues to offer value to those that travel to the UK.

Vulnerable/At Risk Young People (Custody)

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff were employed in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in the care of vulnerable and at risk children and young adults in custody in each of the last 20 years as a percentage of the custody workforce. [86987]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 18 July 2006 *Official Report*, volume 449, Column 411W.

Zahid Mubarek

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of the inquiry into the death of Zahid Mubarek. [86246]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The total budget allocated to the Inquiry was £4.2 million; taking into account all related costs borne directly by the Government, the total cost of the Inquiry was £5.2 million.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he will take to implement the recommendations of the inquiry into the death of Zahid Mubarek. [86247]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by the Home Secretary on the publication of the report on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 19WS, to which was attached the Governments initial response to the report. In the statement the Government committed itself to providing a full response to the reports 88 recommendations within two months.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 25 July 2006

WALES

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87052]

Mr. Hain: None.

Caravan Parks

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of people living in caravan parks on *(a)* police, *(b)* health, *(c)* social service, *(d)* educational spending and *(e)* special educational needs spending; [88286]

(2) what account is taken of the number of people living in caravans in a local authority area when calculating the standard spending assessment; [88288]

(3) if he will review the allocation of funding to local authorities who have large numbers of caravan parks in their areas. [88289]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Funding for local authorities in England is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government. The local authority formula grant distribution system uses various evidence and data to allocate funding from central Government to local authorities in England. Detailed information about the calculation and distribution of formula grant for financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 can be found at the following links, respectively:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/0607/lgfr067s/contents.pdf http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/0607/lgfr078s/contents.pdf.

The current formulae reflect a review which concluded in December 2005. This review involved local authorities and other interested parties and assessed the most important factors to be taken into account in allocating funding to local government.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88464]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office was established on 1 July 1999 following devolution. Since that time, no criminal offences have been created by Orders in Council.

Department Staff (Criminal Activity)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many staff members in his Department have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted following fraud charges since 1997; [88445]

(2) how many of his Department's employees have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997. [88460]

Mr. Hain: None.

Ministerial Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on how many occasions he has stayed overnight in Wales on official business since his appointment. [87323]

Mr. Hain: Due to disproportionate costs, this information is not available for the period October 2003 to May 2005.

Since taking up my post as Secretary of State for Wales and Northern Ireland in May 2005 I have spent 74 days in Wales on official business.

In addition to the time spent in Wales, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I undertake Wales business in Parliament and in the Wales Office at Gwydyr House, London.

HEALTH

"Choosing Health" Implementation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter recently sent to strategic health authority chief executives informing them that primary care trusts and strategic health authorities should not identify savings from posts working on the implementation of "Choosing Health" when considering savings from implementing commissioning a patient-led NHS; and whether the same advice applies to revenue funding; [81518]

(2) which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities have identified savings to implement commissioning a patient-led NHS from resources previously allocated to the implementation of "Choosing Health". [81519]

Andy Burnham: "Commissioning a Patient-led NHS" outlined plans for achieving £250 million savings through the reconfiguration of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts.

Guidance issued via a letter from the Department to finance directors in strategic health authorities (dated 3 October 2005) explained that it was for each strategic health authority to determine a methodology for distributing its share of the savings across the strategic health authorities and primary care trusts in its area. That letter made clear that savings should be delivered

from management and administration costs and that strategic health authorities and primary care trusts should not identify for savings those posts working on implementing the "Choosing Health White Paper". A copy of this letter has now been placed in the Library.

A and E Hospitals

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average population size is of the catchment area of hospitals with type 1 accident and emergency departments. [85525]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The data requested are not collected centrally.

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what procedure is followed when it is proposed that an abortion clinic should be *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed; [83432]

(2) what the names and addresses are of facilities approved under the terms of the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990) for *(a)* terminating pregnancies of 20 weeks or more duration and *(b)* distribution of the RU 486 abortion drug; and how many approved beds each has; [85149]

(3) what the names and addresses are of facilities for terminating pregnancy under the terms of the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990) that were closed in each of the last 12 months; and what the reason for closure was in each case. [85150]

Caroline Flint: Any independent sector place wishing to perform abortion has to first be registered with the Healthcare Commission under the Care Standards Act 2000, as amended before the premises can be considered for approval under the Abortion Act 1967, as amended.

All places wishing to be registered with the Healthcare Commission have to demonstrate they have the policies, local procedures and protocols in place to underpin service provision that will enable compliance with the required standards and regulations. Once the Healthcare Commission is satisfied that their requirements have been met the service is registered.

All places are regularly monitored and inspected by the Healthcare Commission. If a breach of regulation is identified, the Healthcare Commission will take appropriate and proportionate action. This will range from advice on corrective action, to closure if corrective action is not taken within the required timeframe.

Once a place has been approved under the Abortion Act, the approval is conditional upon its compliance with the Abortion Act and the Care Standards Act. Failure to comply with or maintain the required standards may lead to a withdrawal of approval.

The names and addresses of the independent sector places currently approved under the Abortion Act have been placed in the Library. The approval under the Act allows the places to perform abortion. The registration under the Care Standards Act, based on the information provided to the Healthcare Commission, determines the number of beds and the method and gestation of abortion that can be performed, within the terms of the Abortion Act. Over the last year, one independent hospital, where abortion was one of many services provided, chose to stop providing abortion services for business reasons. There were no concerns about the quality of the service provided.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether her Department has provided any funding to Abortion Rights; and if she will make a statement; [85124]

(2) what discussions *(a)* Ministers and (b) officials in her Department have had with Abortion Rights; when she last discussed abortion with representatives of Abortion Rights; whether a record was kept of discussions at such meetings; and if she will make a statement. [85125]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not provided any funding to Abortion Rights.

Ministers have not met with Abortion Rights. However, Departmental officials met with Abortion Rights in June 2005 following a request for a meeting from the organisation to discuss what the Government are doing to improve access to abortion services. It was an informal meeting and no record was kept of the discussion. There are no plans for a further meeting.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many discharges there were from hospitals after septic abortions in 2005. [85148]

Caroline Flint: In 2005, there were 13 abortions where sepsis was recorded on the abortion notification form.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the reasons for trends in the abortion rate in South Gloucestershire between 2004 and 2005; and if she will make a statement. [87106]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2142W, and 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 250W.

It is a matter for primary care trusts to determine what services they provide in order to meet the needs of their local population.

Ambulance Service

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mobile communication systems the ambulance service uses; and what plans the Government have to ensure inter-operability and improve communications with other emergency services. [86850]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ambulance trusts use a range of communication systems including analogue and digital radio systems, mobile phones, pagers and data transfer systems.

The Department signed a contract in 2005 to provide digital radio communication systems to all national health service ambulance trusts in England. This is the same system that is being provided to the police and fire services and will strengthen direct communication between services. Interim solutions are being put in place. until rollout to all three emergency services is complete.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether mobile phone triangulation technology is available to ambulance services for the purpose of identifying the whereabouts of a victim of an accident. [85782]

Andy Burnham: Triangulation technology is not used by ambulance trusts. However, there are two facilities that are available to emergency services to assist them in the location of callers using mobile phones and of vehicles involved in accidents.

Where a 999 call is made from a mobile phone or landline, location information can be provided by the communications provider to the call handling agent. This information is available to all emergency controls either by automatic data transfer or verbally on request.

Trusts have been encouraged to invest in the technology that enables automatic data transfer. The information provided is the address for a fixed line and cell, that is the approximate area from which the call was made, identification for a call from a mobile phone.

Some cars are equipped with in-car telematics. Such systems are able to automatically report if the car has been involved in an accident, including the location of the vehicle derived from global positioning systems, vehicle details and the direction of travel. The details are passed to a call centre which will, if necessary, notify the emergency services of the details.

Animal Insulin

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that the closure of the Biobras animal insulin production facilities in Brazil does not adversely affect the capacity of the remaining UK suppliers to manufacture animal insulins; [88819]

(2) what assessment she has made of how the production and distribution of animal insulins for the UK market will be affected by the discontinuation of Biobras insulin crystal production facilities in Brazil; [88822]

(3) what estimate she has made of the proportion of animal insulins used in the UK which were constituted from animal insulin crystals produced by the Biobras production facility in Brazil in the last period for which figures are available. [88823]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 244W.

Asthma

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children have been diagnosed with asthma in each London borough in each of the last five years; [87310]

(2) how many people diagnosed with asthma there were in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* constituency in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [87331]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect data on the number of people diagnosed each year with asthma. However, the table shows data for primary care trust (PCT) level prevalence in London for April 2004 to March 2005 which are the only figures available.

Unadjusted disease prevalence, quality and outcomes framework (QOF) for April 2004 to March 2005, England, number on QOF disease registers and unadjusted prevalence rates, by PCT

Strategic health authority (SHA) code	*SHA name*	*PCT code*	*PCT name*	*Number of practices*	*Sum of list sizes*	*Sum of asthma register counts*	*Asthma unadjusted prevalence (Percentage)*
Q05	North Central London	5A9	Barnet	77	371,545	16,644	4.5
Q05	North Central London	5K7	Camden	45	245,115	9,529	3.9
Q05	North Central London	5C1	Enfield	60	282,866	12,550	4.4
Q05	North Central London	5C9	Haringey	58	278,025	11,509	4.1
Q05	North Central London	5K8	Islington	43	222,342	10,739	4.8
	North Central London				1,399,893	60,971	4.4
Q06	North East London	5C2	Barking and Dagenham	42	172,748	7,179	4.2
Q06	North East London	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	51	265,498	11,256	4.2
Q06	North East London	5A4	Havering	52	247,003	11,393	4.6
Q06	North East London	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	65	310,022	14,263	4.6
Q06	North East London	5NA	Redbridge	50	242,958	10,810	4.4

Unadjusted disease prevalence, quality and outcomes framework (QOF) for April 2004 to March 2005, England, number on QOF disease registers and unadjusted prevalence rates, by PCT

Strategic health authority (SHA) code	SHA name	PCT code	PCT name	Number of practices	Sum of list sizes	Sum of asthma register counts	Asthma unadjusted prevalence (Percentage)
Q06	North East London	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	41	225,668	10,882	4.8
Q06	North East London	5NC	Waltham Forest	59	250,877	12,000	4.8
	North East London				1,714,774	77,783	4.5
Q04	North West London	5K5	Brent	72	349,145	15,495	4.4
Q04	North West London	5HX	Ealing	81	362,673	17,110	4.7
Q04	North West London	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham	33	190,019	8,489	4.5
Q04	North West London	5K6	Harrow	39	227,927	13,029	5.7
Q04	North West London	5AT	Hillingdon	53	261,750	13,637	5.2
Q04	North West London	5HY	Hounslow	60	251,041	11,470	4.6
Q04	North West London	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea	43	183,296	5,973	3.3
Q04	North West London	5LC	Westminster	51	244,188	7,924	3.2
	North West London				2,070,039	93,127	4.5
Q07	South East London	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	35	221,611	11,484	5.2
Q07	South East London	5A7	Bromley	53	315,982	16,252	5.1
Q07	South East London	5A8	Greenwich	46	258,432	12,277	4.8
Q07	South East London	5LD	Lambeth	53	344,588	14,741	4.3
Q07	South East London	5LF	Lewisham	51	278,990	14,998	5.4
Q07	South East London	5LE	Southwark	48	280,231	11,194	4.0
	South East London				1,699,834	80,946	4.8
Q08	South West London	5K9	Croydon	65	359,874	17,735	4.9
Q08	South West London	5A5	Kingston	29	178,948	8,518	4.8
Q08	South West London	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham	31	198,448	8,513	4.3
Q08	South West London	5M7	Sutton and Merton	56	389,319	19,533	5.0
Q08	South West London	5LG	Wandsworth	50	311,003	13,133	4.2
	South West London				1,437,592	67,432	4.7

Notes
1. SHA and PCT codes are used for administrative purposes in local and national databases.
2. Unadjusted prevalence = (number on disease register/list size) * 100.
3. © The Information Centre for health and social care 2005.

Source
QMAS database—2004-05 data as at end of June 2005.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were diagnosed with asthma in each (i) London primary care trust and (ii) London strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [87666]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect data on the number of people diagnosed each year with asthma. However, the table shows data for primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) level prevalence in London, for April 2004 to March 2005 which are the only figures available.

Unadjusted Disease Prevalence, Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for April 2004—March 2005, England, numbers on QOF disease registers, and unadjusted prevalence rates, by PCT

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	South West London				1,437,592	67,432	4.7

Notes:
SHA and PCT codes are used for administrative purposes in local and national databases
Unadjusted prevalence=(number on disease register/list size) * 100
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Bowel Cancer

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she has put in place to reduce waiting times for referral to specialists for bowel cancer patients. [86679]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A maximum two-week out-patient waiting time standard was introduced in 2000 for urgent general practitioner referrals for suspected bowel cancer. In the last quarter (January to March 2006) 99.9 per cent. of urgent referrals for suspected bowel cancer were seen by a specialist within two weeks.

Cadbury Schweppes

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* manpower and *(b)* finances are

being provided to (i) Birmingham city, (ii) Herefordshire and (iii) Bath and North East Somerset council by the Food Standards Agency in relation to potential legal action against Cadbury Schweppes; and if she will make a statement; [87762]

(2) when Cadbury Schweppes will introduce *(a)* a positive release system and *(b)* changes to the testing regime for its products; when it will (i) start and (ii) complete the process of (A) cleaning and (B) improving its Marlbrook plant; and if she will make a statement. [87763]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has offered both financial and manpower resources to support investigations by the relevant local authorities. To date Herefordshire council has requested and been provided with the services of an investigator from the FSA. Cadbury Schweppes informed the FSA on 6 July that they had introduced a positive release system and changed their testing regime with immediate effect. Cadbury Schweppes also agreed to a programme of cleaning and improvement at the Marlbrook plant starting with immediate effect. This work, monitored by Herefordshire council, is scheduled to last six months to be followed by an ongoing programme of cleaning and maintenance.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the criteria were by which the Food Standards Agency decided which Cadbury Schweppes products should be recalled; and if she will make a statement. [86428]

Caroline Flint: Article 14 of EC regulation 178/2002 prohibits food being placed on the market that is unsafe. Article 19 places obligations on food businesses to recall, and/or withdraw, food from the market if they have reason to believe it is not in compliance with the food safety requirements of Article 14. In deciding which Cadbury Schweppes products were unsafe and should therefore be recalled the Food Standards Agency received advice, from the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food, that there is no acceptable level of Salmonella in ready to eat foods.

Cancer Care

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the group comprising officials from *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Department for Work and Pensions and *(c)* Macmillan Cancer Relief since March 2005 to ensure more efficient delivery of benefits to cancer patients; and if she will make a statement. [86717]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since March 2005, both the Department and the Department for Work and Pensions have met with Macmillan Cancer Relief to discuss steps that can be taken to ensure that cancer patients are signposted to information and advice about benefits. These discussions are continuing and in particular, through proposals announced in the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" to develop information prescriptions for people with long-term conditions.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the extending of best practice to improve support for dying patients and their families since the publication of the 19th report of the Committee of Public Accounts, Tackling Cancer: improving the patient journey. [86725]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Cancer Director and cancer action team are working with strategic health authorities (SHAs) and cancer networks on the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's supportive and palliative care guidance. Cancer networks have been required to set out action plans with key milestones to achieve compliance with the recommendations in the guidance. Implementation is being monitored by SHAs.

Ministers have asked the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards, with support from Professor Ian Philip, the National Director for Older People, to prepare a new end of life care strategy. This will include examples of good practice and will be disseminated across the health service.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to encourage hospitals to help with transportation costs for cancer patients. [82797]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Hospital travel costs scheme (HTCS) provides financial assistance to those patients, including cancer patients, who do not have a medical need for ambulance transport, but who require assistance in meeting the cost of travel to and from their care. The Department has published good practice guidance to support trusts when administering the scheme. The guidance states that information about the scheme should be displayed in all patient areas and included in all appointment or admission letters. It is for individual trusts to decide how good practice is implemented locally.

As part of the 'Our health, our care, our say' White Paper commitment to expand the HTCS to include referrals by health care professionals, we will be consulting on the impact of this as well as other issues, such as alternative ways to raise awareness of the scheme.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to alter the role of primary care trusts in the *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* contracting of (i) out-patient and (ii) in-patient cancer services; whether she expects elements of the (A) commissioning and (B) contracting process will be undertaken by organisations outside the public sector; and if she will make a statement. [88301]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Commissioning is the process which determines how the health and health care budget is issued. The process must result in a good deal both for taxpayers and for patients, whether this is for cancer or other services.

Commissioning will not be the responsibility of a single organisation in a patient-led national health service. Rather it will be a partnership between primary care trusts (PCTs), general practice and local government.

Practices will play a central role in the future health system as the integrator of services for each patient.

With indicative budgets for almost all primary and secondary care services, practice based commissioners (PBC) will be discussing and shaping with specialist and other health professionals the best patterns of care in their area, ensuring that their patients have available to them health services that best suit their needs. PCTs will also act as the agent of their practices, securing and holding contracts on behalf of practices.

The proposed new local involvement networks (LINKS) will have a key role to play in helping commissioners use people's knowledge and experience to improve services they use.

PCT commissioning, PBC and joint commissioning are not alternatives. They are each essential components of an effective commissioning process.

Different aspects of cancer care will need to be planned and commissioned at different levels, according to the rarity of the disease or intervention. The important thing is that commissioning is co-ordinated within the context of the local cancer network.

The Health Reforms support health care organisations to provide responsive services closer to home, making NHS providers stronger with greater freedom to innovate and creating more opportunities for voluntary sector, social enterprise and independent sector where local people and commissioners see the need.

The great majority of health services will always be publicly owned. The exact mix locally will be for patients, through choice, and general practitioners and PCTs, using the commissioning process, to decide.

We have launched a national procurement of commissioning expertise, using a framework agreement and call-off contract. Accredited providers will be made available to the NHS locally to support PCTs in their commissioning functions, should they need such expertise or support. This would form part of the Department's programme to strengthen NHS commissioning by providing PCTs with world class commissioning expertise from the private sector.

The revised Official Journal of the European Union advert makes it clear that no PCT can hand over to the private sector their public accountability for commissioning decisions.

There is scope for a number of diagnostic and treatment services related to cancer to be provided by the independent sector. However, it will be important to ensure that any such services are provided within the context of the local cancer network and that standards of care/treatment are the same as in the NHS.

Cannabis

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by her Department on treatment for cannabis dependence in the last period for which figures are available. [88014]

Caroline Flint: Funding for drug treatment is not allocated according to drug type. The pooled treatment budget (PTB) for drug treatment is given to drug action teams across the country which spend this allocation based on the need of the local community. The PTB for 2006-07 is £375 million. In addition, £20 million capital is being made available to help support the expansion of residential rehabilitation and in-patient detoxification and other treatment services.

Carcase Deboning

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the deboning of carcases in butchers' shops is restricted in the UK to bovine animals under 24 months.[R] [87003]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* The deboning of carcases in butchers' shops is not restricted just to bovine animals under 24 months. In line with the Community TSE Regulation, any butcher in the United Kingdom wishing to remove vertebral column from bovines between 24 to 30 months of age, is able to do so providing they obtain an authorisation from their local authority.

Cardioverter Defibrillation

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients with relevant conditions use implantable cardioverter defibrillation; and what financial savings have been identified from their use. [86359]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

CCBRT

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on Consultant Contract Benefit Realisation Team (CCBRT), what the cost was of the CCBRT; how the effectiveness of CCBRT was measured; and what results CCBRT produced during the time it was operational. [84042]

Andy Burnham: The Consultant Contract Benefits Realisation Team (CCBRT) was set up in March 2005 and the 2005-06 total allocation of funding was £595,000. The effectiveness of the team's work was assessed against its objectives to:

examine the implementation of the consultant contract;

assess the value of the consultant job planning toolkit;

identify how clinical leads have been developed to undertake job planning; and

identify benefits gained and disseminate good practice.

The team produced a final report to the strategic health authority in May 2006 the lesson from which are still under discussion.

Chest Diseases

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost was to the national health service of the treatment of chest diseases in each year since 1995. [85161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not have data before 2002-03. Since then, the Department's resource accounts have included details of expenditure by programme budget categories. Gross national health service expenditure on respiratory problems is shown in the following table.

	Gross expenditure £000
2002-03	2,849,492
2003-04	2,751,908
2004-05	3,072,258

Source:
Department of Health Resource Accounts 2002-03 (HC 191), 2003-04 (HC 150), 2004-05 (HC668).

Child Health Interim Application

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the impact on children in London of the failure of the child health interim application. [85633]

Caroline Flint: Affected primary care trusts (PCTs), departmental colleagues, Connecting For Health (CfH) and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) are currently carrying out an assessment review of the COVER statistics that have been produced by the HPA. The assessment is not yet complete but it appears that in some areas uptake of immunisation differs from what may have been expected. It is not yet clear whether the data received is complete, or if there is a drop in uptake, whether or not the problem is related to the child health interim application (CHIA) and/or other factors. Once the outcome of the review is complete, an action plan will be determined by the team to address the matter.

In addition, CfH, the Department's immunisation team, HPA and the strategic health authority (SHA) have been working with the contractor (BT) to ensure that current problems with CHIA are managed effectively to provide child health teams with a more reliable system for the immediate future. An options appraisal has also been commissioned to consider the relative merits of either continuing work on the current system, or introducing an alternative system. This appraisal will be completed by September 2006. In the meantime, BT is continuing to provide support to PCTs to try to improve the present situation.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on problems with the child health interim application. [85637]

Caroline Flint: The problems with the child health interim application (CHIA) have been addressed by a number of press releases from Connecting for Health (CfH). Colleagues from the Department and CfH are taking an expedient and pragmatic approach with the primary care trusts, strategic health authority and suppliers to resolve these issues in the short term and to review the options available for ensuring that a full and robust system is employed in the longer term.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of identifying and vaccinating children affected by the disruption to child health services through problems with the Child Health Interim Application. [85638]

Caroline Flint: It appears from the COVER reports that the number of children being immunised in some areas may not be as expected; however, as the returns received may be incomplete, we cannot at this stage draw any conclusions. An assessment review to determine the scope of the problem is being taken forward by colleagues at the Department, Connecting for Health, primary care trusts and strategic health authority and the suppliers (BT) who are working together to move the child health interim application forward as quickly as possible, as well as implement a more robust solution in the longer term.

Once these issues have been resolved an investigation will commence to identify children who do not appear to have had due immunisations. There will then be a catch-up operation to ensure that these children are protected as soon as possible. At this stage, it is not possible to identify the cost of these exercises.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she plans to take in relation to the primary care trusts using the child health interim application which have not filed data with the Health Protection Agency in this quarter. [85920]

Caroline Flint: The provision of primary care trust (PCT) immunisation reports to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) forms the basis of the HPA COVER reports, which are an important resource for measuring immunisation uptake across the country. It is in everyone's interests to ensure that all child health systems are able to facilitate this operation by producing statistics that can be used for the national COVER report. Whilst it is true that child health interim application (CHIA) has not been able to produce reports, colleagues at Connecting for Health and the strategic health authority have been working with the to try and produce reports from the raw data within CHIA for the last quarterly and annual returns.

The provision of a permanent solution to provide COVER reports for the PCTs is currently the highest priority objective for the next software release of CHIA.

Childhood Vaccinations

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 227W, on immunisation, if she will place in the Library a list of those primary care trusts where general medical service partnerships have opted out of childhood immunisation services. [88913]

Caroline Flint: This corrects the information provided to the Answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 227W, on immunisation. It shows as at 2004, 343 of general medical servicer practices had opted out of childhood immunisation services and according to revised 2005 data this has now fallen to 28. A list has been placed in the Library.

Children's Hospices

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will bring forward proposals to increase the funding of children's hospices; [73228]

(2) what recent discussions she has held with the Prime Minister on the funding of children's hospices; [73229]

(3) when she expects to make an announcement regarding the funding of children's hospices; [73690]

(4) if she will make a statement on the meeting on 17 May 2006 between the Prime Minister and representatives of the hospice movement regarding funding for children's hospices. [73714]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 15 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1454W, concerning children's hospices. The meeting that took place on 17 May 2006 was in response to the Prime Minister's offer to meet representatives of the children's hospice movement. I understand that the hon. Member for Castle Point attended that meeting with representatives of the Association of Children's Hospices. The need to review the functions and funding of children's hospices was discussed and the effect the loss of Big Lottery funding was having on the services they provide to children and young people needing palliative care and their families.

Our manifesto commitment to double funding for end of life care, including children's palliative care, was re-affirmed in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say". This commitment to increase funding will increase choice about where to receive palliative care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions so that the child or young person can live as normal a life as possible for as long as possible. We will make a statement about funding the commitment as soon as we can.

Chiron (Diamorphine Supply)

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when Chiron first informed the Department that it would not be able to provide expected supplies of diamorphine to the NHS at the end of 2004; and what warning period is required of suppliers to the NHS of essential pharmaceuticals of an interruption or planned ending of supply; [86674]

(2) whether financial penalties were applied to Chiron when it interrupted the supply of diamorphine to the NHS at the end of December 2004. [86675]

Andy Burnham: Chiron informed the Department that its supplies of diamorphine injection were limited on 16 December 2004, and it was unable to say when more would be available.

Guidelines issued jointly by the Department and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry "Ensuring Best Practice in the Notification of Product Discontinuations" state that companies should notify the Department of a product discontinuation at least three to six months prior to the deletion date, and 12 months where there is no therapeutic alternative.

Medicines legislation which came into force on 30 October 2005 requires marketing authorisation holders, within the limits of their responsibilities, to notify the Licensing Authority if a product is not going to be available either temporarily or permanently. In all but exceptional circumstances, two months notice is required.

Diamorphine injection is supplied through wholesalers to community pharmacists, and is also tendered and contracted for by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) on behalf of national health service trusts. For the contracted supplies, Chiron was not subject to any financial penalty other than that which forms part of the standard NHS terms and conditions of contract for the purchase of goods, which is issued with all tenders by the NHS. There is no formally agreed warning period within NHS PASA contracts or terms and conditions.

Chiropractors

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 353W, on chiropractic management, how many chiropractors were employed by the NHS in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [79850]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of chiropractors and the cost to the national health service is not available as chiropractors were not separately identified in the workforce census from the rest of the non-medical work force.

Choose and Book Service

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been spent on the choose and book service. [77059]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 10 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1812-13W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients have been unable to book an appointment on the telephone and online when they have been given a unique booking reference number by the Choose and Book system as a result of *(a)* human failure and *(b)* system error. [76380]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Clinical Academic Staff

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to increase the number of clinical academic staff in *(a)* medical and *(b)* dental schools. [86364]

Andy Burnham: The Department and its partners are taking forward training schemes to implement the recommendations on clinical academic careers made last year by the academic careers sub-committee of modernising medical careers and the United Kingdom clinical research collaboration. In the first round, the clinical academic careers panel has recommended for funding:

104 programmes to support academic clinical fellowships (597 ACFs over five years); and

101 programmes to support clinical lectureships (303 CLs over five years).

The Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Department are also offering funding for up to 200 "new blood" senior lectureships through five annual rounds of awards.

Clinical Assessment Services

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the use of Clinical Assessment Services by primary care trusts; what the plans are for the introduction of a Clinical Assessment Service to deal with patients in Hertsmere; what standard of medical skills will be required of those providing that service; what other service specifications will be required; what target has been set for cost savings as a result of the introduction of the service; what the cost of the service is expected to be; what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the service on waiting times; what opportunities patients will have to have a say in the running of the service; and what consultations have been carried out with patients about the provision of a Clinical Assessment Service in Hertsmere. [86972]

Andy Burnham: Current advice is contained in a letter from the Department's director of access to primary care trust chief executives in July 2005. Referrals to community-based clinical assessment services, and other such centres, should happen only where it adds genuine clinical value for patients. A copy of the letter is available in the Library.

Information about the effects of the use of such services on referrals to secondary care is not held centrally.

Clinical Care (Peter Halley)

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where within the NHS the on-call doctor at Southend Hospital with responsibility for the treatment of Peter Halley of Southend-on-Sea following admission on 7 May 2004 now works. [87947]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The Department does not hold information on the employment of individual doctors working in the national health service. All NHS trusts who employ doctors including temporary staff have a duty to check the good standing and employment history of those doctors and to ensure that they are fit to practise and fit for purpose, this includes checking whether an alert letter has been issued. Where doctors are supplied through agencies those agencies have a similar duty. Alert letters provide a mechanism by which the NHS can urgently communicate concerns of a serious nature in relation to a healthcare practitioner.

Clostridium Difficile

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which NHS hospital trusts have reported having patients in their hospitals with clostridium difficile in 2006; [88165]

(2) what guidance has been issued to *(a)* NHS hospital trusts and *(b)* NHS primary care trusts on dealing with clostridium difficile; and if she will make a statement; [88166]

(3) which primary care trusts have reported having patients in their hospitals with clostridium difficile in 2006. [88168]

Andy Burnham: Data on the number of "Clostridium difficile" reports for patients aged 65 and over is available for national health service acute trusts from the mandatory surveillance scheme on health care associated infections. Results for 2006 are not available but data for 2005 are available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hai/mandatory_report_2006.htm

Reporting of data is the responsibility of the NHS acute trust and therefore data are not available for primary care trusts.

The following guidance was sent to chief executives of NHS trusts and made available to Chief Executives of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts:

A joint professional letter from the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Nursing Officer went out to NHS Trusts in December 2005 to remind them of the importance of this infection. This letter listed the key actions to control "Clostridium difficile" and highlighted the guidance available[1,2]. The letter is at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PubliationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/ProfessionalLetters/ChiefMedicalOfficerLetters/ChiefMeicalOfficerLettersArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4125069&chk=cuQ7C%2B

As part of our delivery programme "Saving lives: a delivery programme to reduce health care associated infections including MRSA" a high impact intervention which is a tool to help reduce "Clostridium difficile" infections was published in June 2006.

A simple guide to "Clostridium difficile" is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/HealthcareAcquiredInfection/HealthcareAcquiredGeneralInformation/HealthcareAcquiredGeneralArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4115800&chk=wHehV/

Although much of the current guidance is still extant we have asked the Health Protection agency to review the national guidance. Mandatory surveillance has shown a clear need to improve NHS performance and we believe that upgrading the level of surveillance and more rapid feedback of results will help performance. Therefore, we intend to move to quarterly publication as soon as it is feasible to do so.

[1] "Clostridium Difficile" Infection, Prevention and Management A Report by a Department of Health/PHLS joint working group. 1994

[2] Guidelines for optimal surveillance of Clostridium difficile infection in hospitals Brazier JS and Duerden BI. Guidelines for optimal surveillance of "Clostridium difficile" infection in hospitals. Comm.Dis.Pub.Health. 1998:1;(4) 229-230.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community hospitals in *(a)* South West London, *(b)* Surrey, *(c)* Middlesex, *(d)* Greater London and *(e)* England are having their closure discussed; and in how many such cases the possible closure is a result of NHS trust budget deficits. [58919]

Andy Burnham: Making decisions on local healthcare provision, including the closure of community hospitals, is a matter for primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) in consultation with the local population. Therefore,

the Department does not centrally collect information on the number of community hospitals that are having their closure discussed.

In paragraph 6.42 of the recently published Health White Paper 'Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services' it was made clear to national health service organisations that community hospital facilities should not be lost in response to short-term budgetary pressures that are not related to the viability of the community facility itself.

Therefore, no community hospitals should be closed solely as a result of NHS primary care trust budget deficits. Therefore, there is a commitment that PCTs taking decisions about the future of community hospitals are required to demonstrate to their SHA that they have consulted locally and have considered options such as developing new pathways, new partnerships and new ownership possibilities. In relation to this commitment, the Department has recently written to SHAs to clarify how it might operate in practice.

The Department has announced a £750 million capital investment programme and recently published a document that sets out how to take forward the agenda on community hospitals and community-based services and facilities. The document also includes case study examples of those areas that are already making the most of their community hospital, and highlights new developments that fit with the vision that the White Paper put forward. The document can be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* information and *(b)* support she has made available to hon. Members with community hospitals threatened with closure in their constituency. [58920]

Andy Burnham: The recently published Health White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services" sets out how the Department intends to fulfil the Government's manifesto commitment to develop a new generation of modern national health service community hospitals. The Department will keep Parliament updated with progress against this commitment.

However, making decisions on local health care provision, including the closure of community hospitals, is a matter for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities in consultation with the local population. Therefore, the onus is on local NHS organisations to consult with local stakeholders, such as local hon. Members, and to make relevant information available as appropriate.

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Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the closure of community hospitals on the elderly; and what steps she is taking to lessen that impact. [58922]

Andy Burnham: This Government have invested heavily on developing alternatives to in-patient stays in hospitals, including more intensive support to enable people to stay in their own homes wherever that is safe and what the individual wants. We set out in the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: a new direction for community services" that community hospitals can play an invaluable role in delivering services that patients need, and want close to home. We have stressed that short-term budgetary pressures are insufficient reason to close viable community hospitals that local people want and that they should only be closed after extensive consultation locally and when any proposals have been tested against the principles set out in the White Paper.

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Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral Statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 819W, on community hospitals, how many community hospitals in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire strategic health authority area she assesses as being based in Victorian workhouse facilities. [85963]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Suffolk West Primary Care Trust (PCT) currently provides services at Walnutree Hospital and Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire PCTs provide services on part of the Brookfields site (Davison House), all of which were workhouses originally.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has made an assessment of the likely demand for community hospital beds in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland primary care trust area over the next five to 10 years. [85965]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for primary care trust to assess and commission services to meet the needs of the populations that they serve.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community hospital beds there were in the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [85980]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has made an assessment of the likely demand for community

hospital beds in (a) Guildford and Waverley primary care trust area and (b) Surrey over the next (i) five and (ii) 10 years. [87915]

Andy Burnham: It is for local primary care trusts in conjunction with strategic health authorities to make assessments relating to local health service provision.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her oral statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 816-32, on community hospitals, whether the new community hospitals will have midwife-led maternity services. [85284]

Andy Burnham: As stated in the publication 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Community: investing in the future of community hospitals and services' the clinical possibilities of community hospitals and their range of services are considerable. Annex A of that publication, outlines some of the possibilities, which include maternity services.

However, decision making on specific local healthcare provision, including midwife led maternity services, is a matter for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities in consultation with the local population.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of community hospital beds which will be needed in the next 10 years. [85494]

Andy Burnham: It is for local primary care trusts in conjunction with strategic health authorities to make assessments relating to local health service provision.

Contestability Process

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which operational areas of her Department's work are being reviewed under the contestability process. [62680]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is not reviewing new areas for contesting departmental functions although some services continue to be contracted out such as information technology maintenance, catering, occupational health and photocopying.

Continuing Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2042W, on continuing care, if she will make it her policy that no-one currently in receipt of continuing care will lose their entitlement to it with the introduction of the national framework for continuing care. [87693]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are consulting on a draft national framework until 22 September 2006, and it would be inappropriate to enter into specific commitments until all consultees have had an opportunity to comment and for those comments to be considered.

However, the national framework will not change the existing legal basis for the provision of NHS Continuing Healthcare, by which fully funded NHS Continuing Healthcare is provided for all those individuals whose primary need is a health need. This is based on an assessment of need and if individuals' needs have not changed there is no reason to expect them to lose their entitlement to NHS Continuing Healthcare. Equally, continuing entitlement to an individual whose needs change cannot be guaranteed.

Contract Notice 2006/05 114-121806

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which organisations her Department consulted on the contract notice 2006-05 114-121806; [86110]

(2) why the contract notice 2006-05 114-121806 published in the Official Journal of the European Union was withdrawn; and whether she intends to submit a revised contract notice. [86111]

Andy Burnham: The advertisement in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) was withdrawn and a revised advertisement submitted on 13 July to make it clear that clinical provision was explicitly excluded from the scope of the procurement. In other words, that we were advertising for a range of management functions to support primary care trusts (PCTs) commissioning role. We have used the opportunity of the reissue of the advertisement to emphasise that even if PCTs choose to use such services they remain accountable to the public for the resources spent on health care in their locality.

The procurement framework will allow successful companies to offer a range of commissioning skills and services to PCTs who can chose whether or not to use the services offered. This is part of a range of measures to support PCTs and practices in developing effective commissioning as described in "Health reform in England: update and commissioning framework". PCTs are and will remain public, statutory bodies responsible for using their growing budgets to commission the best possible services for local people. They can never outsource this responsibility, or ask others to make these decisions for them.

We did not consult with external organisations prior to issuing the OJEU because one of the main purposes of such an advertisement is to elicit responses from interested organisations.

Counterfeit Medicines

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to control the sale of counterfeit medicines online. [79001]

Andy Burnham: Medicines law in the United Kingdom (UK) (Medicines Act 1968 and related regulations) imposes strict controls on the sale, supply and advertising of medicines and these controls apply without distinction to medicines offered for sale via the internet and by mail order. Internet pharmacies must be registered with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and any manufacturing or distribution activities are required to be licensed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Problems arise when online sites are based in another territory, outside of the UK's legal jurisdiction. Regulatory requirements can vary from country to country, particularly

outside the European Community, where the products may be classified differently and the laws may be entirely different. In such cases, details of the websites are referred to counterparts in the host country with a request to take action as appropriate to prevent sale to UK citizens.

Dentistry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which groups representing those working in dental laboratories she has met in the last 12 months. [86281]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I met with the Dental Laboratories Association (DLA) in December 2005. The DLA is represented on the implementation review group, which has been set up to review the impact of the national health service dentistry reforms and identify any issues that need to be addressed. I attended the first meeting of the review group in April.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on the reasons for the change in the level of dentists providing NHS dental repairs since the implementation of the new dental contracts; and if she will make a statement. [86283]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for individual dentists working under general dental services contracts or personal dental services agreements to use their clinical judgment to examine a patient and determine what treatment including any dental repairs is necessary. The Department does not collect routine information on the quantity or type of dental repairs being carried out.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the unnumbered command papers produced by her Department in each Session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if she will make a statement. [81308]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered command papers are generally restricted to explanatory notes to treaties, explanatory memorandum to statutory instruments and some Treasury minutes. All other documents are published in the numbered command papers series.

Details of those published since 1976 can be produced only at disproportionate cost. Copies of all unnumbered command papers are made available to hon. Members via the Vote Office. Members of the public who wish to see an unnumbered command paper may write to the Department.

Departmental Travel

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many free air miles have been earned by senior civil servants in her Department in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [72861]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has no record of any free air miles having been earned by its senior civil servants.

Diabetes

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetics in *(a)* England and *(b)* Shropshire use (i) insulin inhalers and (ii) insulin pumps. [86127]

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients with diabetes use insulin pumps; and what savings have been identified from their use. [86360]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Diagnostic Phase Management

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost has been of the diagnostic phase management consultants employed by trusts applying for foundation status. [88276]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The diagnostic programme to prepare national health service trusts for NHS foundation trust status has been delivered through a central support contract for consultancy support. The contract was let following a competitive tendering process, the value for which is commercially confidential. The Department does not hold information on the average cost of consultancy support for trusts although we are aware that consultants have added value to the programme by providing external rigour and challenge as well as business expertise.

Doctor Registration

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors in London were struck off the medical register in each year since 1997. [87664]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally.

Doddington Hospital

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* other representations her Department received on Doddington Community Hospital near March in Cambridgeshire. [85979]

Andy Burnham: There have been no representations made on the subject of Doddington Community Hospital, and due to the way data is collected, the Department is unable to provide the number of letters received in relation to Doddington Community Hospital.

Dr. Foster Intelligence Data Information Service

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been budgeted by her Department for the Dr. Foster intelligence data information service; what range of data will be collected by Dr. Foster; who will own the data that are collected; and whether

Dr. Foster will be entitled to make financial gain from use of the information collected beyond the profit gained from the stated aim of helping to give people more choice. [85956]

Caroline Flint: The information centre for health and social care is a 50 per cent. shareholder in Dr. Foster Intelligence and is working in partnership with the company to transform data into products and services which are relevant, accessible and usable to deliver better care.

The information centre for health and social care does not procure data information services from Dr. Foster Intelligence and has no current budget to do so.

Dr. Foster Intelligence has competed to be part of several of the Department's framework agreements, making it eligible to compete for work alongside other preferred suppliers. However, the nature and value of the work is dependent upon the originating specification and terms on which any subsequent contract is let. Any profits made by Dr. Foster Intelligence are shared with the Department.

Drug Rehabilitation

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the health service on the treatment of persons addicted to illegal drugs in each of the last three years. [87682]

Caroline Flint: The amount of funding spent on drug treatment for each of the last three years is shown in the table.

£ million

	Pooled treatment budget	*Mainstream funding*	*Total*
2003-04	236	200	436
2004-05	253	2041	257
2005-06	300	2081	508

Note
Estimated local funding increases based on 2 per cent. inflation

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drug addicts received treatment from GPs in *(a)* Eastern Leicester Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Leicester City West Primary Care Trust and *(c)* England in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [86368]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not collect information on how many drugs addicts receive treatment from general practitioners (GPs). However, treatment data from the national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS) are shown in the table for clients receiving GP prescribing for the treatment of drug addiction in Leicester (city) and the whole of England for 2004-05 and 2005-06. Data are not available at primary care trust level.

	Leicester	*England*
2004-05	164	28,305
2005-06[1]	234	34,971

[1] Provisional data based on 30 April 2006 dataset

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average expenditure per patient was for drug rehabilitation in *(a)* Bexley borough and *(b)* Greater London in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [83482]

Caroline Flint: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* residential and *(b)* inpatient specialist drug treatment rehabilitation places are available in (i) Ruislip-Northwood constituency, (ii) each London borough and (iii) England. [86476]

Caroline Flint: It is important to note that residential and inpatient drug rehabilitation services are often provided outside of the individual's drug action team (DAT) of residence. Therefore, individuals as well as having access to these services in their area of residence are, with the agreement of their DAT, able to access similar services elsewhere in the country.

There are no residential rehabilitation services in the Ruislip-Northwood constituency (London borough of Hillingdon).

There is one service providing inpatient drug treatment. We do not have any information about the number of beds or client places for drug treatment in the service.

There are 19 residential rehabilitation services in London. Where a London borough is not shown, this means there are no services based within that borough. The breakdown is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Borough	*Number of units*	*Number of beds*
Camden	3	43
Ealing	1	12
Enfield	1	50
Islington	1	13
Lambeth	4	71
Lewisham	1	31
Southwark	1	12
Tower Hamlets	1	8
Walthamstow	2	26
Wandsworth[1]	3	138
Westminster	1	8
Total	19	412

[1] This figure is high because it includes one of the large priory hospitals (private sector).

We do not hold centrally a breakdown by London borough of inpatient treatment services. The review of inpatient treatment recently published by the National Treatment Agency (Ed Day, 2005) found 13 services in London providing inpatient treatment (national health service, voluntary sector and private sector). We have no specific information on the number of beds, client places or admissions to treatment in these services.

There are 115 residential rehabilitation services in England with a total of 2,441 beds for drug and/or alcohol treatment.

The review of inpatient treatment identified 129 services providing inpatient treatment for dug misuse in England. These services fall into three main types:

specialist units for drug misuse inpatient treatment;

inpatient drug treatment which takes place in general or psychiatric wards; and

detoxification in residential rehabilitation services, prior to admission to the rehabilitation programme.

The review of inpatient treatment estimated that the total number of admissions to inpatient treatment (for the year 2003-04) was as follows:

specialist units: 6,829 admissions;

general/psychiatric wards: 2,077 admissions.

Note:

In response to this question, information is mainly given in number of beds available for residential rehabilitation. This is not the same as the number of client places available in treatment services during any one year, as one bed may be occupied by a number of clients, depending on need, during the year.

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* overseas residents and *(b)* UK residents not normally living in Eastbourne have received NHS treatment at the Eastbourne District General Hospital in each of the last five years. [87677]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cardiac episodes required admission to Eastbourne District General Hospital *(a)* by ambulance and *(b)* through accident and emergency in each of the last five years. [86406]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally in this format.

Eating Disorders

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to raise awareness of the incidence of eating disorders with the *(a)* public and *(b)* medical profession. [85385]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce a clinical guideline on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders which was published in 2004. The guideline covers physical and psychological treatments, treatment with medicines, and what kinds of services best help people with eating disorders. It also includes information specifically for patients, carers and the general public.

The Department's five-year initiative to tackle stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health issues in England, Shift, works with young people and professionals to promote awareness of all mental health problems including eating disorders.

The Department also supports voluntary organisations such as the Eating Disorders Association to provide information and advice for people with mental health problems in England through the mental health helplines partnership project.

Eye Tests

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many free eye tests were given in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87497]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held in the format requested. However, the following table shows data on the number of free eye tests by health authority and primary care trust in London for the years 1996-97 to 2004-05.

Free eye care tests by HA and PCT in London

	2001-02	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*Number 1997-98*
Barking and Havering	77,050	73,877	71,990	53,440	52,310
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey	156,850	165,170	156,410	130,990	131,540
Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	146,410	143,879	132,280	99,060	95,620
Brent and Harrow	89,340	86,595	88,520	75,890	74,880
Camden and Islington	58,290	59,166	57,770	49,180	56,940
Croydon	55,760	59,533	59,890	46,050	45,570
Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow	96,980	96,528	97,490	76,370	85,430
East London and the City	121,300	127,144	129,190	118,380	122,150
Hillingdon	47,990	44,042	45,130	32,170	32,120
Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster	52,410	53,771	49,490	39,550	43,360
Kingston and Richmond	103,310	104,618	105,590	88,420	93,680
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham	87,580	95,561	95,570	73,810	76,210
Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth	87,580	95,561	95,570	73,810	76,210
Redbridge and Waltham Forest	96,070	92,341	98,430	86,130	80,340

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*Number 2004-05*
North Central London SHA	210,480	208,950	213,630
Barnet	—	67,280	67,203
Camden	—	32,720	33,479
Enfield	—	43,820	44,911

	2002-03	2003-04	Number 2004-05
Haringey	—	43,130	43,762
Islington	—	21,990	24,275
North East London SHA	283,500	282,730	293,285
Barking and Dagenham	—	26,530	27,741
City and Hackney	—	39,630	42,006
Havering	—	49,220	51,507
Newham	—	47,180	50,974
Redbridge	—	48,680	50,799
Tower Hamlets	—	27,200	26,971
Waltham Forest	—	44,280	43,287
North West London SHA	279,400	282,590	287,451
Brent	—	40,370	41,774
Ealing	—	43,130	44,783
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	16,610	17,890
Harrow	—	45,950	47,814
Hillingdon	—	48,380	48,081
Hounslow	—	36,650	37,540
Kensington and Chelsea	—	14,590	17,209
Westminster	—	36,900	32,360
South East London SHA	242,310	240,960	243,625
Bexley	—	45,640	46,559
Bromley	—	62,390	63,376
Greenwich	—	34,580	34,818
Lambeth	—	33,120	33,678
Lewisham	—	32,220	31,588
Southwark	—	33,010	33,606
South West London SHA	198,240	202,810	206,961
Croydon	—	57,780	59,667
Kingston	—	28,930	29,890
Richmond and Twickenham	—	24,050	24,442
Sutton and Merton	—	53,060	55,488
Wandsworth	—	38,990	37,474

Fibromyalgia

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department is undertaking into the causes of fibromyalgia; and if she will make a statement. [87390]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Swansea, East (Mrs. James) on 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 373W.

Food Standards Agency

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the Food Standards Agency in establishing a timetable for the comprehensive inspection and licensing of food broker businesses. [71150]

Caroline Flint: As from the 1 January 2006 all food brokers are required to register their food premises with their local authority in terms of Regulation 852/2004 of the European Parliament. Once a premises is registered it will be inspected to ascertain if it meets the requirements of the relevant food safety legislation. Currently, there is no requirement for food brokers to be licensed as food business operators.

General Medical Services Contract

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the review of the Quality and Outcomes Framework of the General Medical Services Contract. [85582]

Andy Burnham: Negotiations on this issue between NHS Employers and the British Medical Association's general practice committee aim to be completed in time for the start of the financial year 2007-08.

Gershon Review

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1802W, on the Gershon Review, what the main elements are of the £179 million savings in social care. [85926]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department was informed of the £179 million efficiency savings in relation to adult social care through the 2005-06 Mid-Year Update Annual Efficiency Statements which were completed by councils and submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in November 2005. The template for the Annual Efficiency Statement requires subdivision between different major council services areas, such as

adult social care, but there is no requirement for councils to further subdivide their efficiency savings totals into specific elements of services.

Glos, Wilts & Avon Strategic Health Authority

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many administrative and managerial staff have been employed by the Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Avon strategic health authority in each year of its existence; what the cost of that employment is; and if she will make a statement. [74260]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The requested information is provided in the table. Figures are not available prior to 1998-99. Figures for 2005-06 will not be available until autumn this year.

Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Avon Strategic Health Authority

	£ 000
2002-03	
Administrative	367
Managers	3,458
2003-04	
Administrative	342
Managers	2,020
2004-05	
Administrative	2,814
Managers	4,102

Head Injuries (Rehabilitation)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* the Metropolitan police and City of London police areas of London offer specialist services for the rehabilitation of patients with severe head injuries. [87315]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health Professions Council

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to extend the 2008 deadline for regulating psychotherapy counsellors through the Health Professions Council; and if she will make a statement. [88029]

Andy Burnham: Work is in hand to scope competencies and undertake preparatory work to enable the statutory regulation of psychotherapists. Decisions about further progress will be taken once the consultation on healthcare profession regulation closes on 10 November 2006.

Following the publication of the Chief Medical Officer's report on medical regulation, "Good Doctors, safer patients", and the parallel review of non-medical regulation on 14 July, the Department is now seeking views of stakeholders as to the contents of the reports and the associated Regulatory Impact Assessment documents.

Health Worker Recruitment Code of Practice

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to review the effectiveness of the code of practice on the international recruitment of health workers. [81788]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has no plans to review the effectiveness of the code of practice which is working well.

Hepatitis C

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of hepatitis C there were in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority area in England (i) in total and (ii) per head of population in each year since 2001. [86573]

Caroline Flint: Data by primary care trust or strategic health authority are not available. The number of laboratory diagnoses of hepatitis C reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) for the period requested by HPA region[1] are shown in the table with rates per 100,000 population.

[1] HPA regions correspond to the Government Offices of the English Regions—see www.gos.gov.uk.

Hepatitis C laboratory reports by Government Offices of the English regions, 2001 to 2005

	Number	*Rate/100,000*
East Midlands		
2001	139	3.81
2002	262	6.28
2003	358	8.57
2004	472	11.31
2005	524	12.55
Eastern		
2001	488	9.05
2002	419	7.77
2003	471	8.73
2004	649	12.03
2005	726	13.46
London		
2001	399	5.55
2002	366	5.09
2003	416	5.79
2004	895	12.45
2005	898	12.49
North East		
2001	131	5.21
2002	157	6.24
2003	261	10.37
2004	295	11.72
2005	342	13.59
North West		
2001	1,157	17.19
2002	1,603	23.81
2003	2,358	35.03
2004	2,516	37.38

Hepatitis C laboratory reports by Government Offices of the English regions, 2001 to 2005

	Number	Rate/100,000
2005	2,017	29.96
South East		
2001	639	7.98
2002	607	7.58
2003	544	6.79
2004	465	5.81
2005	294	3.67
South West		
2001	807	16.36
2002	1,023	20.73
2003	813	16.48
2004	1,302	26.39
2005	882	17.88
West Midlands		
2001	639	12.13
2002	776	14.73
2003	592	11.24
2004	704	13.37
2005	734	13.94
Yorkshire and Humberside		
2001	246	4.95
2002	334	6.72
2003	528	10.63
2004	695	13.99
2005	1,161	23.37
England		
2001	4,665	9.49
2002	5,547	11.28
2003	6,341	12.89
2004	7,993	16.25
2005	7,578	15.41

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Hospital Provision (South-east)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her future plans are for hospitals in each council area in the new regional health authority area for the South East; and if she will make a statement. [86279]

Caroline Flint: The south eastern area of England is now covered by two strategic health authorities: NHS South East Coast (covering Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Medway) and NHS South Central (covering Thames Valley, Hampshire and Isle of Wight). It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

Incoming Hospital Telephone Calls

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made with regard to the cost of incoming hospital telephone calls provided by Patientline, Premier and Hospital Telephone Services for those who are unable to pay. [87176]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Bedside televisions and telephones represent an enhanced service, providing additional choice for patients.

Incoming callers who are unable to pay for the incoming call charge to the bedside telephone can still get a message to the patient via the nurse station as they have always been able to do in the past.

Information Technology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2159W, on information technology, what *(a)* the services covered by the contracts and projects added to the original scope of the programme and *(b)* the additional services beyond the scope of the core national contracts were; why these services and associated costs were not expected when the national programme was originally procured; whether she expects to spend additional money on (i) the services covered by the contracts and projects added to the original scope of the programme and (ii) the additional services beyond the scope of the core national contracts in future years; and if she will make a statement. [87696]

Caroline Flint: The contracts and projects added to the original scope of the national programme were for the provision of a secure email and directory service for national health service staff, including its associated relay service and archive facility, and for the provision of central data stores required for picture archiving and communications systems (PACS).

The additional services beyond the scope of the original national core contracts comprised the provision of extra capacity in connections within the new national broadband network (N3); additional services under choose and book to support new policy requirements relating to offering patients requiring planned hospital care booked appointments from a choice of hospitals; and support for systems integration, for example to enable suppliers of information technology to NHS organisations to test the integration of their software with the spine.

All of these additions, which are itemised and described in the National Audit Office's (IMAO's) report, were either as a result of decisions to extend the scope of the programme taken subsequent to the original procurement phase, to respond to the consequences of policy changes affecting its delivery, or to deal with unforeseen technical challenges arising in the course of implementation.

As the NAO report also makes clear, except for the provision of extra capacity for N3, for which expenditure is dependent on demand, all of the additions are the subject of fixed-price contracts which mean that they will not require additional expenditure, although contractors will be paid less if they fail to deliver in line with their contracts.

Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the vacancy for a permanent chair of Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust to be advertised. [88820]

Andy Burnham: The Secretary of State has delegated the appointment of Chairs of national health service trusts to the NHS Appointments Commission. I have asked Sir William Wells, Chairman of the NHS Appointments Commission, to write direct to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Learning and Development

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what continued funding is planned for the Government's commitment to lifelong learning for the NHS workforce. [86146]

Andy Burnham: Funding for continuing professional development and lifelong learning for the national health service workforce is included as part of the baseline allocation to strategic health authorities (SHAs). How it is allocated is for individual SHAs to determine locally in relation to their workforce planning strategies.

Long-term Conditions (Needs' Assessments)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures are in place to assess the care needs of individuals with long-term and fluctuating conditions; [88799]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that individuals with long-term fluctuating conditions are adequately assessed; [88800]

(3) what percentage of individuals at the early stages of long-term fluctuating conditions receive social care. [88801]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service and social services Departments across the country work together, and with other stakeholders, to deliver high quality, timely and integrated care to those people who need it using the substantial extra resources made available to them by this Government and in accordance with the principles set out in the documents "Supporting people with long term conditions" and "The national service framework for long term conditions". Both documents are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCare Topics/LongTermConditions/fs/en.

The assessment of needs is the responsibility of professionals and care staff who are accountable to their employers and in most cases subject to professional regulation. Health and social care systems are inspected by the independent Healthcare Commission and the Commission for Social Care Inspection respectively.

Information on the number of individuals at the early stages of long-term fluctuating conditions who receive social care is not available.

McKinsey and Company

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial value is of work commissioned in each of the last three years by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* other NHS organisations and agencies with McKinsey and Co.; and if she will make a statement. [84279]

Andy Burnham: The total amount spent by the Department with McKinsey and Co. in the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06 is shown in the table.

	Expenditure (£000s)
2003-04	0
2004-05	240
2005-06	2,865

The Department does not collect information from the national health service or agencies on this type of expenditure. NHS organisations account separately for their financial performance, publishing their own set of annual financial accounts.

Mental Health

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information health trusts routinely provide to the police on people in the community who are mentally ill and have a history of violent behaviour. [86080]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not passed routinely from health trusts to the police. When individuals are considered a risk to others, they become subject to the provisions of multi-agency public protection panels set up by the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed as having mental illness in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87494]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the annual cost of *(a)* secure and *(b)* other residential mental health treatment in each of the last three years. [88940]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not available in the requested format. Annual surveys of investment in mental health services covering 2001-02 to 2005-06, which are available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/mentalhealth, provide information on planned expenditure on various inpatient and residential mental health service provision including secure and high dependency services.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was given to each mental health care trust in each of the last five years. [88656]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, Column 1555W.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to introduce an offence for workers ill-treating or neglecting someone with mental health problems or learning disabilities in their care. [79376]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Section 127 of the Mental Health Act 1983 already makes it an offence for people to ill-treat or wilfully neglect patients under their care. We would expect the employer to report such matters to the police or to take disciplinary action depending on the severity of the abuse or neglect. The ill-treatment or neglect of a patient is a matter which the regulatory bodies would take seriously whoever reported the matter to them.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many initial hospital orders have been made under section 37 of the Mental Health Act for each category of mental disorder in each of the last five years; and how many of the initial orders were renewed under section 20 for each category of mental disorder in each year. [84117]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available in the requested format.

Some information is available in relation to inpatients who were formally detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983, between 1994-95 and 2004-05, from the detained patients bulletin at

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/inpatientdetmha94to05/mhbulletin/file.

Some information is also available about guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983 from the guardianship bulletin at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/icpublication.2006-01-04.5354930463/04117869.pdf.file.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on her plans for mental health funding. [85644]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding for mental health is allocated directly to primary care trust (PCTs). It is for PCTs, in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders, to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. The 2005-06 national survey of investment in mental health services, which is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/50/11/04135011.pdf, shows that between 2001-02 and 2005-06 planned expenditure on mental health services by national health service organisations and local authorities has increased in real terms by 25 per cent.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to improve child and adult mental health services. [86798]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Improving child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) is one of the priorities for this Government, as emphasised by the public service agreement standard of a comprehensive CAMHS in every area of England. This commitment to improve CAMHS has been backed by significant additional funding, over £300 million over the three years 2003-04 to 2005-06.

The CAMHS module of the children's national service framework for England (published September 2004) sets the framework for CAMHS for the next 10 years. It sets the standard that all children and young people, from birth to their 18th birthday, who have mental health problems and disorders, will have access to timely, integrated, high quality multidisciplinary mental health services to ensure effective assessment, treatment and support, for them, their parents or carers, and other family members.

Adult mental health services are continuing to implement the national service framework for mental health in order to improve access to effective treatment and care, reduce unfair variation, raise standards, and provide quicker and more convenient services. In line with the targets set in the NHS Plan 343 crisis resolution, 262 assertive outreach and 109 early intervention teams were established in England at the end of March 2005. On the same day, 1,520 community gateway, 654 carer support and 648 graduate workers were in post.

Progress is also being made towards meeting the Department's public service agreement target to reduce the death rate from suicide and undetermined injury by at least 20 per cent. by 2010. The rate is now 6.6 per cent. below the baseline.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many young people aged under 25 years are placed in adult mental health units in England. [86799]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected on the number of 18 to 25-year-olds placed in adult mental health units nor in the exact format requested.

In the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2006 in England, patients aged 17 or under spent 26,659 occupied bed days on adult psychiatric wards.

Mesothelioma

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what palliative treatment is available to patients with mesothelioma. [87444]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The palliative treatment offered to a patient with mesothelioma will depend on their individual condition. The treatment patients should be offered is a matter for the clinical judgment of the physician responsible for their care.

Methyl Bromide

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has made to supermarket chains in relation to their food procurement policies for produce treated with methyl bromide. [85605]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

There have been no such representations because, under the Montreal protocol, the use of methyl bromide has been banned in developed countries since 2005 except for quarantine and pre-shipment purposes and critical uses agreed by parties to the protocol. A similar ban comes into force in developing countries in 2015.

Methyl bromide is an ozone depleting substance and the Government's policy is only to support further UK critical uses where lack of availability would cause significant market disruption and there are no technical or economically feasible alternatives.

Midwives

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacant midwives' posts there are in *(a)* Wakefield West and *(b)* Eastern Wakefield primary care trust. [85764]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at March 2005, there were no vacant midwives posts at Wakefield West primary care trust (PCT) and Eastern Wakefield PCT. Data for 2006 is not yet available.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students entered midwifery training in each year since 1997. [85767]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Midwifery training commissions academic year

	Number of commissions
1996-97	659
1997-98	796
1998-99	852
1999-2000	1,015
2000-01	1,098
2001-02	1,146
2002-03	1,433
2003-04	1,469
2004-05	1,639
2005-06	1,559

Source:
Strategic health authority quarterly monitoring returns

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newly qualified midwives have been employed in the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [85768]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwife posts are vacant in *(a)* Barnsley Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Doncaster West Primary Care Trust. [86380]

Andy Burnham: As at 31 March 2005, there were no vacant midwife posts in Barnsley Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Doncaster West PCT. Figures for 2006 are not yet available.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the attrition rate was for student midwives in each academic year since 1997; what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the rate; and if she will make a statement. [83761]

Andy Burnham: Information for England on the percentage of pre-registration midwifery students who have left their university course is shown in the table. Each year represents an intake year. A complete measure of attrition for a cohort of students will include withdrawal figures for each year of their programme. No data are available for 2001-02. The attrition data for the 2002-03 academic year onwards administered by the higher education statistics agency are in the process of being analysed by the health services information centre.

	Percentage of midwives failing to complete courses
1997-98	18.23
1998-99[1]	17.17
1999-2000[1]	14.59
2000-01[1]	6.7

[1] The data are not complete as they do not include withdrawal rates for each year of the course for the intake year specified.

The Department has commissioned a small piece of research to determine the degree to which the main factors that are correlated with attrition rates are being actively managed by strategic health authorities and higher education institutes (HEIs); and to discover examples of good evidence based practice. This will enable a good practice guide to be compiled to assist strategic health authorities and HEIs with reducing attrition rates. The research is not evaluating the rates of attrition across all HEIs nor is it solely looking at midwifery attrition.

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make representations to Milton Keynes primary care trust to encourage it to reverse *(a)* the proposed reductions in (i) mental health day and (ii) drug and alcohol services and *(b)* the decision to close the memory screening clinic. [85806]

Caroline Flint: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans Milton Keynes primary care trust has to remove funding for the posts of *(a)* a full-time consultant clinical psychologist and *(b)* the clinical assistant to consultant clinical psychologist at the Oakhill Secure Training Centre in Milton Keynes. [85826]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

Special Advisers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)*

travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowance and *(d)* removal expenses to special advisers in her private office in each of the last five years. [69214]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. For information relating to the last financial year I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 158-61WS.

Information on special advisers for this financial year is currently being collected and will be published in the normal way when it is ready.

The Department's special advisers incurred the following costs for travel and subsistence in the last two financial years:

	Travel and subsistence (£)	*Removal expenses*
2004-05	1,541.07	0
2005-06	366.38	0

It is not possible to separately identify travel and subsistence.

Due to system changes, access to earlier figures would incur disproportionate cost.

Minor Injuries Units

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of patients treated at minor injuries units in *(a)* England and *(b)* the North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire strategic health authority area were admitted after suffering an accident on a road-side pavement in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [86332]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not centrally available.

MMR Vaccination

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were vaccinated with the MMR jab in each *(a)* London primary care trust and *(b)* London strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [87667]

Caroline Flint: Immunisation data by primary care trust, strategic health authorities and nationally are published annually in the statistical bulletin "NHS Immunisation Statistics, England" which includes London, which is available in the Library.

Morbidity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surveys of morbidity for each primary care trust in England are undertaken by her Department. [84023]

Andy Burnham: Surveys of morbidity at primary care trust (PCT) level are not conducted centrally by the Department, national survey usually have samples large enough to report at regional level. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care collects data prevalence of 11 disease areas (coronary heart disease, left ventricular dysfunction, stroke and transient ischaemic attack, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, epilepsy, hypothyroidism, cancer, mental health and asthma) at PCT level through the quality and outcomes framework. Further information is available from The Information Centre for Health and Social Care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/services/qof/data/.

MS Treatment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many nurses have been employed specifically to treat sufferers of multiple sclerosis in each year since 1997; [85780]

(2) what assessment she has carried out of the availability of specialist multiple sclerosis nurses within the NHS; and what plans she has for specialist nursing provision in respect of multiple sclerosis. [85781]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected centrally on specific nursing specialties. Work force planning is a matter for local determination, based on service need.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she is considering *(a)* new proposals for the inspection of charitable multiple sclerosis treatment centres offering oxygen therapies and *(b)* a revised charging structure; and if she will make a statement. [88011]

Andy Burnham: We are not considering any such proposals.

The Healthcare Commission consulted on the level of regulatory fees to be paid by private and voluntary healthcare providers in 2006-07 between November 2005 and February 2006. It received and considered over 100 responses, most from small businesses and voluntary organisations, including multiple sclerosis therapy centres offering hyperbaric oxygen therapy. I recently approved the Healthcare Commission's proposals for revised fees. The Commission wrote to providers on 11 July with details of the new fees, which will come into effect on 1 August. There is no increase in the annual fee of £1,566 payable by providers using type 3 hyperbaric oxygen chambers. Any new providers of this type of therapy registering with the Healthcare Commission for the first time will pay a registration fee of £907, increased from £648 in 2005-06.

NHS Direct

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to NHS Direct about access to an NHS dentist there were in each month since April 2005 in England, broken down by *(a)* emergency, *(b)* urgent and *(c)* other calls. [81692]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not currently available for the complete period requested. However, information for the month that complete data are currently available from all NHS Direct sites is shown in the table.

NHS Direct dental calls by type for May 2005

	Number
Total	19,956
Emergency	1,643
Urgent	2,712
Routine[1]	13,101
Other (not known)	2,500

[1] Routine includes calls requesting routine information only about where to find a dentist and calls requesting routine dental health advice and information about where to find a dentist.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Since June 2005, a number of NHS Direct sites have been unable for technical reasons to report the information requested centrally.

NHS Direct are in the process of correcting this technical issue and expect to be in a position to provide the full information requested by October.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on proposed redundancies at NHS Direct at Caterham. [82353]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Direct began a 12-week consultation period with staff and staff side representatives on 16 May 2006 on proposals to ensure that its organisational structure, estates and staffing are fit for purpose to meet future developments and demand. The consultation period is due to end on 16 August 2006. The outcomes of the consultation will be made in due course.

NHS Expenditure

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of total NHS expenditure in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2010 is expected to be budgeted for (i) invoicing, (ii) accounting for and auditing individual patient treatments, (iii) making and monitoring contracts and (iv) marketing and advertising; and what the comparable figures were in (A) 1996, (B) 1998, (C) 2000, (D) 2001 and (E) 2004. [85912]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cumulative breakeven position was in 2005 for each NHS organisation in London as reported in the final accounts of national health service trusts. [88962]

Andy Burnham: The latest year for which audited data on the financial position of national health service organisations is available is 2004-05.

The financial position of all NHS organisations in London is shown in the following table. The data given is the break-even cumulative position of NHS trusts.

2004-05 NHS trust break-even cumulative position

	£000
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	20
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	(19,564)
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	(757)
Barts and The London NHS Trust	(1,054)
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	28,754
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	2,447
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	5,392
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	(164)
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	(375)
East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	235
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	(1,736)
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	1,771
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	(18,384)
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	(3,766)
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	75
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	(65)
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	282
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	333
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	(5,360)
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	(13,546)
Oxleas NHS Trust	1,243
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	(8,942)
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	(6,512)
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	(3,165)
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	(3,769)
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	(339)
South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	401
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	(23,596)
St Mary's NHS Trust	(4,570)
Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust	54
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	(1,295)
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	(6,646)
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	(1,500)
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	(1,353)
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	(4,943)
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	63
	(610,539)

Note:
2004-05 data does not include information relating to NHS foundation trusts.

Source:
Audited NHS Trust summarisation schedules 2004-05.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what circumstances *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* social services departments pay the full cost of the care they commission; and what steps she is taking to ensure this is the case. [83106]

Andy Burnham: This is dependent on the terms on which commissioners have contracted with providers locally. The payment by results (PbR) system will help

to ensure a fairer and more consistent basis for paying national health service trusts and foundation trusts. Funding is negotiated locally or through national procurement exercises for services outside the scope of PbR, including all NHS services commissioned from independent and voluntary sector providers. In contracting for services outside the scope of PbR the onus is on the provider to reflect the full cost of these in their pricing and recover from the responsible primary care trust or social services department in accordance with the agreed contract terms.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the total health service expenditure in *(a)* Hillingdon and *(b)* Greater London was spent directly on (i) health care, (ii) administration and (iii) prescriptions in each of the last 10 years. [86477]

Andy Burnham: The table shows data for 1998-98 to 2004-05, which are the earliest and latest years for which this information is available. Data given are the purchase of health care and expenditure on administration and prescribing costs by primary care trusts (PCTs), health authorities (HAs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs). Hillingdon expenditure is the expenditure by Hillingdon HA for 1998-99 and 1999-2000, by Hillingdon HA and Hillingdon PCT for 2000-01 to 2001-02, and by Hillingdon PCT for 2002-03 to 2004-05. London expenditure is the expenditure by the previous HAs, current and previous PCTs and the previous five SHAs within the London area.

Expenditure in Hillingdon and London

	Purchase of health care	*Administration*	*£000 Prescribing costs*
1998-99			
Hillingdon	158,465	4,272	12,526
London	5,207,554	124,105	288,496
1999-2000			
Hillingdon	178,341	2,922	20,337
London	5,944,972	139,267	631,696
2000-01			
Hillingdon	152,255	6,256	23,308
London	6,592,827	128,783	675,341
2001-02			
Hillingdon	205,102	7,167	25,036
London	7,329,212	186,883	728,603
2002-03			
Hillingdon	209,492	n/a	26,846
London	8,201,210	n/a	787,224
2003-04			
Hillingdon	237,232	7,993	29,342
London	8,749,018	342,751	861,691
2004-05			
Hillingdon	269,946	4,366	32,072
London	9,954,274	193,796	920,187

Notes:
1. Prescribing costs—the Prescription Pricing Authority accounted for an element of prescribing costs in 1998-99; it is not possible to include this expenditure. Prescribing costs are also included within the purchase of health care expenditure.
2. Administration—figures relating to administration costs are not available for 2002-03. The method of calculating administration costs was changed for 2004-05.
3. Figures shown for purchase of health care are not the total expenditure, because expenditure accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority is excluded. This expenditure cannot be included within figures for individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.

Sources:
Audited annual accounts of London health authorities 1998-99.
Audited London health authority summarisation forms 1999-2000 to 2001-02.
Audited London strategic health authority summarisation forms 2002-03 to 2004-05.
Audited London primary care trust summarisation schedules 2000-01 to 2004-05.
Annual financial returns of London strategic health authorities and primary care trusts 2004-05.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the year-end financial position was for *(a)* Hillingdon Hospital, *(b)* the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust and *(c)* Hillingdon Primary Care Trust in each of the last five financial years. [86480]

Andy Burnham: The data requested are shown in the table.

£000

	Final outturn surplus/(deficit)				
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Hillingdon Hospital National Health Service Trust	22	20	(963)	23	2,212
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	50	20	6	(3,217)	3,240
Hillingdon Primary Care Trust	4	22	(672)	(13,470)	(36,506)

NHS Marketing

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of *(a)* the extent of the establishment of marketing departments in the NHS as a consequence of the extension of patient choice and *(b)* the extent to which NHS providers are asserting their intellectual property rights over specialisms rather than sharing their expertise as a consequence of the new commercial environment. [85974]

Andy Burnham: The Department has made no assessment of the extent of the establishment of marketing departments in the national health service nor the extent to which NHS providers are asserting their intellectual property rights.

The Department has set out in the 'Operating Framework for 2006/07' the importance of patients and the public having access to reliable information about the services available to them, so that they can exercise informed choice. NHS trusts must decide upon a suitable level of marketing activity which should present accurate and fair information about services and must follow statutory guidelines, such as the advertising standards authority code. The Department will be consulting on a code of practice for marketing services to NHS patients.

The NHS plan commits the NHS to ensuring that new technologies are identified and developed in the interests of NHS patients and society as a whole. The Department published 'A Framework and Guidance on the Management of Intellectual Property in the NHS', which became operational on 9 September 2002.

NHS Senior Staff

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS senior staff have resigned from NHS trusts within North Staffordshire in the last 12 months; and where in the UK they have indicated that they are taking new jobs. [87397]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS Trust Turnaround Teams

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which NHS trusts turnaround teams were sent during the last 12 months; when the review and audit took place; which company undertook the review and audit; and what the total cost of the review and audit was in each case *(a)* to the NHS, *(b)* to the trust and *(c)* to other contributors. [87447]

Andy Burnham: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State announced the turnaround teams in a written ministerial statement on 1 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 37WS.

The first stage of this is a baseline assessment, the aim of which is to ensure there is an agreed understanding of the local financial problem and that actions are in hand to address this. The contract for the baseline assessment which took place during December 2005 (phase 1) and February 2006 (phase 2) was awarded to consultants KPMG

The following national health service trusts were assessed by KPMG:

Organisation	*Phase*	*Ranking*
North East		
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	1	3
Sedgefield Primary Care Trust (PCT)	1	3
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	1	3
North West		
Cheshire West PCT	1	1
North Cumbria NHS Trust	2	1
North Cumbria PCT	2	1
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	1	2
East Cheshire NHS Trust	1	2
The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1	2
Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	2	3
Morecambe Bay PCT	2	3
Yorkshire and the Humber		
Sheffield North PCT	1	1
Sheffield South East PCT	1	1
Sheffield South West PCT	1	1
Sheffield West PCT	1	1
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1
Selby and York PCT	1	1
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT	2	2
Yorkshire Wolds and Coast PCT	2	2
Barnsley PCT	2	4
East Midlands		
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2	1
High Peak and Dales PCT	2	2
West Midlands		
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	1	1
South Warwickshire NHS Trust	2	1
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	1	1
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	1	1
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	1	2
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	1	2
North Stoke PCT	1	2
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	1	3
East of England		
Cambridge City PCT	1	2
South Cambridgeshire PCT	1	2
Colchester PCT	2	2
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	1	2
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	1	2
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1	2
North Norfolk PCT	2	3
Waveney PCT	2	3
Broadlands PCT	1	3
Southern Norfolk PCT	1	3
Suffolk West PCT	1	3
Ipswich PCT	1	3
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	1	3
Essex Rivers NHS Trust	2	3
Princess Alex Harlow NHS Trust	2	3
Suffolk Coastal PCT	1	3
Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust	1	3
Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	1	3
Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care PCT	1	3
Chelmsford PCT	1	3
Tendring PCT	2	4

Organisation	Phase	Ranking
London		
Mayday Hospital NHS Trust	2	1
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1
Hillingdon PCT	1	1
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	1	2
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	1	2
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	1	2
Royal Free NHS Trust	2	2
Hounslow PCT	1	2
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1	2
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	1	2
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	1	2
Bexley PCT	2	2
Kingston PCT	2	2
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	1	3
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	1	3
Wandsworth PCT	1	3
Lewisham PCT	2	3
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	1	4
Bromley PCT	2	4
South East Coast		
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	1	1
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	1	1
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	2	2
Maidstone Weald PCT	2	2
South West Kent PCT	2	2
Guildford and Waverley PCT	2	2
East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey PCT	2	2
Ashford and St. Peters NHS Trust	2	3
South Central		
Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT	1	2
East Hampshire PCT	1	2
Fareham and Gosport PCT	1	2
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	1	2
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	1	2
North Hampshire PCT	2	3
New Forest PCT	1	3
Isle of Wight NHS Trust	2	3
Isle of Wight PCT	2	3
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1	4
South West		
Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT	1	1
West Wiltshire PCT	1	1
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	2	1
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	2	1
Dacorum PCT	2	1
Cotswold and Vale PCT	1	2
North Somerset PCT	2	2
North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	1	3
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	2	3
South Wiltshire PCT	1	3

Information on costs is being presented to the Health Select Committee during July and October.

Non-medical Staff (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many administrative and managerial staff have been employed by *(a)* each of the primary care trusts in Gloucestershire and *(b)* the Hospital Trust in Gloucestershire in each year of their existence; what the cost has been of that employment; and if she will make a statement. [74261]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following tables show the amount of administrative and managerial staff employed at all primary care trusts (PCTs) and hospital trusts in Gloucestershire.

Number

PCT name	Cheltenham and Tewkesbury	Cotswold and Vale	West Gloucestershire
2001-02	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03	90	253	209
2003-04	108	284	254
2004-05	144	298	250

Primary care trust staff costs: administrative and managers

£000

PCT name	Cheltenham and Tewkesbury	Cotswold and Vale	West Gloucestershire
2001-02			
Administrative	n/a	n/a	n/a
Managers	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002-03			
Administrative	775	3,512	3,190
Managers	1,100	2,025	991
2003-04			
Administrative	940	3,565	2,295
Managers	1,541	2,314	1,937
2004-05			
Administrative	1,450	4,074	2,684
Managers	2,318	3,077	2,608

National health service trust staff numbers: administration and estates

Number

NHS trust name	East Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire Hospitals	Gloucestershire Royal	Severn
1998-99	578	n/a	458	349
1999-2000	602	n/a	470	344
2000-01	652	n/a	484	355

National health service trust staff numbers: administration and estates

NHS trust name	*East Gloucestershire*	*Gloucestershire Hospitals*	*Gloucestershire Royal*	*Severn*
				Number
2001-02	700	n/a	510	376
2002-03	n/a	992	n/a	n/a
2003-04	n/a	1,054	n/a	n/a
2004-05	n/a	1,051	n/a	n/a

NHS trust staff costs: administrative and mana ,ers

NHS trust name	*East Gloucestershire*	*Gloucestershire Hospitals*	*Gloucestershire Royal*	*Severn*
				£000
1998-99				
Administrative	7,472	n/a	9,413	4,586
Managers	2,059	n/a	1,535	1,739
1999-2000				
Administrative	8,069	n/a	9,395	4,679
Managers	2,289	n/a	1,654	1,796
2000-01				
Administrative	8,850	n/a	10,055	4,724
Managers	2,593	n/a	1,926	2,039
2001-02				
Administrative	9,999	n/a	10,905	5,175
Managers	2,934	n/a	2,056	2,200
2002-03				
Administrative	n/a	17,920	n/a	n/a
Managers	n/a	5,330	n/a	n/a
2003-04				
Administrative	n/a	19,317	n/a	n/a
Managers	n/a	5,935	n/a	n/a
2004-05				
Administrative	n/a	5,546	n/a	n/a
Managers	n/a	1,734	n/a	n/a

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* stroke and *(b)* heart attack patients have died on the way to hospital in a North West ambulance service NHS trust ambulance in each of the last five years; and how long the journey was in (i) miles and (ii) minutes on each occasion. [89040]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Obesity

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts are not providing medical treatment to patients with a body mass index in excess of 30; and if she will make a statement. [81113]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not collect this information.

Osteoporosis

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has evaluated on *(a)* the effectiveness of measures to identify patients at risk of osteoporosis and *(b)* the treatment of osteoporosis by primary care organisations; and if she will make a statement. [81622]

Andy Burnham: None. The Department has not commissioned research in this area, nor are we aware that any such research has been undertaken.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost implications of the implementation of the new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance for the prevention of osteoporatic fractures. [89071]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have commissioned the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a guideline on the

"assessment of fracture risk and the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in individuals at high risk".

That work is ongoing. NICE guidelines include a costing report and costing template to provide an implementation tool to estimate the financial impact to the national health service of implementing their clinical guidelines.

Outsourcing

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work her Department has undertaken *(a)* to develop a process for primary care trusts, NHS trusts and foundation trusts to assess best value when outsourcing service provision and *(b)* to develop criteria for trusts to evaluate work that has been outsourced. [85280]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 13 July, the Department published Health reform in England: update and commissioning framework, which outlines the role of primary care trusts (PCTs) in commissioning services. The framework makes clear that, where provision is either unavailable or failing to meet required standards, PCTs will be encouraged to use open tendering as a way of ensuring innovation, quality, value and choice for patients.

As set out in the White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say", where PCTs provide services they will need to put in place clear governance procedures for commissioning decisions. These procedures will include independent scrutiny by strategic health authorities and should be transparent to all potential contractors and staff.

Contracts will be the key accountability mechanism between commissioners and providers of national health service services. The Department is consulting on whether to develop a national model contract that commissioners could use as a basis for managing providers' performance, and on the criteria that the model contract might contain.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to change the powers of local authority overview and scrutiny committees; and if she will make a statement. [84857]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no plans to change the statutory powers of overview and scrutiny committees. "A stronger local voice" sets out Government's plans for the future of patient and public involvement, which includes encouraging overview and scrutiny committees to focus on how health and social services are commissioned.

Palliative and End of Life Care

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the allocation of £12 million for 2006-07 will be released for the NHS end of life care programme and the gold standards framework in community palliative care. [89132]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have provided £12 million of funding for the end of life care programme, to be spread out over the three years from 2004 to 2007. In 2006-07, the funding will be included as part of a block sum for strategic health authorities to manage. To ensure the desired outcomes are achieved, this will be accompanied by a service level agreement.

Parliamentary Questions

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer parliamentary written questions *(a)* 82270, *(b)* 82271, *(c)* 82272 and *(d)* 82273, on telephones in hospitals, tabled by the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale for answer on 3 July. [87142]

Andy Burnham: Replies were given on 24 July and on 18 July, *Official Report*, columns 385-86W.

Patient Satisfaction (London)

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the London strategic health authorities have been requested to produce an action plan to ensure an increased level of patient satisfaction with their perception of levels of care. [86684]

Andy Burnham: The London strategic health authority (SHA) has commissioned a study to establish the public perception of the national health service in London and intends to use the results to target areas for improved performance.

The action to commission a study was contained in the SHA's Chief Executive's report to the first public board meeting on 10 July.

Personal Bedside Telephone Services

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has reviewed the findings of the survey undertaken by Patient and Public Involvement Forums into the costs associated with personal bedside telephone services in NHS hospitals; and if she will make a statement. [86373]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has set up a review group to explore the issue of costs to users of the bedside television and telephone systems in national health service hospitals. The patient and public involvement forums findings will form part of the review group's work.

Practice Allowance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress she has made in establishing an expanding practice allowance. [84463]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently working with NHS Employers to develop the new allowance proposed in paragraph 3.33 of the White Paper "Our Health Our Care Our Say".

Prostate Cancer

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department has put in place to improve the delivery of information to prostate cancer sufferers about relevant cancer support. [86683]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is clear about the need for all cancer patients to be able to access up-to-date and accessible information about their condition and that is why we are working closely with cancer charities to improve services. This is being facilitated by the coalition for cancer information, set up by the Department in 2002 bringing together key organisations to develop a coordinated approach to provision and dissemination of information.

In March 2004, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance on supportive and palliative care. One of its recommendations included the provision of high quality information to patients. The cancer services collaborative "Improvement Partnership" national patient information programme is supporting cancer networks to implement this guidance. This work will ensure that as part of their on-going cancer care, cancer patients and their carers will be offered high-quality information materials, tailored to their individual needs, at appropriate stages in their care pathways. The recent White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say", stated that by 2008, everyone with a long term condition (and their carers) will receive an information prescription to signpost them to sources of information, support and advice.

Decisions about treatment for prostate cancer can often be difficult and complicated. The first phase of the action on urology implementation of decision aids for urological cancers pilot programme ended in 2005. The pilot was designed to implement the use of decision aids for men with prostate cancer into routine practice in the national health service. The programme found that patients and professionals found the decision aids helpful in supporting the decision-making process. The second phase of the programme has now begun, aiming to enhance effectiveness before national roll-out take place. Six pilot sites are involved in the second phase.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public appointments are within her patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83178]

Andy Burnham: Details of the public appointments to public bodies sponsored by the Department can be found in 'Public Bodies', copies of which are in the Library. 'Public Bodies' has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of 'Public Bodies' contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. Comparable information for 1976 in respect of the Department could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of the remuneration for the public bodies sponsored by the Department for 2006 may be found under 'People in Post 2006' at:

www.appointments.org.uk/publications.asp

No public appointments to bodies sponsored by the Department attract emoluments beyond the daily fee or remuneration referred to.

Reconfigurations

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient and public involvement forums have objected to proposed re-configurations of hospitals and hospital services in each year since 2003. [83843]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Religious Issues

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's list of organisations consulted on religious issues affecting matters concerning her Department, what assessment she has made of the extent to which the Network of Buddhist Organisations is representative of that faith's adherents; and if she will make a statement. [85934]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has made no such assessment. The Network of Buddhist Organisations is one of a range of faith organisations that the Department consults with on relevant issues. For example, the Network of Buddhist Organisations is a member of independently formed multi-faith group which the Department maintains close contact with as part of our commitment to a multi-faith approach to NHS Chaplaincy.

Rural Health Services

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of rural households had access to primary health care facilities within 4 km, not including mobile provision and branch services, in each year since 1997. [85132]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Sheppey Community Hospital

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1568W, on Sheppey community hospital, if she will clarify when the new x-ray scanner will be installed and operational. [89039]

Caroline Flint: The NHS South East Coast has advised that at a meeting held on 12 July at Sheppey hospital, details for the installation of the new X-ray scanner were finalised. An agreement was reached to dismantle the old equipment during the week commencing 17 July 2006 and it is anticipated that installation of the new machine will start once this has been completed. Installation will take around three weeks from start to finish.

Silver Alloy Catheters

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients with relevant conditions use silver alloy catheters; and what savings have been identified as a result of their use. [86405]

Andy Burnham: The data requested are not collected centrally.

The ultimate decision on which type of catheter is used for patients is a clinical one. Recently updated guidelines[1] commissioned by the Department indicate that further properly conducted trials are required to obtain definitive conclusions on the cost effectiveness of these catheters.

[1] The epic project. Updating the evidence base for national evidence based guidelines for preventing health care associated infections in NHS hospital in England: a report with recommendations. Pellowe CM, Pratt RJ, Loveday HP, Harper P, Robinson N, Jones SRLJ. Brit J Infect Control 2004; 5: 10-16.

Sir Alistair Graham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to Question 80515, how many days a year were expected from Sir Alistair Graham as a member of the *(a)* NHS Appointments Commission and *(b)* West Yorkshire strategic health authority. [85983]

Andy Burnham: Sir Alistair Graham would have been expected to work in the order of 150 days a year for each of the NHS Appointments Commission and the West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority. These appointments did not run concurrently.

Skipton Fund

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1816, on the Skipton Fund, whether *(a)* a panel has been appointed to hear appeals to the Skipton Fund and *(b)* a timetable has been set for the commencement of appeals to the Skipton Fund; and if she will make a statement. [87380]

Caroline Flint: The NHS Appointments Commission (NHSAC) will be interviewing further candidates for the Skipton Fund appeals panel at the end of this month, as no applications for two of the positions had been received by the original closing date. The recommendations of the interviewing panel will then be forwarded for consideration by the NHSAC board. Once the panel has been appointed, the timetable for hearing appeals will be arranged by the panel chair and the secretariat.

Small Acute Hospitals

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made since the Department published its policy guidance entitled Keeping the NHS Local—A New Direction of Travel in respect of the protection and enhancement of small acute hospitals located remotely from larger district general hospitals. [87463]

Andy Burnham: Following "Keeping the NHS Local" the Department has worked to support strategic health authorities (SHAs) in their work with the local national health service in designing new models of service within the policy framework, especially about undertaking effective public engagement and consultation.

More recently the director of programmes and performance at the Department wrote to SHAs on 16 February 2006 reminding them of the policy position set out in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services", specifically 6.42 which said that

"community facilities should not be lost in response to short-term budgetary pressures that are not related to the viability of the community facility itself".

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many small acute hospitals have been *(a)* subject to a withdrawal of emergency facilities, *(b)* subject to a reduction of acute facilities, *(c)* closed, *(d)* proposed for closure, *(e)* subject to an overall closure in emergency facilities and *(f)* subject to an overall closure in acute facilities since the publication of the policy guidance Keeping the NHS Local—A New Direction of Travel. [87488]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held by the Department.

Stipendiary Chaplains

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time stipendiary chaplains are working in the national health service in England; how many are (i) Christian, (ii) Jewish, (iii) Muslim, (iv) Hindu, (v) Sikh, and (vi) of other religions; and what the total cost was to public funds of providing NHS chaplaincy services in the last year for which figures are available. [87324]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect data on NHS hospital chaplaincy.

Sunglasses

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to encourage the wearing of sunglasses; [85967]

(2) what research her Department has commissioned into the effects on eye health in *(a)* adults and *(b)* children of wearing sunglasses. [85968]

Caroline Flint: The Health Protection Agency's (then national radiological protection board) advisory group on non-ionising radiation (AGNIR) produced a report in 2002 on the effects of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) on human health, which included advice on effects on the eye. The main source of UVR for the majority of people is the sun.

There has been no specific action taken and there are no plans to encourage the wearing of sunglasses, as the advice is not straightforward. The executive summary of the AGNIR report includes the following advice.

The eyes can be protected by wearing a hat, eyeshades and using sunglasses that exclude both direct and reflected UVR. It is important that theses sunglasses include wraparound protection. Sunglasses fitted with small lenses offer inadequate protection and may actually increase risk of eye damage as they can cause dilation of the pupils and allow the entry of more UVR into the eye from around the periphery of the sunglasses.

The United Kingdom SunSmart Campaign, run by Cancer Research UK and funded by the Department also has advice about eye protections from the sun.

Third Sector Care

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of her Department's expenditure in 2006-07 is expected to be spent on treatments and care provided by the third sector; and what that figure is expected to be by 2009. [85910]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available centrally.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of staff her Department expects to move across to the third sector from their current employment with the NHS by the end of 2010. [85911]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As we noted in 'Health Reform in England: update and commissioning framework', published on 13 July 2006, many third sector providers are vital partners in delivery of care. Our policy is to support greater participation by third sector organisations where they can help deliver better services with better value for money.

We are taking forward the conclusions and commitments of the Third Sector Commissioning Task Force. However, the Department has no target or proposals for staff to move from the national health service to the third sector.

Trans Fatty Acids

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* estimated adult intake of trans fatty acids and *(b)* recommended maximum threshold for health was in each year that records are available. [86103]

Caroline Flint: The most recent data available, from national diet and nutrition survey of adults carried out in 2000-01, show average intakes of trans fatty acids at 1.2 per cent. of food energy. Previous comparable data from 1986-87 show adult average intakes of trans fatty acids at 2.2 per cent, of food energy.

In 1991, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy recommended that population average intakes of trans fatty acids should not exceed 2 per cent, of food energy. No specific recommendations about the dietary intake of trans fatty acids had been established at the time of the 1986-87 survey.

Trust Reconfiguration

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultations concerning reconfiguration of hospital trusts in England have *(a)* been referred to her Department and *(b)* subsequently been upheld by her Department in each of the last five years. [86729]

Andy Burnham: There has been one referral from a Community Health Council and 16 primary care trust (PCT) and trust referrals from overview and scrutiny committees to the Secretary of State for Health in relation to contested service reconfigurations. The table sets out the outcome in each case.

Number of referrals	*Outcome*
1	Referral upheld
1	Proposals withdrawn by PCT in favour of wide-ranging review
4	Ministerial decision to support changes referred for consideration
2	Referred back for national health service and stakeholders to reach local agreement
2	Referred to Independent Reconfiguration Panel for advice
6	Being considered by the Department

vCJD Compensation Scheme

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to ensure that administrative costs paid to Charles Russell solicitors for their administration of the vCJD compensation scheme are kept as low as possible; and if she will make a statement. [86539]

Caroline Flint: The vCJD Trust has appointed the legal firm, Charles Russell, to provide support. The trust is independent of the Department and these arrangements, and their costs, are therefore the responsibility of the trust. Both the Department and the trust agree on the importance of minimising costs wherever possible.

Waiting Lists (Southend)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on NHS waiting lists in Southend-on-Sea for *(a)* elective surgery and *(b)* out-patient appointments; what the (i) average and (ii) longest wait was in each case in 2005-06; and if she will make a statement. [87316]

Andy Burnham: Waiting times figures for Southend-on-Sea Primary Care Trust, the latest available are shown in the table.

	In-patient	*Out-patient*
Number on list	3,255	4,094
Longest wait	5-6 months	8-13 weeks
Average wait (weeks)	6.3	6.1

No patients waited longer than six months or 13 weeks.

Ward Sister

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors were taken into account when the decision was made to abolish the post of ward sister; and if she will make a statement. [85430]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There has been no decision to abolish the post of ward sister. Some trusts have chosen to call ward sisters by other names such as charge nurse or ward manager but the core components of the role have remained the same. Ward sisters are at the heart of delivering high quality care to patients in a variety of settings and they have a vital role within nursing.

Written Questions

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many written questions to her Department remain unanswered at 25 July for *(a)* between two and four weeks, *(b)* between four and six weeks, *(c)* between six and eight weeks and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [87921]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This session, we have received over 13,000 questions for written answer. As at today, there are 26 written questions unanswered for between two and four weeks, 11 for between four and six weeks, five for between six and eight weeks, and seven more-than eight weeks. None were questions tabled for answer on a named day.

York NHS Trust

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were at York NHS Trust *(a)* in each specialty and *(b)* in total excluding the specialties transferred to Selby and York Primary Care Trust in each year since 1996-97. [87134]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. However, finished consultant episodes at York Hospitals NHS Trust in each specialty are shown in the table.

Main specialty	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*	*1996-97*
General surgery	8,972	8,727	8,034	7,440	7,493	7,620	7,618	6,929	7,290
Urology	5,326	5,345	4,817	4,719	4,860	4,432	4,441	4,319	4,390
Trauma and orthopaedics	5,548	5,566	5,158	4,649	4,660	4,468	4,560	4,274	4,375
Ear, nose and throat	2,075	2,041	2,050	2,301	2,193	2,166	2,134	1,833	2,211
Ophthalmology	3,134	2,534	2,290	2,272	2,253	2,288	2,175	1,885	1,923
Oral surgery	1,491	1,409	1,354	1,223	1,244	1,368	1,351	1,268	1,215
Restorative dentistry	—	7	—	339	336	333	364	397	422
Plastic surgery	—	—	•	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiothoracic surgery	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	—	—
Accident and emergency	356	1,879	29	•	—	134	460	731	1,361
Anaesthetics	1,900	16,536	1,882	1,918	1,906	2,292	2,469	2,345	1,174
General medicine	18,003	684	15,561	14,076	12,888	12,002	11,592	10,961	10,604
Haematology (clinical)	991	62	667	824	938	1,391	1,310	1,043	814
Dermatology	49	—	75	103	127	148	170	113	132
Genito-urinary medicine	•	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	—
Medical oncology	166	165	190	269	348	126	•	•	—
Neurology	508	670	520	510	429	397	404	409	441
Rheumatology	233	256	172	184	190	265	318	351	290
Paediatrics	4,898	4,651	4,124	4,158	3,908	4,168	3,741	3,321	3,291
Geriatric medicine	9,316	7,756	6,160	5,448	5,216	5,021	5,254	4,561	4,311
Gynaecology	10,664	9,738	9,310	9,463	9,312	9,306	13,257	13,471	13,572
General medical practice	1,687	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General practice with maternity function	—	1,631	1,581	1,359	1,648	1,737	493	125	201

Main specialty	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98	1996-97
General practice other than maternity	—	—	—	370	411	437	480	522	519
Mental handicap	—	—	—	46	35	40	38	42	76
Mental illness	—	—	—	614	686	694	904	874	993
Child adolescent and psychiatry	—	—	—	53	50	48	42	44	53
Old age psychiatry	—	—	—	612	616	685	663	643	677
Radiotherapy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	•
Radiology	—	•	•	—	—	•	•	—	—
Chemical pathology	214	40	38	80	80	190	121	72	67
Histopathology	—	—	—	—	—	•	—	—	—

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by York NHS Trust in all areas excluding those transferred to Selby and York Primary Care Trust in each year since 1996-97. [87135]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information has been set out in the table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Medical and dental and non-medical staff in York Hospitals NHS Trust by specified staff groups data as at 30 September each year full time equivalent

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
York Hospitals NHS Trust	3,660	3,504	3,517	3,732	3,224	2,842	3,111	3,247	3,302
All HCHS medical and dental staff	261	274	283	281	258	237	294	320	344
Consultant	102	98	110	109	120	113	119	131	149
Other grades	159	176	172	171	138	124	174	189	195
All non-medical staff	3,399	3,230	3,234	3,451	2,967	2,605	2,817	2,927	2,958
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,362	1,235	1,268	1,375	1,132	915	948	990	1,023
Other professionally qualified clinical staff	409	431	438	465	344	355	387	402	407
Central functions	166	155	190	208	171	183	196	215	202
Other staff	1,463	1,408	1,338	1,403	1,319	1,153	1,286	1,319	1,327

Sources:
1. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for *(a)* elective in-patient admissions and *(b)* first out-patient appointments were in each specialty at York NHS trust in each year since 1996-97. [87136]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is in the following tables.

Out-patient waiting times for York Health Services Trust 1997 to 2006, median waiting time for first out-patient appointment from a general practitioner referral to a consultant

Weeks

	Speciality					
Quarter ending March	Anaesthetics	Dermatology	General surgery	Urology	Trauma and orthopaedics	Ear, nose and throat
1997	10.2	4.5	3.9	10.1	11.1	6.3
1998	n/a	6.7	5.9	11.9	10.6	8.2
1999	9.9	9.2	7.6	16.5	13.0	9.5
2000	11.8	8.0	7.3	13.1	14.3	11.7

Out-patient waiting times for York Health Services Trust 1997 to 2006, median waiting time for first out-patient appointment from a general practitioner referral to a consultant

Weeks

	Speciality					
Quarter ending March	*Anaesthetics*	*Dermatology*	*General surgery*	*Urology*	*Trauma and orthopaedics*	*Ear, nose and throat*
2001	8.7	7.2	3.9	7.8	13.0	7.0
2002	9.8	10.6	3.5	7.8	10.1	8.8
2003	8.9	10.7	4.8	7.9	11.6	9.6
2004	12.8	7.9	5.5	9.9	7.8	11.7
2005	17.9	7.4	6.3	11.0	8.8	11.9
2006	8.2	6.2	5.9	7.5	6.7	7.0

Weeks

	Speciality					
	General medicine	*Genito-urinary medicine*	*Oral surgery*	*Geriatric medicine*	*Neurology*	*Obstetrics and gynaecology (obstetrics A|N)*
1997	8.0	n/a	7.2	n/a	12.4	3.3
1998	8.4	n/a	4.1	n/a	11.1	3.3
1999	9.6	n/a	3.8	3.5	18.4	5.8
2000	9.7	n/a	5.0	3.8	13.2	5.5
2001	9.2	n/a	4.2	5.7	19.8	6.4
2002	8.6	2.0	7.0	5.6	30.3	6.3
2003	8.2	2.0	3.8	6.5	13.4	6.6
2004	9.2	2.0	6.1	3.8	14.3	6.7
2005	7.7	2.0	7.5	3.3	11.5	6.4
2006	6.4	2.0	6.8	3.5	7.5	n/a

Weeks

	Speciality					
	Obstetrics and gynaecology (gynaecology)	*Ophthalmology*	*Orthodontics*	*Paediatrics*	*Rheumatology*	*Total*
1997	3.6	9.3	8.4	7.1	7.8	5.9
1998	4.3	9.9	11.6	8.4	7.3	6.6
1999	7.7	10.6	15.8	5.9	8.4	8.4
2000	8.3	11.5	17.6	7.5	5.5	8.9
2001	3.6	8.8	10.4	6.1	6.0	6.9
2002	3.7	7.9	11.3	6.5	6.8	6.1
2003	3.9	6.9	15.5	6.8	8.5	6.4
2004	5.0	7.8	15.6	5.9	9.9	6.4
2005	3.6	6.8	17.2	6.0	8.3	6.4
2006	3.8	4.8	9.9	7.2	7.9	5.4

Note:
Only includes specialties with over 100 patients
Source:
Department of Health QM08

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cyprus

13. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to help bring about the reunification of Cyprus. [87881]

Mr. Hoon: We fully support the UN's efforts and welcome the recent agreement between the two leaders on a mechanism for dialogue. We are urging both sides to take advantage of this opportunity, and working within the Security Council to ensure its full support for these efforts.

India

14. **Mr. Piara S. Khabra:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the UK Government are providing to the relatives of the victims of the bombings in Mumbai and the Government of India in its fight against terrorism. [87882]

Mr. McCartney: Clearly our thoughts are with the relatives and friends of those killed and injured in these barbaric attacks. Following the explosions the Prime Minister spoke to Dr. Manmohan Singh. Both the PM and our Deputy High Commissioner in Mumbai offered the Indian Government any assistance that might be required in the aftermath of these attacks. We are currently awaiting India's response.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives from the *(a)* Indian and *(b)* Pakistani Governments regarding the Mumbai bombings. [87969]

Dr. Howells: UK officials here and in India have been in detailed discussions with the Indian authorities following the bombings. We have made offers of assistance to the Indian Government but to date they have not come back with any specific requests.

Officials from our High Commission in Islamabad have regular and frequent contact with the Pakistani Government, and have discussed the explosions in Mumbai with them. We welcome their rapid condemnation of these attacks and their offer to the Indian authorities to co-operate in any investigation.

Middle East

15. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Government of Israel on the situation in the Middle East. [87883]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is engaged actively in the situation in the Middle East and will be attending the Lebanon Core Group meeting in Rome tomorrow. She has been in regular contact with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni and, in close communication with my right hon. Friend, since Friday 21 July I have attended meetings in Cyprus, Beirut, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Ramallah and Amman.

16. **Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the prospects for peace in the Middle East. [87884]

Dr. Howells: Whilst we need an urgent end to the current crisis, real peace can only come through a lasting settlement. Negotiations are manifestly the best way to move the peace process forward. We welcome the commitment given by both Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian President Abbas to negotiations and have urged both sides to resume talks. We do, however, remain acutely concerned at Syrian and Iranian support for Hizbollah and other extremist groups.

20. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the security situation in the Middle East. [87888]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave today to my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright).

We are gravely concerned by the crisis in the Middle East. This threatens the wider security of the region, and is causing huge civilian suffering on all sides. We are committed to helping resolve this crisis. We want an immediate end to the violence and the release of the Israeli soldiers. Our priority is to create conditions for a credible and sustainable cease-fire.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with the ambassadors of the Government of (i) Syria, (ii) Lebanon and (iii) Iran about Hezbollah terrorists firing rockets into the state of Israel; what reply was received in each case; and if she will make a statement. [87102]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has been in contact with his Lebanese counterpart to offer his support. As he told the House on 18 July

> "I have spoken to the Prime Minister of Lebanon. I think Lebanon is looking for international help. The precise way in which that is used and the implications for its own armed forces are matters for debate. I believe the Prime Minister of Lebanon wants to do the right thing. The people around him are desperate for some stability in their country and they feel very angry that they are caught in the present situation. We should be helping them in any way we can". [Official Report, 18 July 2006, column 168].

Our ambassador in Beirut has also been in regular contact with the Lebanese Government.

Our embassy in Damascus has been in contact with Syrian officials and we have also twice summoned the Syrian ambassador in London to pressure Syria to take action in relation to Hezbollah.

We have had no recent contacts with Iran about Hezbollah but we will keep up the diplomatic pressure on Iran to comply with its international obligations.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* representations (i) Ministers and (ii) officials have had with governments of the European Union about Hezbollah terrorism; and if she will make a statement. [87103]

Mr. Hoon: At the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 17 July, EU Foreign Ministers condemned the attacks by Hezbollah on Israel and the abduction of two Israeli soldiers and called for their immediate and unconditional release and for the cessation of all attacks on Israeli towns and cities. They also recalled the need for the Lebanese state to restore its sovereignty over the whole of its national territory and to do its utmost to prevent such attacks, and expressed their support for Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora. They also urged the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1559 and UNSCR 1680, including disbanding and disarming of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, and strict respect of the sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and political independence of Lebanon. In the past, Ministers and officials have regularly discussed Hezbollah with EU colleagues.

Both Ministers and officials will continue to work with EU partners towards the cessation of violence in the region.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support she has offered to the high-level UN delegation to the Middle East UN mission; what its aims are; and when its mission will end. [87555]

Margaret Beckett: We fully support the UN delegation to the Middle East and are offering the team logistical assistance on the ground. We flew the delegates to and from Beirut from UK airbases. The role of the three person team, led by the UN Secretary-General's Special Political Adviser, Mr. Vijay Nambiar, is to help defuse the major crisis in the region. The other members are UN Envoy for the Middle East Mr. Alvaro de Soto and UN Special Envoy for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) Mr. Terje Roed Larsen. The UN mission will deliver to all parties the UN Secretary-General's call to exercise restraint and to do whatever possible to help contain the conflict. It will also reiterate the UN Secretary-General's message to respect international humanitarian law and to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure. We expect a briefing in the Security Council from Mr. Nambiar on 20 July and to hear from the UN Secretary-General's recommendations on next steps.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [87558]

Margaret Beckett: We continue to have concerns about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Electricity and water supplies remain irregular. In a statement on 19 July, the Israel Defence Force said it opened two crossings into Gaza. 145 food trucks entered Gaza through the Karni crossing, and 500,000 litres of diesel fuel, 90,000 litres of gasoline and 175 tons of cooking gas were allowed through the Nahal Oz crossing. In addition to this, the Rafah Crossing was opened on 18 July to allow 5,000 Palestinians to cross from Egypt into Gaza.

We remain fully committed to supporting the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM). The European Community has committed €105 million to the mechanism. The UK intends to contribute up to £12 million. We are aware that several other European countries are considering making contributions. This will enable us to provide support in the health sector, to fund utilities and to give welfare allowances to some of the poorest Palestinians. In line with the commitments made at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg on 16 July and by EU Foreign Ministers on 17 July, we and the European Commission are looking at options to further expand the TIM.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1158-59W, on Israel, whether any information has come to light that *(a)* military equipment and *(b)* components supplied by the UK have been deployed by Israel during its operations in (i) Gaza since 27 June 2006 and (ii) in Lebanon since 12 July 2006 in a manner consistent with the consolidated criteria. [87752]

Mr. Hoon: We have no reports of the use of UK supplied equipment. Our embassy in Tel Aviv continues to monitor the situation in the region closely. All applications for export licences are assessed rigorously on a case by case basis against the Consolidated Criteria taking full account of the prevailing circumstances at the time of application and other relevant announced government policies.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the level of stability in the Middle East; and if she will make a statement. [87872]

Margaret Beckett: We are gravely concerned by the crisis in Lebanon. Syrian and Iranian support for Hezbollah, and other extremist groups, is encouraging extremism, threatening the stability of the region, and putting peace in the Middle East further out of reach. We call on Syria and Iran to stop their support for Hizbollah and end their interference in Lebanese internal affairs in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1680.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on steps the Government are taking to try to bring an end to violence in the Middle East. [87898]

Mr. Hoon: Both my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary have been in regular contact with their Israeli, Palestinian and Lebanese counterparts and we are working closely with international partners in the region, and the UN, EU and G8. The framework for resolving these disputes is already established by international consensus. We will remain actively engaged with our international partners to help bring peace to the region.

We fully support the efforts of the UN team led by Vijay Nambiar and of the EU High Representative Javier Solana who are working hard to broker an end to the conflict. We are offering both teams logistical assistance on the ground. The UN Security Council discussed the crisis on 20 July 2006, and there will be further intense discussion in the coming days.

We want an immediate end to the violence and the release of the Israeli soldiers. Our priority must be to create conditions to allow a credible and sustainable cease-fire.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the situation in Gaza. [87899]

Mr. Hoon: There has been intense international activity to try to bring about a cessation of the current crisis in Gaza and the resumption of negotiations. High-level delegations from both the EU and the UN have been to both Israel and Palestine in the past two weeks. The Governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have made strenuous efforts to persuade the militants holding the kidnapped Israeli soldier to release him.

Whilst we need an urgent end to the current crisis, real peace can only come through a lasting settlement. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear, negotiations are manifestly the best way to move the peace process forward. We welcome the commitment given by both Israeli Prime Minister

Olmert and Palestinian President Abbas to negotiations and have urged both sides to resume talks as soon as possible. This will require great effort and courage from both sides.

We are also increasingly concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear our commitment to continue helping the Palestinian people. With a range of partners, we have worked hard to establish the "Temporary International Mechanism" to help alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people. The UK will contribute up to £12 million to the mechanism. The G8 called for an expansion of this mechanism. It also committed to supporting the economic and humanitarian needs of the Lebanese people.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on new mechanisms for funding the Palestinians. [87900]

Mr. Hoon: We remain fully committed to supporting the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM). The European Commission has committed €105 million to the mechanism. In addition, the UK intends to contribute up to £12 million. We are aware that several other European countries are considering making contributions. This will enable us to provide support in the health sector, to fund utilities and to give welfare allowances to some of the poorest Palestinians. In line with the commitments made at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg on 16 July and by EU Foreign Ministers on 17 July, we and the European Commission are looking at options to further expand the TIM.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the level of financial support provided by *(a)* Iran and *(b)* Syria to Hezbollah. [88264]

Margaret Beckett: We are very concerned about the role of Syria and Iran in Lebanon. Iran supplies Hizballah with financing and weapons—weapons very similar to those used against British troops in Basra—and has personnel in Lebanon assisting Hizbollah. Syria finances Hizballah and facilitates the transfer of arms from Iran to Hizballah.

Through their support for Hizballah, Iran and Syria are encouraging extremism, threatening the stability of the region, and putting peace in the Middle East further out of reach. We have called on Syria and Iran to stop their support for Hizballah and end their interference in Lebanese internal affairs in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1680.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the humanitarian consequences in Gaza of *(a)* the withholding of the Palestinian tax revenue by Israel and *(b)* the suspension of international aid. [88389]

Dr. Howells: We continue to have serious concerns about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Electricity and water supplies remain irregular. In a statement on 19 July, the Israel Defence Force said it had opened two crossings into Gaza. 145 food trucks entered Gaza through the Kami crossing, and 500,000 litres of diesel fuel, 90,000 litres of gasoline and 175 tons of cooking gas were allowed through the Nahal Oz crossing. In addition to this, the Rafah Crossing was opened on 18 July to allow 5,000 Palestinians to cross from Egypt into Gaza.

We, along with our EU partners, continue to call upon Israel to transfer the revenue it collects on behalf of the Palestinian people. The withholding of this tax revenue, as well as other factors, adversely affects the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Following the Hamas led Palestinian Authority's (PA) failure to commit to the three Quartet principles, the UK and other key donors, suspended direct budgetary assistance to the PA. We remain committed to supporting the Palestinian people.

Most recently, the UK announced its intention to contribute up to £12 million for the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM). The European Community has committed €105 million to the mechanism. We are aware that several other European countries are considering making contributions. This will enable us to provide support in the health sector, to fund utilities and to give welfare allowances to some of the poorest Palestinians. In line with the commitments made at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg on 16 July and by EU Foreign Ministers on 17 July, we and the European Commission are looking at options to further expand the TIM.

Sudan

18. **Mr. Andrew Pelling:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on progress towards disarming of the Janjaweed in Darfur. [87886]

Mr. McCartney: On 23 June, the Government of Sudan publicly began disarming the Janjaweed/armed militias. This is only the first step and needs to be followed by further action. We are pushing for the publication by the Government of a structured disarmament plan, which it is required to provide under the Darfur Peace Agreement.

22. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the political situation in Darfur. [87890]

Mr. McCartney: The Darfur Peace Agreement remains the only vehicle for a quick return to normality in the region. We call on the non-signatories to support the agreement. We also call on the Government of Sudan and Minni Minawi to find ways of encouraging the non-signatories to come on board, including by implementing the agreement in a way that benefits all the people of Darfur.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on progress made towards *(a)* the imposition of a travel ban on and *(b)* the freezing of assets of those impeding the peace process in Sudan. [79922]

Margaret Beckett: All sides are responsible for crimes in Darfur. The UK has taken a lead in supporting sanctions for Sudan. We co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1591 which allowed the Security Council to impose sanctions on anyone who impedes the peace process in Darfur. We also co-sponsored UNSCR 1672, adopted on 25 April this year, imposing targeted sanctions on four individuals from all sides to the conflict. This sends a clear message that the Security Council will not tolerate violations of human rights or other such actions in Darfur.

Iran

17. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of Iran about support for Hezbollah; and if she will make a statement. [87885]

Dr. Howells: On 21 July officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office met the Iranian Ambassador in London. During their discussions they repeated our call for Iran, and Syria, to stop their support for Hezbollah and end their interference in Lebanese internal affairs in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1680. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not herself discussed this with Iran.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of which countries supply dual-use technology to Iran; and if he will make a statement. [68203]

Margaret Beckett: Many types of equipment and technology can have more than one use. Many countries, including the UK and other EU member states, make provision for licensing the export of dual use goods to Iran where this would not raise significant proliferation or other concerns. We work through the multilateral export control regimes and through bilateral contacts to ensure as many countries as possible apply close scrutiny to all such exports in order to ensure compliance with the obligations undertaken under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

UK exports are subject to the Export Control Act, 2002. Details of all dual-use exports from the UK can be found in the Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls, available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at: www.fco.gov.uk.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her latest assessment is of the threat posed to regional security by Iran's nuclear programme. [80280]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 28 June 2006]:* The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East would pose a serious threat to regional peace and stability, as well as to the multilateral non-proliferation regime.

We remain deeply concerned about the intentions of Iran's nuclear programme. Iran is continuing uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, which will enable it to develop the know-how to produce fissile material that could be used in nuclear weapons. Moreover, as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General, Dr Mohammed El-Baradei, has described in his most recent reports, Iran is not co-operating fully with the IAEA and many important issues concerning its programme remain to be resolved to the IAEA's satisfaction.

We urge Iran to respond positively to the proposals presented by EU high representative, Javier Solana, on 6 June and to take steps necessary to create confidence that the intentions of its nuclear programme are solely peaceful, including suspending fully all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking towards ensuring that Iran does not acquire nuclear weapons; and if she will make a statement. [80281]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 28 June 2006]:* We remain deeply concerned that Iran is continuing uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, which will enable it to develop the know- how to produce fissile material suitable for use in nuclear weapons, despite the requirement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors and the UN Security Council that these activities should be suspended.

On 6 June, Javier Solana, EU High Representative, presented new proposals on behalf of China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK and the US. These offer a way forward that would give Iran everything it needs to develop a modern civil nuclear power industry, as well as political and economic benefits, while meeting international concerns. For talks to resume, Iran must reinstate the full suspension deemed essential by the IAEA Board; we would also suspend action in the Security Council.

We are disappointed that Iran has not so far engaged seriously with these proposals, nor reinstated the suspension. We therefore have no choice but to return to the UN Security Council and seek a resolution that will make the suspension mandatory.

Our proposals remain on the table. We continue to urge Iran to take the positive path that is on offer.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on Iran's referral to the Security Council. [87897]

Dr. Howells: On 29 March, the President of the Security Council issued a statement agreed by consensus. This called on Iran to co-operate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and take the steps identified as essential by the IAEA Board of Governors, including reinstating a full suspension of all uranium enrichment related and reprocessing activities.

We are deeply concerned that, nearly four months later, Iran is still not co-operating fully with the IAEA, and has continued and expanded its enrichment

activities. Nor has Iran responded positively to the proposals made by the UK, with China, France, Germany, Russia and the US (the 'E3+3') which would enable talks to resume on a long-term solution.

In these circumstances, the E3+3 have decided that there is no choice but to return to the Security Council and seek a Resolution making the suspension mandatory on Iran. Should Iran refuse to comply, we will work for the adoption of measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

We continue to urge Iran to respond positively to the *E3+3 proposals*. If Iran reinstates a full suspension of enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, as required by the IAEA Board, we are prepared to suspend further action in the Security Council.

Lebanon

19. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Government of Lebanon about the current Israeli attacks and incursions into Lebanon. [87887]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has been in contact with his Lebanese counterpart to offer support. As he told the House on 18 July

> "I have spoken to the Prime Minister of Lebanon. I think Lebanon is looking for international help...I believe the Prime Minister of Lebanon wants to do the right thing. The people around him are desperate for some stability in their country and they feel very angry that they are caught in the present situation". [Official Report, 18th July 2006, c. 168]

I also held discussions with Prime Minister Siniora during my recent visit to the region. Our ambassador in Beirut remains in regular contact with the Lebanese Government.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her latest assessment is of the situation in Israel and Lebanon. [87896]

Mr. Hoon: We are gravely concerned by the crisis in Lebanon. It is causing great harm to the civilian populations on both sides and threatens the wider security of the region. We are seriously concerned by the numbers of deaths, casualties and displaced persons that have been caused as a result of this conflict. We continue to appeal to both sides to act with utmost restraint.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said, this conflict is most easily ended by the undoing of what started it: Hizbollah should hand back the kidnapped Israeli soldiers immediately and stop targeting Israeli towns and cities.

Syrian and Iranian support for Hizbollah and other extremist groups is encouraging extremism, threatening the stability of the region, and putting peace in the Middle East further out of reach. We call on Syria and Iran to stop their support for Hizbollah and end their interference in Lebanese internal affairs in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1680.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place between her Department and the Israeli authorities since the invasion of Lebanon. [88387]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to the Israeli Prime Minister Olmert on 18 July. On 25 June, 6, 13 and 18 July my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Livni. On 18 July she also spoke to the Israeli ambassador, Zvi Heifetz. During my visit to the region on 22-24 July, I spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Livni.

Our embassy in Tel Aviv have been in regular contact with the Israeli authorities since 12 July. On 12 July we lobbied the Israeli Government to open Kerem Shalom for humanitarian assistance and people to re-enter Gaza.

Our British ambassador in Tel Aviv has been in constant contact with the Israeli authorities since 12 July, speaking to, among others, the Israeli Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Adviser, the Israeli Foreign Minister, the Israeli Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, and the Israeli Tourism Minister—who is a member of the Israeli security cabinet. He raised our concerns about civilian casualties and destruction of infrastructure in Lebanon and called for proportionality and restraint.

The Defence Section at our British embassy in Tel Aviv has been in contact throughout the last two weeks with the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in order to facilitate the evacuation of British citizens from Lebanon. The Defence Section have also received briefings from the IDF and raised on a number of occasions our concerns regarding proportionality and civilian casualties.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what actions her Department has taken to seek an end to Israeli military action in *(a)* Gaza and *(b)* Lebanon. [88388]

Dr. Howells: We are working closely with international partners in the region, the UN, EU and G8, towards a ceasefire. Both my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary have been in regular contact with their counterparts in the region. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to the Lebanese Prime Minister on 13 July and to Israeli Prime Minister Olmert on 18 July. On 25 June, and on 6, 13 and 18 July my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Livni. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also spoke to Palestinian President Abbas on 25 June and 6 July. During my visit to the region on 22 July, I met with Lebanese Prime Minister Siniora, Foreign Minister Salloukh and others. On 22 July I met Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Livni to raise our concerns.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) (UIN 89157).

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will call for an immediate ceasefire of Israeli attacks on Lebanon. [88547]

Dr. Howells: We are working urgently with international partners towards a ceasefire. But it is crucial that any ceasefire is durable.

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said,

"this conflict is most easily ended by the undoing of what started it: Hezbollah should hand back the kidnapped Israeli soldiers immediately."

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what date the Foreign Office expects to evacuate all British citizens from Lebanon who wish to leave the country. [88827]

Dr. Howells: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff coordinated with the Ministry of Defence the evacuation of some 4,600 people from Lebanon. Around half of these were flown on to the UK at their request; others have gone on to other destinations. This evacuation was widely publicised in Lebanon at the time; the last scheduled UK departure was 22 July, because the British embassy in Beirut and all of those involved in evacuating British nationals judged that the numbers wishing to leave had shrunk almost to nothing.

Those British passport holders in Lebanon who did not leave during the evacuation, but who now wish to do so, should contact the embassy in Beirut, or the FCO, for up-to-the-minute information. Full details are set out in the FCO Travel Advice for Lebanon, on the FCO website at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c==Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618386118.

Gaza

21. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Quartet group has had on Israel's military incursions in Gaza. [87889]

Dr. Howells: Although the Quartet has not met formally to discuss the current situation in the Middle East, members have remained in regular contact. Most recently, Quartet members attended the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg on 16 July arid EU Foreign Ministers met in Brussels on 17 July. All Quartet members remain actively engaged to resolve the situation.

Iraq

23. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the political situation in Iraq. [87891]

Dr. Howells: The recent increase in violence in Iraq is of great concern. We need to see a halt to the round of revenge killings. Successfully tackling the issues driving the violence requires sustained commitment and strong leadership from the Iraqi Government and key political and community leaders. The Prime Minister discussed this with Iraqi Prime Minister during his visit here on 24 July. We are giving his Government our full support.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 13 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1122W, on Iraq, if he will place the written material prepared by oil advisers seconded by the Government to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq in the Library. [66779]

Mr. Hoon: These documents have been placed in the Library of the House and I will arrange for copies to be sent to my hon. Friend.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to her answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 327-8W, on Iraq, what form local government takes in each governorate; what powers it has; what responsibility it takes for local reconstruction; what role it has in the delivery of security; and what assessment the Government have made of its democratic accountability. [85599]

Margaret Beckett: Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Order 71 sets out the composition and powers delegated to local government. Copies of this are available at the following website at:

http://cpa-iraq.org/regulations/20040406_CPAORD_71_Local_Governmental_Powers_.pdf.

I will also arrange for a copy of CPA Order 71 to be placed in the Library of the House and for a copy to be sent to the hon. Member.

This order was designed to improve delivery of public services by appropriately empowering government bodies at governorate, municipal and local levels. Each governorate may:

raise revenue from taxes;

plan/implement investment projects approved by the Provincial Reconstruction and Development Committee (including in partnership with international or non-governmental organisations); and

carry out other activities that are not exclusively reserved for central government (i.e. foreign policy, national security policy and fiscal and monetary policies).

Governorates are also responsible for overseeing the quality and timeliness of projects carried out by the Technical Directorates or relevant Ministries.

National Security is a central government responsibility. At the provincial level the Iraqi police force, headed by a Chief of police, is responsible for maintaining law and order. Given the current security situation, the Iraqi army supported by multi- national forces also retains responsibility for security. Ultimately this will be handed over to the Iraqi authorities. The Iraqi police force reports to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. The Iraqi army reports to the Iraqi Ministry of Defence.

Local government currently consists of 18 Governorate Councils (GC), each with 41 members, and a Baghdad GC, with 51 members. These were elected in the January 2005 national elections.

Each GC is headed by a Chairman and is responsible for electing the Governor. Beneath the GCs are municipal councils (i.e. there are 15 in Baghdad governorate) and local councils (over 700 nationally).

Our missions in Kirkuk, Basra and Baghdad constantly monitor and report on the political progress in Iraq, including the democratic process. That process is not yet complete; the next step in the democratic calendar is for Iraq to hold provincial elections. Through elections of provincial, municipal and local councils and direct democratic accountability for Governors and Chiefs of police, the system should provide a higher degree of (indirect) democratic accountability.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to her answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 328-30W, on Iraq, what further progress has been made on achieving the milestones for police reform in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan. [85600]

Margaret Beckett: Since my reply to the hon. Member (*Official Report*, columns 328-30W), we have trained an additional 1,300 police officers in Basra, 154 in Muthanna and 607 in Maysan. Responsibility for policing in Dhi Qar continues to lie with the Italian contingent.

On 12 July 2006, responsibility for security in Muthana was transferred from the multi-national forces in Iraq (MNF-I) to local authorities.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her Answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 328W, on Iraq, what progress has been made by the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility in Iraq; and what recommendations it has made on the provinces and provincial capitals ready for the transfer of security responsibilities. [85601]

Margaret Beckett: The Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility recommended to the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr Al-Maliki, and the Iraqi Ministerial Committee on National Security, that the Province of Al-Muthanna and the Provincial Capital of Samawah were ready to transfer to Iraqi security responsibility. The Government of Iraq announced that it agreed with this assessment on 19 June 2006. The security handover in Al-Muthanna took place on 13 July. The committee is now considering recommendations in respect of the handover of further areas to Iraqi provincial control.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her Answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 326-7W, on Iraq, what progress has been made on the UK Government's discussions with the Iraqi Government on the release of accurate and up-to-date figures on civilian deaths in Iraq. [85602]

Margaret Beckett: Maintaining records of civilian deaths in Iraq is a matter for the Government of Iraq. We continue to assess that there are no entirely accurate figures for civilian deaths in Iraq. Estimates vary according to the method of collection.

The Iraqi Ministry of Health has released further figures of casualties to the UK. The Ministry of Health statistics for the dead and injured include those judged by the first public responder, normally the police, Army or coalition forces, to have been victims of 'terrorism', or those harmed as a result of (Iraqi or coalition) 'military' action. It is unclear if these figures include victims of crime. The figures show 21,091 injured and 7,254 killed as a result of terrorism between January 2005 and January 2006. They show 1,933 injured and 839 killed as a result of 'military' action in the same period. The figures are collected from hospitals across Iraq, but do not include the three Kurdish provinces. The figures do not distinguish between insurgents, civilians or Iraqi security forces killed.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her Answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 327W, on Iraq, what the priorities and aims are of rule of law development in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan; and what (i) human and (ii) financial resources the UK Government has committed to this development. [85603]

Margaret Beckett: The aim of the Government's rule of law programmes in Muthanna, Maysan and Basra provinces in Southern Iraq is to assist in the development of efficient, effective, credible and community supported security forces and criminal justice institutions.

The priorities of our programmes are:

- to develop the capacity of, and links between the different elements of the criminal justice system (police, prisons and judiciary);
- to develop the ability of the Iraqi security forces to investigate and remove corrupt officers, investigate major crime and to use criminal intelligence;
- to develop a model for these institutions which will allow an effective hand over responsibility for security to the Iraqis authorities.

There are 170 UK police, prisons officers and lawyers providing training, mentoring and advice to the Iraqis. Since 2004, the Government have committed £22 million to rule of law development programmes in Iraq.

Responsibility for policing in Dhi Qar lies with the Italian forces.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK private security companies are operating in Iraq. [87937]

Dr. Howells: There is no requirement for Private Military/Security Companies (PMSCs) to register with our Embassy in Baghdad and therefore the Government does not maintain precise figures of the UK companies operating in Iraq. The non-governmental Private Security Companies Association of Iraq (PSCAI) are aware of 141 companies that describe themselves as PMSC's operating in Iraq. Of

these at least 14 are UK companies, in that they are registered under Companies House as currently operating in the UK or the Crown Dependencies.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many licences have been issued by the Ministry of Interior in Iraq to UK private security firms in each of the last 12 months. [87938]

Dr. Howells: By the end of 2005, 37 private military/security companies (PMSCs) of all nationalities were registered with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. However, owing to changes in regulatory requirements from the Ministry of Interior all licences expired this year and were not renewed. The Ministry of Interior has issued new criteria and under these only three companies have been registered, all of which are Iraqi. Some UK PMSCs have applied under the new criteria and their licences are currently being processed.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* foreign and *(b)* domestic journalists have been killed in Iraq in each month since March 2003, broken down by nationality. [88631]

Dr. Howells: We deplore the continuing violence in Iraq that is claiming the lives of many innocent people, including journalists who have been killed while carrying out their important work. The Government do not, however, collect statistics on civilian deaths in Iraq and we believe that there are no entirely accurate statistics on civilian casualties in Iraq over the past three years. We understand that the International Federation of Journalists produced a report detailing the journalists killed in Iraq for at least some of the period covered in question. This information can be found at www.ifj.org.

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who sits on the Afghanistan Provincial Reconstruction Team Executive Steering Council; what its objectives are; and how often it meets. [86534]

Margaret Beckett: The Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Executive Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Minister of the Interior of the Afghan government, on behalf of the President, Commander of the International Security Assistance Force and Commander Coalition Forces Command—Afghanistan. The Committee's membership is completed by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Reconstruction and Rural Development, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Senior Civilian Representative of the NATO Secretary General, the EU Special Representative, and Ambassadors of nations contributing or potentially contributing military or other resources to PRTs. Other Ministers of the Afghan government are invited by the chairs or attend as directed by the President.

The Committee's objectives are to develop and implement policies governing operations of the PRTs, to strengthen and extend the authority of the central government throughout the country, assist in establishing stability and security, and enable reconstruction including through delivering projects and expertise. The Committee has sought to co-ordinate PRT policies and practices, provide oversight for the development of new PRTs, determine verifiable measures of effectiveness for PRTs, and establish conditions for the transition from PRTs to full Afghan Government authority.

The Committee meets every two months.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements exist for the co-ordination of activities between provincial reconstruction teams, international organisations and non-governmental organisations in Afghanistan. [86538]

Margaret Beckett: There are many fora in Kabul that help to co-ordinate activity. The primary vehicle for co-ordination of international effort in Afghanistan is the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board, which seeks to ensure implementation of the Afghanistan Compact. This body brings together all donors and international organisations active in helping to rebuild the country and extend the authority of the central government beyond Kabul. In addition, co-ordination between Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) and others engaged in the regions outside Kabul is managed by the PRT Executive Steering Committee.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has received from the government of Afghanistan regarding *(a)* the level of police officers agreed in the Afghanistan Compact and *(b)* requests to increase the number of police officers beyond the target envisaged; and what the UK Government's position is. [86540]

Margaret Beckett: To date, I have not received any representations from the Afghan government regarding the level of police officers set out in the Afghanistan Compact and the issue of increasing the target has not arisen.

The UK supports the Afghanistan Compact and the goals it contains and remains in close touch with the German police project and the US police reform programmes. The UK has recently appointed a Senior Police Adviser to the UK led Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Lashkar Gah to help extend national police reform programmes to the South. The UK also plans to appoint a Senior Police Adviser to work within the US-led Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan in Kabul.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* the level of support given to the insurgency in Afghanistan from external sources and *(b)* who these sources are; and what the Government's policy is on the most effective approach to combat them. [86541]

Margaret Beckett: There is some indication that armed groups in Afghanistan receive financial and other support from a variety of sympathisers and associates. The Government seek to combat this in a number of ways. These include political dialogue with the relevant governments in an attempt to deny the supporters freedom of action, and support for those governments to develop the capacity of their law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government were represented at the Second Tokyo Conference on the Consolidation of Peace in Afghanistan; what the UK goals for the conference were; and what assessment she has made of the outcome. [86554]

Margaret Beckett: Our Ambassador in Kabul led the UK delegation at the Second Conference on the Consolidation of Peace in Afghanistan, held in Tokyo on 5 July. Our goals for the conference were to reiterate the UK's support for security sector reform, to affirm support for the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) and to set out the UK's activity and achievements on counter-narcotics.

While there has been good progress made on the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process, there are significant challenges ahead to keep the DIAG process on track. President Karzai made a strong statement of commitment to overcoming the difficulties, but continued support from the international community will be needed.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to President Karzai concerning the re-introduction of the Department for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice. [88810]

Dr. Howells: The Afghan Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs' proposal for establishing a Department for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice was considered at Cabinet on 16 July 2006. This has now been referred to Parliament.

We, and our international partners, continue to encourage the Afghan Government to observe its international human rights obligations.

Albania

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the conclusions of the 20 June meeting of the Consultative Task Force between the EU and Albania. [84214]

Margaret Beckett: The Consultative Task Force discussed freedom of expression, property restitution, electoral reform, human rights and minority rights. This is a Commission led meeting, with member states invited as observers.

Following the meeting the Commission released a press statement that can be found on the Commission Delegation's website: http://www.delalb.cec.eu.int/en/news/CTF14-date-20-June-2006-Press-Release.doc.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what *(a)* financial and *(b)* technical help is being given to Albania by (i) the EU and (ii) her Department for the purpose of tackling human trafficking in the country; and if she will make a statement; [84215]

(2) what recent representations she has made to her Albanian counterpart regarding human trafficking in Albania; [84216]

(3) what assessment she has made of progress made in tackling human trafficking in Albania; and if she will make a statement. [84217]

Margaret Beckett: I take the trafficking of human beings and the wider issue of organised crime in Albania seriously. Working to reduce these activities is a priority.

Most recently, in March this year my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, visited Tirana and as part of his discussions with senior Ministers in the Albanian Government, including the Prime Minister, raised the issue of human trafficking. Our Ambassador in Tirana regularly raises the subject with Ministers.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is providing £238,000 to the International Organisation for Migration to implement an information campaign, including training media professionals in responsible reporting of trafficking issues, establish a national telephone hotline to provide information on safe migration, and for the public to report instances of human trafficking. We have also provided over £250,000 to a establish a forensic laboratory which contributes to the identification of forged documents.

Since 2001, through the Community Assistance for Reconstruction and Development Programme the EU have provided over €19.5 million on projects to improve border policing and the establishment and implementation of migration strategies. The end goal is for Albania to have the capacity and techniques to prevent trafficking for itself.

We welcome the increased international presence in this area and the commitment of the Albanian Government to tackle it.

Ambassadors (Education)

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of ambassadors were educated in *(a)* the state sector, *(b)* the private sector, *(c)* Oxford or Cambridge University and *(d)* other universities in each of the last 30 years. [80052]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) current management information system does not hold education details on all our staff and it would take a disproportionate amount of time to collect the data requested.

However, the FCO is committed to recruiting a talented and diverse workforce which reflects the society it serves. In this context, the FCO is active in outreach activities, such as careers fairs and community business events. The FCO has run

competence-based assessment and development centres (ADCs) to determine which members of its staff have the necessary skills required to work within its senior management structure (SMS).

Candidates attending these ADCs have their performance assessed by a mix of internal trained assessors and external professionals. All promotion recommendations made at the ADCs are performance-based and are made irrespective of an individual's educational background. At the same time the FCO has run 16 recruitment campaigns, via external recruitment agencies, for SMS positions. The recruitment process is run on the principle of fair and open competition, as laid down in the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code (www.civilservicecommissioners.gov.uk). Once again, progress is merit-based, and is made irrespective of an individual's educational background.

British and European Financial Transactions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her *(a)* EU and *(b)* US counterparts on reports of the disclosure of British and European financial transactions to the US intelligence services; and if she will make a statement. [86701]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* It has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on intelligence sources and methods. However, the Government support US efforts to target, disrupt and cut off sources of funding for terrorism.

British Council

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received on the next financial grant to the British Council; and if she will make a statement. [88061]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not received any representations about the next financial grant to the British Council. The future funding for the British Council will be taken forward within the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of *(a)* commissioning and *(b)* implementing the new British Council logo. [88063]

Mr. Hoon: The redesign of the British Council logo was part of a wider programme of rebranding the British Council. This included redesign of the British Council manual and guidelines, the imagebank, the intranet and extranet sites and the development of a bespoke font, unique to the British Council, which could be used in the UK and by offices overseas. The overall rebranding cost £120,000. Implementation costs were minimal as it took place in a phased manner as part of the standard programme of replacement of material and equipment and refurbishment of Council premises.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what employment policy is operated by the British Council. [88064]

Mr. Hoon: The British Council's employment policies comply with all relevant legislation in the UK, or local legislation as applicable for staff employed outside the UK.

Burma

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1369W, on Burma; if she will confirm that processing of Burmese (i) uranium and (ii) antimony takes place in (A) China, (B) North Korea, (C) Russia and (D) elsewhere. [88132]

Dr. Howells: While we are aware that processing of uranium and antimony takes place in China, North Korea and Russia as well as a number of other countries, we have no information regarding the export to or subsequent processing in any country of uranium or antimony from Burma.

Chernobyl

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what has been the total cost of the clean up to date at Chernobyl; and what the UK contribution has been to this work. [87725]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have no estimate of the total amount spent on the clean up following the Chernobyl accident.

The UK has played an important role supporting safety, health, decommissioning and development work that has taken place as a result of the Chernobyl accident. The UK's contribution to national and international programmes arising from the accident has been in excess of £100 million.

Correspondence

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will respond to the letter dated 10 May sent to her by the hon. Member for Thurrock in relation to compensation. [75959]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* I apologise for the delay in replying to my hon. Friend's parliamentary questions and my hon. Friend's letter of 10 May. I took additional advice on this matter and a reply has now been sent to my hon. Friend.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when her Department will reply to the letter of 17 May from the hon. Member for Aylesbury on behalf of Mr P-K.E.E. of Aylesbury (reference 30131) which her ministerial correspondence unit sent to UK Visas on 28 June. [86004]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 17 July 2006]*: UKvisas replied to the hon. Member on 25 May. A copy of this reply was faxed to the hon. Member's office on 13 July.

Council of Europe

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's contribution is to the funding of the Council of Europe; what percentage of the whole this figure represents; and what percentage is contributed by *(a)* France, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* Italy, *(d)* Spain and *(e)* Russia. [86720]

Mr. Hoon: The UK's 2006 total contribution to the Council of Europe is €30,069,636.23. This is made up of €27,947,261.58 in assessed contributions and additional contributions to partial agreements totalling €2,122,374.95. The breakdown of the UK's total contribution and the percentage of the whole are shown in the following table:

Assessed contributions	*UK Euro contribution*	*Percentage of whole*
Ordinary Budget	23,257,480.03	12.23
Pensions Reserve Fund	3,723,894.18	13.83
Pensions Fiscal Adjustment	78,920.94	13.83
Extraordinary Budget (Buildings etc.)	540,223.84	10.59
Youth Foundation	346,742.29	12.23
Total	27,947,261.28	
Partial agreements		
Social and Public Health	248,887.28	17.29
European Pharmacopoeia	696,386.12	15.2
Pompidou (combats drugs and illicit trafficking)	236,348.45	14.03
Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	422,208.14	13.76
GRAZ Centre (Centre for Modern Languages)	235,512.60	14.6
GRECO (Anti Corruption)	283,032.36	17.8
Total	2,122,374.95	—
Grand total	30,069,636.23	—

The percentage contributed by the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Spain in 2006 are shown in the following table:

	Percentage of contributions					
	UK	*France*	*Germany*	*Italy*	*Russia*	*Spain*
Assessed contributions						
Ordinary Budget	12.23	12.23	12.23	12.23	12.23	6.23
Pensions Reserve Fund	13.83	13.83	13.83	13.83	5.8	6.23
Pensions Fiscal Adjustment	13.83	13.83	13.83	13.83	5.8	6.23
Extraordinary Budget (Buildings etc)	10.59	24	10.59	10.59	10.59	5.39
European Youth Foundation	12.23	12.23	12.23	12.23	12.23	6.23
Partial agreements						
Social and Public Health Field	17.29	17.29	17.29	17.29	n/a	8.02
European Pharmacopoeia	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	n/a	6.94
Co-operation group to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking (Pompidou)	14.03	14.03	14.03	14.03	6.14	6.35
European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	13.76	13.76	13.76	13.76	5.73	6.19
European Centre for Modern Languages (GRAZ)	14.6	14.6	14.6	n/a	n/a	10.4
Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)	17.8	17.8	17.8	n/a	n/a	3.99

Delwar Hossain Sayeedi

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what factors were taken into account when granting Delwar Hossain Sayeedi permission to come to the United Kingdom. [86877]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 20 July 2006]*: I cannot comment on individual cases. However, all applicants must meet the entry clearance criteria/ immigration controls, as set out on the UKvisas website at www.ukvisas.gov.uk.

Departmental Staff (Education)

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of the recruits to her Department were educated in *(a)* state schools, *(b)* private schools, *(c)* Oxford or Cambridge University and *(d)* other universities in each of the last 30 years. [80045]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s current management information system does not hold educational details on all our staff and it would incur a disproportionate cost to collect the data requested.

FCO recruitment processes are run on the principle of fair and open competition, as laid down in the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code, available at: www.civilservicecommissioners.gov.uk. They are based solely on merit and decisions are made irrespective of educational background.

The FCO is committed to recruiting from as wide a spectrum of the population as possible, and has for many years had an active educational diversity and outreach policy, including currently:

careers fairs, such as the National Graduate Recruitment Exhibition which was held in Birmingham in June;

career Open Days, of which the next takes place on the 25 July;

work experience scheme;

in 2006 we have offered placements to approximately 45 persons from a range of backgrounds, including GCSE students, A-level students, undergraduate students and those in full-time employment.

Diplomatic Posts (Expense Allowances)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the levels of expense allowances which are permitted at each of the diplomatic posts within the NATO Alliance and the European Union are; and what they were in May 1997. [87104]

Mr. Hoon: The following figures reflect entertainment expenditure for Heads of Mission in NATO and European Union capitals for the 1996-97 and 2005-06 financial years. Entertainment expense allowances (Frais) paid to Heads of Mission cover the cost of official entertainment and other representational expenditure (principally the running of the Head of Mission residence).

Frais allocations are based on the anticipated entertainment obligations of each Head of Mission job in the year ahead and evidence of expenditure in previous years.

NATO only	*1996-97 total*	*2005-06 total*
Ankara	25,135	31,738
Bucharest	17653	13,290
Oslo	44,178	39,350
Ottawa	39,673	44,944
Reykjavik	20,918	18,514
Sofia	25,147	21,101
Washington	141,806	121,729

EU only	*1996-97 total*	*2005-06 total*
Dublin	36,505	39,100
Helsinki	49,038	37,211
Nicosia	43,402	33,726
Stockholm	62,013	46,233
Valletta	19,553	21,945
Vienna	45,567	32,470

EU and NATO posts	*1996-97 total*	*2005-06 total*
Athens	45,533	39,879
Bonn/Berlin	71,001	55,567
Bratislava	11,797	8,878
Brussels	51,165	40,526
Budapest	26,815	34,648
Copenhagen	33,100	28,093
Hague, The	48,494	39,668
Lisbon	21,106	23,481
Ljubljana	11,503	19,100
Luxembourg	27,909	20,326
Madrid	40,339	50,649
Paris	203,530	167,591
Prague	42,774	35,791
Riga	21,801	15,933
Rome	51,349	41,673
Tallin	15,076	9,207
Vilnius	15,373	15,035
Warsaw	21,173	47,881

Doha Round

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action she is taking to encourage the revival of the Doha round of trade talks. [86769]

Mr. Hoon: The World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations remain high on the agenda for the Government and are discussed regularly in contacts with EU partners, the European Commission and other WTO Members. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister attended the G8 summit in St. Petersburg from 15-17 July and raised this issue with leaders from G8 and "+5" countries (Brazil, India, China, South Africa and Mexico). We welcome Pascal Lamy's attendance at the G8 summit and the statement by G8 leaders on the WTO negotiations and the process that has been agreed to take negotiations forward over the next month. The G8 Statement on Trade is available on the internet at the following address: http://en.g8russia.ru/docs/16.html.

The WTO Round was also discussed at the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council on 17 July and in the Agriculture Council on 18 July, where my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs spoke in favour of an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Round. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also raised the issue during her recent visits to the United States and Brazil.

We will continue to work with our EU partners, the Commission and other WTO members to ensure a successful outcome to the Round.

Falkland Islands (Sovereignty)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Argentine Government on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. [87880]

Mr. Hoon: The UK has had no discussions with Argentina on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. We will not discuss the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands with Argentina unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which matches *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83619]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today (UIN 73630).

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have to attend matches at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany. [73630]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not attend any games at the FIFA World Cup 2006.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, and I as the Minister for Europe, attended one game each during the World Cup in Germany.

My noble Friend Lord Triesman attended England v. Sweden Group B match on 20 June 2006 in Cologne. I attended the England v. Ecuador second round match on 25 June 2006 in Stuttgart. Tickets for both matches were provided by the local state authorities. During their visits to Germany they also met with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials providing services for British nationals travelling to the World Cup.

All travel and accommodation was arranged in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers. The total cost of the visits to Germany including officials was £2,940.60.

Immigration

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterparts in *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Tunisia and *(c)* Algeria on their plans to tackle illegal immigration from North Africa to Europe. [80333]

Dr. Howells: *[pursuant to the reply, 12 July 2006, Official Report, c.1912W]:* I regret that an inaccurate answer was given to part of the hon. Member's question. The answer given states that my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, visited Algeria and Libya on 7-8 June and 25-27 respectively. In fact, I visited both countries on the specified dates.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Department will reach a decision of the immigration application of Shaid Ian, ref: 3107 2668. [88323]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas does not have a record of any entry clearance application lodged by Shaid Ian, but would be pleased to follow this up with the hon. Member's office if he is able to provide further information.

Israel

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what defence equipment has been provided to Israel from the *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU in the last five years. [87144]

Mr. Hoon: The UK publishes details of all export licences issued in its Annual (and now Quarterly) Reports on Strategic Export Controls. This includes a summary of goods by destination. All reports from 1997 can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395474. The Annual Report on Strategic Export Controls for 2005 will be published later this month.

The EU also publishes an annual report on arms exports from EU member states.

This information is available on the EU's website at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showpage.asp?id=408&lang=en&mode=g .

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make it her policy to impose an embargo on arms exports to Israel. [88749]

Dr. Howells: With regard to Israel, as to all others countries, we will continue to assess rigorously all relevant export licence applications on a case by case basis against our EU and national arms export licensing criteria taking full account of the prevailing circumstances at the time of application and other announced Government policies. A licence will not be issued where to do so would be inconsistent with the criteria. The Government are proud of the UK's robust and transparent export licensing regime, which is among the best in the world.

Kosovo

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what plans have been made to establish an EU mission in Kosovo; and what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on such a mission; [87907]

(2) what plans have been made for the phasing out of the UN mission in Kosovo. [87908]

Mr. Hoon: The international presence in Kosovo after a status settlement will partly depend on the settlement itself. However, there is a broad consensus that when the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) closes, the EU will take on a more substantive role. As a result, an EU Planning Team was established in April composed of experts in the fields of justice, police, civilian administration and general administrative issues. They will continue to prepare for a possible European Security and Defence Policy Mission in Kosovo and continue to report to the Council on a monthly basis.

The General Affairs and External Relations Council on 17 July, at which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary was present, reviewed progress on this work.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what preparations have been made to allow for contractual relations between Kosovo and the EU. [87911]

Mr. Hoon: A UN-led process is currently under way aimed at achieving a final status settlement for Kosovo. However, the Contact Group Guiding Principles for a settlement on Kosovo's status envisage a settlement that contributes towards realising the European Perspective of Kosovo, in particular Kosovo's progress in the Stabilisation and Association Process, as part of the integration of the entire region in Euro-Atlantic institutions.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (UIN 87912).

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to establish a European Commission office in Pristina; and if she will make a statement. [87912]

Mr. Hoon: The European Commission has plans to establish an office in Pristina that will absorb the functions of the European Commission Liaison Office and the European Agency for Reconstruction already established there. The office will work closely with the local authorities and civil society to assist them with the European integration and reform agenda. It will also need to work closely with whatever international civilian presence is established following a status settlement.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times her ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87650]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's office has not been redecorated in the last five years.

Ministerial Travel

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how much it cost *(a)* him and *(b)* officials from his Department to fly to and from Russia for his recent visit. [28243]

Margaret Beckett: *[pursuant to the reply, 16 November 2005, Official Report, c.1268W].*

I regret that an inaccurate answer was given to the hon. Member's question. The answer referred the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Mid-Worcestershire (Peter Luff) on 16 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1268W. The answer given stated that the total cost of a visit to Moscow, Iraq and Bahrain, on 8-12 November 2005, undertaken by my right. hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Jack Straw) was £98,400. In fact, the cost of the visit was £96,400. The original figure was based on an estimate provided by our charter broker and has subsequently been revised. The cost of diverting through the UK is included in the revised figure and still stands at £30,200.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the additional cost of *(a)* his and *(b)* his officials' early return from Moscow to permit him to vote in the proceedings in the Terrorism Bill. [28110]

Margaret Beckett *[pursuant to the reply, 16 November 2005, Official Report, c. 1268W]:* I regret that an inaccurate answer was given to part of the hon. Member's question. The answer given stated that the total cost of a visit to Moscow, Iraq and Bahrain, on 8-12 November 2005, undertaken by my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) was £98,400. In fact, the cost of the visit was £96,400.

The original figure was based on an estimate provided by our charter broker and has subsequently been revised. The cost of diverting through the UK is included in the revised figure and still stands at £30,200.

Muslim Organisations

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's policy is on providing funding for members of the *(a)* Muslim Brotherhood and *(b)* Muslim Association of Britain. [86287]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not provide funding for either organisation, although there may be occasions when those who are affiliated to the Muslim Brotherhood and the Muslim Association of Britain take part in FCO initiatives or events that involve a broad range of participants.

Muslims of Europe Conference

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Sheikh Yusuf al Qaradawi produced a report for the Foreign Office following his attendance at the Muslims of Europe Conference in Istanbul. [86286]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* Sheikh Yusuf al Qaradawi has not produced any kind of report for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He was one participant at a conference organised and led by a steering group of European Muslim scholars and civil society representatives. The output of the conference included a declaration and recommendations agreed by all its participants, including a strong renunciation of violence and terrorism. The full text is available at: www.muslimsofeurope.com/topkapi.php.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support was given to Sheikh Yusuf al Qaradawi and his family to attend the Muslims of Europe conference in Istanbul; and who authorised such support. [86288]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* Ministers approved Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funding for the Muslims of Europe Conference, which was organised by a steering group of European Muslims. The steering group invited a wide variety of Muslim scholars and civil society representatives, including Sheikh Al-Qaradawi. FCO support for the Conference included flight, food and accommodation costs for all participants, including Sheikh Al-Qaradawi and his wife who was acting as his assistant.

Non-proliferation Action Plan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the next steps towards the fulfilment of the commitment in the G8 2004 Non-proliferation Action Plan towards a mechanism for the reliable access of all countries to nuclear energy. [87551]

Margaret Beckett: The UK is actively working with others to formulate appropriate incentives for countries to forego fuel-cycle facilities. The UK co-sponsored a concept paper presented at the last International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors' meeting, 12-15 June 2006, that outlined a mechanism to provide reliable access to nuclear fuel. This paper will be the subject of further discussion during a special event to be held in the margins of the IAEA General Conference in September. We are also working with G8 partners towards more technically advanced solutions. These are outlined in the 2006 G8 Statement on Non-proliferation, which can be found at the following website: http://en.g8russia.ru/docs/20.html.

North Korea

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on potential sanctions against North Korea. [88804]

Dr. Howells: On 15 July the Security Council adopted resolution 1695 (2006) which, inter alia, imposes sanctions in relation to North Korea. The UK fully supported adoption of the resolution, which the UK cosponsored.

The sanctions imposed by the resolution include a requirement on all states to prevent missile and missile-related items, materials, goods and technology being transferred to North Korea's missile or weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes. They also include a requirement on all states to prevent the procurement of missiles or missile related-items, materials, goods and technology from North Korea and the transfer of any financial resources in relation to it's missile or WMD programmes.

The UK is committed to implementing the requirements set out in the resolution and urges all other states also to implement the measures.

Discussion of any further UN sanctions at this stage would be premature. However, the UK would not rule out any further action by the Security Council, including the use of sanctions, if North Korean behaviour makes that necessary.

Palestinians (Funding)

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has received representations from the office of the EU Commissioner for External Affairs indicating that a request has been made to the Budgetary Authority to transfer funds from the Emergency Reserve to the Temporary Mechanism to fund the Palestinian people; and if she will make a statement. [86545]

Margaret Beckett: We have received no representations from the EU Commissioner for External Affairs about this.

We are concerned about the welfare of many Palestinians, particularly those affected by the current situation in Gaza. We have pushed strongly for the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) to help meet the basic needs of Palestinians. So far, the European Community has committed €105 million to the mechanism. The UK intends to contribute up to £12 million. We are aware that several other European countries are considering making contributions. This will enable us to provide support in the health sector, to fund utilities and to give welfare allowances to some of the poorest Palestinians. In line with the commitments made at the G8 on 16 July 2006 and by the European Council on 17 July 2006, we and the EC are looking at options to further expand the TIM.

Parliamentary Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will reply to *(a)* Question 75959, on compensation, tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 5 June and *(b)* the letter of 10 May to which the Question refers; and what the reason has been for the delay in responding in each case. [86521]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave today (UIN 75959).

Private Security Companies

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she plans to publish a White Paper on the regulation of UK private security companies operating abroad. [87939]

Dr. Howells: In late 2004, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn the then Foreign Secretary requested a review by officials of the options for the regulation of the overseas operations of private military and security companies (PMSCs) registered in or operating from the United Kingdom. The aim was to follow up on the Green Paper of 2002, Private Military Companies: Options for Regulation, and to respond to the increase in the activities of PMSCs in areas of conflict overseas. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is currently discussing the review recommendations with Ministerial colleagues: the review highlighted complex issues that need full consideration before a decision is taken on the way forward.

The Government will keep Parliament fully informed of its proposals in this area. Should we consider a regulatory regime appropriate then we would publish the proposals in the form of a white paper or consultation document to allow for comments from all interested parties.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she plans to introduce a register of private military companies operating out of the UK. [87940]

Dr. Howells: The introduction of a register of private military and security companies (PMSCs) operating out of the UK was considered in the review of the options for the regulation of PMSCs referred to in my reply today to the hon. Member's question (UIN 87939). As mentioned in that reply, the Government will keep Parliament fully informed of its proposals in this area.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1387W, on private security companies, what legislation governs the conduct of the Armor Group and Control Risks Group operating on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office overseas. [87941]

Dr. Howells: There is currently no UK legislation directly governing the conduct of private military and security companies (PMSCs) operating on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) overseas. I would refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him today (UIN 87939) on the current position regarding regulation of this sector.

PMSCs operating on behalf of the FCO are generally subject to provisions of the legal system in the country in which they are operating as well as any applicable provisions of International Humanitarian Law, where appropriate. In certain circumstances their conduct is covered by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Somaliland

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will establish an entry clearance post in Somaliland. [87239]

Dr. Howells: There are currently no plans to open a visa section in Somaliland.

Tanzania

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will ask the Secretary of State for International Development to suspend all preferential debt relief and other aid to Tanzania unless and until Mr. Stewart Middleton is released from prison, all charges against him are dropped, his lands are confirmed in his rightful ownership and Mr. Benjamin Mengi is brought to justice. [88428]

Mr. McCartney: We will not be suspending aid to Tanzania. UK development aid has helped Tanzania to increase its budget spending to reduce poverty and improve governance. We do not believe that an individual case such as this should prevent our efforts to improve the lives of impoverished Tanzanians.

Our High Commission in Dar es Salaam has been in close touch with Mr. Middleton and his wife about the charges brought against him. The High Commission has provided full consular support, including visiting Mr. Middleton while he was detained. He has now been released. The High Commission has also raised the case with the Tanzanian Government at the highest level. It is now a matter for the courts. But we will continue to urge the Tanzanian authorities to ensure that the dispute and all related matters are expeditiously and fairly resolved.

UK Consular Facilities

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people from *(a)* Canada, *(b)* Australia, *(c)* New Zealand, *(d)* India, *(e)* Pakistan, *(f)* Malawi, *(g)* St Lucia, *(h)* Trinidad and Tobago, *(i)* Belize, *(j)* Jamaica and *(k)* Kenya have used UK consular facilities in the absence of their own in each of the last five years. [89049]

Dr. Howells: We provide consular assistance to unrepresented EU nationals and Commonwealth citizens in certain circumstances but we do not collect information on what countries they are from. Each year in the Consular Annual Return we ask our overseas posts for a total number of persons helped in these categories. For the last two years we have asked for separate figures as in the following table. Data for 2005-06 is due in September.

	EU Nationals	*Commonwealth citizens*
2004-05	982	2,065
2003-04	1,815	1,947
2002-03	2,931	
2001-02	2,112	
2000-01	2,663	

US National Space Policy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her US counterparts on US national space policy; and if she will make a statement. [86558]

Margaret Beckett: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with her US counterparts on US national space policy.

However, along with fellow EU member states, the UK regularly supports the resolution on the 'Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space' at the UN General Assembly (UNGA). In 2005, we also supported a new UNGA resolution on Transparency and Confidence Building Measures in Outer Space Activities.

Venezuala

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to develop UK-Venezuelan relations; and if she will make a statement. [87875]

Mr. Hoon: We have an active commercial relationship with Venezuela and work closely with the Venezuelan Government on many issues, particularly in the fields of energy and counter-narcotics. Our policy is to maintain constructive engagement as we have much to gain by working together.

Visa Interviews (Ho Chi Minh City)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the letter (Ref: 26890/2006) of 18 April to the hon. Member for Sunderland South, on the possibility of conducting visa interviews in Ho Chi Minh City, when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State expects to complete his inquiries; and if she will make a statement. [87044]

Dr. Howells: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, has now completed his enquiries on this issue. Due to an administrative error in UKvisas, these enquiries were not able to be completed until now. UKvisas apologises for this error. A substantive reply from my noble Friend was sent to my hon. Friend on 23 July.

UKvisas visited Hanoi in June 2006 to review the Visa Service in Vietnam. Following the review, UKvisas is satisfied that the current operation continues to function well and there are no plans to conduct visa interviews in Ho Chi Minh City. The option was considered but deemed too resource intensive for the number of applicants involved.

The number of applicants from the south of Vietnam that are required to travel to Hanoi for interview is not expected to increase in the foreseeable future. In an effort to improve the Visa Service in Ho Chi Minh City, UKvisas is working on introducing the Fast Track criteria for visa applicants which will mean fewer applicants will be required to travel to Hanoi for interview.

TRANSPORT

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87054]

Gillian Merron: The requested figures for financial years 2002-03 to 2004-05 are in the following tables. The majority of advertising investment by the Department is in support of the THINK! road safety campaign with investment (£750,000) into promoting the Transport Direct portal service in 2004-05. Among non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible, and during the timeframe requested, major advertising investment has been by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, to explain changes to the car tax rules.

Further breakdown of agency-specific campaigns for the timescale requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Following departmental reorganisations, total expenditure figures for prior to 2002 would also involve disproportionate costs.

Department for Transport (central)

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
TV	5,600,000	6,000,000	4,750,000
Radio	2,600,000	2,500,000	2,160,000
Press	205,000	538,000	186,000
Other	1,100,000	1,300,000	1,660,000

Non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
TV	2,190,000	4,670,000	3,290,000
Radio	1,800,000	1,040,000	1,740,000
Press	3,160,000	2,900,000	3,500,000
Other	1,300,000	2,210,000	1,340,000

Air Safety

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many near misses there have been in UK airspace in each of the past 10 years. [82313]

Gillian Merron: During the 10 years from 1996 to 2005 inclusive, the number of Airprox incidents recorded in UK airspace can be broken down by category by year are in the following table.

Category of Airprox incidents

	A	B	Total
1996	37	58	95
1997	36	64	100
1998	23	43	66
1999	23	49	72
2000	28	44	72
2001	33	42	75
2001	17	68	85
2003	14	58	72
2004	15	53	68
2005	16	51	70

A "risk bearing" Airprox is one that falls into category A (where an actual risk of collision existed) or B (where safety was not assured).

Category of Airprox incidents

	C	D	Total
1996	113	3	116
1997	105	3	108
1998	132	3	135
1999	134	2	136
2000	123	3	126
2001	115	5	120
2001	129	7	136

Category of Airprox incidents

	C	D	Total
2003	108	1	109
2004	131	8	139
2005	116	2	118

A "non-risk bearing" Airprox is one that falls into category C (where no risk of collision existed) or D (where the risk cannot be determined).

Final reports into each event are available in hard copy, if required, from the UK Airprox Board. The more recent reports are also available from the UK Airprox Board's website at:

www.airproxboard.org.uk.

Sir Alistair Graham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to question 80515, how many days a year were expected from Sir Alistair Graham as *(a)* a member of the British Transport Police Committee and *(b)* Chairman of the British Transport Police Authority. [85988]

Gillian Merron: Sir Alistair Graham was appointed Chairman of the British Transport Police Authority on 1 July 2004. This is a part-time appointment equivalent to 60 days per year.

On 2 February 2004 he was appointed as a member of the British Transport Police Committee with the role of Chairman-designate of the British Transport Police Authority. No time commitment was specified.

Alternative Aircraft Fuels

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will examine options for development of alternatives to kerosene as a fuel for aircraft. [87928]

Gillian Merron: The UK project "The Potential for Renewable Energy Sources in Aviation" produced by Imperial College Centre for Energy, Policy and Technology in 2003 for DTI, studied the options for potential renewable fuels for civil aviation. The study examined a whole range of alternative fuels and energy sources. Any viable option would be significantly more expensive to produce than the cost of kerosene today. In general, renewable fuels are more likely to be used for road transport or electricity generation in preference to aviation.

The full report can be found at:

http://www.iccept.ic.ac.uk/pdfs/PRESAV%20final%20report%2003Sep03.pdf

Boat Safety Scheme

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will require holiday boat companies to display on all vessels a copy of the current Boat Safety Scheme certificate; and if he will make a statement. [85056]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

No. Vessels cannot be licensed (or registered) for use on the waterways unless a valid Boat Safety Scheme certificate is in force for those vessels to which the Scheme applies. There is therefore no need to require a copy of the certificate itself to be displayed.

Bus Companies

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus companies there are in England. [87850]

Gillian Merron: Information on the number of bus companies is not collected centrally. However, there are approximately 1,700 bus companies or their subsidiaries currently claiming bus service operators grant from the Department.

Buses (No Smoking Policies)

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice his Department gives to bus companies on the operation of no smoking policies on their vehicles. [76670]

Gillian Merron: It is common practice today for local bus services to operate a policy which requires all buses to be smoke-free. Regulations do provide for enforcement where restrictions exist.

For the future, Part 1 of the Health Act 2006 will require all buses to be smoke-free from the summer of 2007.

The Department for Health launched a consultation on regulations under these provisions on 17 July and will be publishing guidance.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88467]

Gillian Merron: Since the Department for Transport was created in May 2002 it has sponsored 13 Orders in Council.

Of these, the only Order remaining in force which contains a criminal offence is the Air Navigation Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/1970). That Order amended and restated provisions contained in earlier Air Navigation Orders.

Article 148 of the Order provides (across four separate paragraphs) that it is a criminal offence to contravene any provision of the Order, or any regulations made under the Order or under specified European legislation. This could be categorised as a single offence which can be committed in numerous ways or as numerous offences.

Article 3(5) of the Order provides for offences to be deemed to have been committed in respect of certain aircraft in certain circumstances. These could be considered to be separate offences, or to be an extension of the original offences.

The Department also sponsored the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Order 2006 (S.I.2006/1248). This Order does not create any offences itself. However, article 2 authorises the Secretary of State to make regulations for the purpose of giving effect to the Protocol of 1997 to the Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified. Article 3 provides that the Secretary of State's regulations may provide for the contravention of those regulations to be criminal offences.

Delegated Examiners

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department maintains a register of Passenger Carrying Vehicle delegated examiners. [87846]

Dr. Ladyman: The register of delegated examiners authorised to conduct Passenger Carrying Vehicles is held by the Driving Standards Agency.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many approved Passenger Carrying Vehicle delegated examiners there are. [87847]

Dr. Ladyman: There are 75 approved Passenger Carrying Vehicle delegated examiners.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what checks are in place to ensure that Passenger Carrying Vehicle delegated examiners only test people who are employed by their own company. [87848]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) regularly checks the driving tests conducted by delegated examiners for consistency and fairness.

When the delegated examiners are quality assured by DSA supervising examiners, checks undertaken as part of the supervision are to confirm the eligibility of the candidates and delegated examiners.

In addition, regulations place the burden on the employers of delegated examiners to ensure that their examiners test only their companies' own employees.

If there is suspicion of malpractice, an investigation by DSA would be conducted.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus companies have Passenger Carrying Vehicle delegated examiners. [87849]

Dr. Ladyman: There are 74 bus companies which have delegated examiners testing for them. Of these, 70 have a substantive examiner, while the remaining four use examiners from a sister company.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the pass rate was of passenger carrying vehicle delegated examiners taking their training at Cardington for each of the last three financial years. [87854]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has no records of any Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) delegated examiners failing the training course at Cardington during the period specified.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger carrying vehicle delegated driving examiners had their licence removed by the Driving Standards Agency in each of the last six financial years. [87856]

Dr. Ladyman: There is no record of any passenger carrying vehicle delegated examiner being removed from the DSA register of delegated examiners in any of the previous six years.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the pass rate was in each of the last three financial years for driving tests conducted by the Driving Standards Agency approved passenger carrying vehicle delegated driving examiners; and how many drivers passed in each year. [87857]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is in the following table:

	Pass rate (Percentage)	*Passes*
2003-04	59.8	10,785
2004-05	59.7	8,530
2005-06	59.1	8,438

Departmental Correspondence

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 489-90W to the hon. Member for Edinburgh East, on departmental correspondence, what the cost was of processing returned letters where the addressee has moved away or died. [88930]

Gillian Merron: No information is available other than for the costs involved in the investigation and handling of undelivered vehicle Registration Certificates. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency estimate that the cost of handling all undelivered Registration Certificates is approximately £160,000 annually. This amount relates to all undelivered Certificates including those returned where the addressee has moved away or has died, which together account for approximately 13.5 per cent. of the total undelivered.

Departmental Data

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 490-1W, to the hon. Member for Edinburgh East, on departmental data, with which other *(a)* departments and *(b)* public sector organisations his Department shares data. [88934]

Gillian Merron: The Agencies listed in the answer given on 10 January 2006 share data with other *(a)* departments; and *(b)* public sector organisations, on the following basis:

DVLA

Government Departments that have statutory powers to obtain information from DVLA include:

HM Revenue and Customs for tax related purposes

Child Support Agency to trace absent parents

Court Service for enforcement of fines etc

Environment Agency for investigating criminal offences

Criminal Case Review Commission for investigating criminal cases

Department of Work and Pensions for investigating benefit fraud

Other Department of Transport Agencies

What information is released and for what purpose is prescribed in the applicable legislation.

Public Sector organisations that receive information include:

Local Authorities investigating an offence or a decriminalised parking contravention

Trading Standards offices investigating vehicle related offences

Transport for London for the enforcement of congestion charging schemes

Local Authorities/Housing Associations dealing with abandoned vehicles

Regulations permitting the release of information to public sector organisations apply only to information held on the vehicle register. Information held on the driver register is not released.

DSA

Data are currently shared on a regular basis with DfT and all of its Agencies, including DVLA.

On a case-by-case basis, information has also been released to the following Government Departments and Public Sector bodies

HM Revenue and Customs

Department for Work and Persons

Child Support Agency

Traffic Commissioners

Passport Office

Immigration Service

Public Carriage Service

Environmental Health Department

NHS Fraud Investigators

Police

Local Authorities

MCA

The Agency does not share data with other Departments or Public Sector organisations as a matter of routine, although specific requests from law enforcement bodies are considered on a case-by-case basis.

VOSA

The Agency does not share data with other Departments or Public Sector organisations.

Departmental Reorganisation Strategies

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 562W, on Reorganisation Strategies for DfT, what principles of fairness and transparency are included in Reorganisation Strategies for DfT. [89135]

Gillian Merron: The Reorganisation Strategies for the Department's Shared Service Programme are based on the principles that all staff will be treated in line with the Department's equal opportunities and diversity policies and redundancy arrangements.

The Department will comply fully with any legislation which binds the Crown or which Ministers have undertaken to apply as if it were binding on the Crown (as set out in the 'Introduction of the Civil Service Management Code'). The Department will also follow the Codes of Practices and Guidance produced by the Commissions for racial equality, disability rights and equal opportunities.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 561W, on departmental staff, how many members of staff in his Department have had *(a)* two or more and *(b)* five or more periods of sickness absence in two or more of the years for which he has provided figures. [84043]

Gillian Merron: This level of detail is not readily available across the Department and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 561W, on departmental staff, to what he attributes the increase in the number of staff with *(a)* two and *(b)* five or more periods of sickness absence of less than five days over the last three years. [84044]

Gillian Merron: The Department's overall sick absence figures have gone up from 2003 to 2005. The different periods of sick absence asked in the earlier question (UIN 73114) fluctuates from one year to the next when looking at specific parts of the organisation. We attribute part of the increase in our figures to raising the profile of attendance management and more accurate recording of absence.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid to his Department from the Access to Work scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget he plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [89006]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not centrally collect data pertaining to funds paid for disabled staff under the Access to Work scheme, due to the application being made directly between the applicant and the Department for Works and Pensions.

The withdrawal of funding is likely to have some impact on existing budgets but as requirements for reasonable adjustments are considered on a case by case basis; if existing budgets cannot meet the demand, a case will be submitted for additional funding from other budgets.

East London Line

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his consent is required to allow Transport for London to enter into agreements with outside contractors to carry out station or train operating functions on the East London line. [87148]

Derek Twigg: The contractualisation of station and train operating functions on the East London line is a matter for Transport for London and the explicit agreement of the Secretary of State is not required.

First Capital Connect

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that the Managing Director of First Capital Connect arranges to meet the hon. Member for Bedford in order to discuss matters relating to the hon. Member's constituents. [88303]

Derek Twigg: The Secretary of State has no contractual locus to ensure that the Managing Director of First Capital Connect arranges to meet my hon. Friend. However my officials have communicated his wish to meet to the Managing Director of First Capital Connect.

Helicopters

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* regulations and *(b)* flight path restrictions apply to (i) single engine helicopters and (ii) twin engine helicopters when flying over the Greater London area. [88054]

Gillian Merron: The Rules of the Air Regulations and the Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying) (Specified Area) Regulations govern flight by helicopters over London. The former regulations specify the minimum height at which a helicopter may operate, the latter regulations prohibit single engine helicopters from the central area of London below such a height as would enable them to alight clear of that area in the event of an engine failure.

Helicopters are required to follow published routes over London subject to an air traffic control clearance. The routes, detailed in the UK Aeronautical Information Publication published by the CAA, are designed to provide maximum safety in respect of single engine helicopter traffic by avoiding built-up areas as much as possible. Twin engine helicopters, such as those operated by the emergency services, may be cleared to fly outside those routes according to their specific requirements and the Rules of the Air.

In addition, an aircraft flying in accordance with the terms of a police air operator's certificate (PAOC) is exempt from certain parts of the Rules of the Air Regulations, including the low flying rule, if the aircraft is flown in accordance with the Police Air Operations Manual (CAP 612), published by the Civil Aviation Authority (www.caa.co.uk). In London, the Metropolitan police and the Surrey police have been granted PAOCs and may be permitted to hover above particular locations depending on the operational requirement.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving helicopters have occurred in London in each of the last five years. [87778]

Gillian Merron: In replying to the question the definition of London is taken as the area bounded by the M25 and the definitions of accident and incident are as stated in Statutory Instrument 1996 No 2798: The Civil Aviation (Investigation of Air Accidents and Incidents) Regulations 1996.

	Number of	
	Accidents	*Incidents*
2001	—	—
2002	1	1
2003	2	—
2004	1	1
2005	—	—
2006	[1]2	—

[1] To date.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated since 1988 on noise pollution from helicopter use over (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) the Greater London area. [88057]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not commissioned any substantial new work on helicopter noise since that carried out for the London Heliport Study in 1992-94 and published in 1995.

Freight Trains

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many freight trains carrying *(a)* nuclear products and *(b)* hazardous material have travelled through (i) Brent and (ii) Brent, East in each year since 1997. [87715]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not hold or maintain such records. The transport of dangerous goods by rail, including radioactive material, is subject to strict regulation, based upon internationally agreed provisions, to minimise the risk to members of the public, workers and the environment.

Highways Expenditure

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much highway funding per capita was made available in the Yorkshire and Humber Region in 2005-06. [88594]

Gillian Merron: For 2005-06, the Department made a capital allocation of £76.588 million to local highway authorities in the Yorkshire and the Humber Region, as part of the Local Transport Plan settlement. It is for the local highway authorities to determine how their capital highway maintenance allocations are spent, in line with their local transport plan and their priorities.

In addition, the Highways Agency provided capital funding of £9.158 million for trunk roads and motorways in their area 12, which is their equivalent, but not an exact geographical area. Based on a Yorkshire and Humber region population of 4,964,833 (2001 Census), this represents an estimated capital funding of £17.27 per person.

Local authorities can also allocate other sources of Government support for capital funding to highways. Besides this, street lighting contracts in Leeds and Wakefield will benefit from £110.8 million of PFI credits.

The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) from the Department for Communities and Local Government provides revenue funding for highway maintenance. However, RSG is unhypothecated and may be applied by local authorities to any services.

Journey Times

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will require the local authorities in each of the 10 largest urban areas in England to make an assessment of how journey times per mile can be reduced by road users using motorcycles, scooters or mopeds for urban journeys. [89103]

Gillian Merron: It is for each local authority to determine how best to tackle congestion in their area, consistent with local priorities and circumstances. Local authorities' plans for tackling congestion are included in their 'Local Transport Plans', published in March (for London, the Transport for London business plan).

Liverpool Street/Stratford (Trackside Buildings)

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will have discussions with Network Rail, the One Railway Company and organisers of the London 2012 Olympics on improving the appearance of the buildings, structures and trackside between London Liverpool Street Station and Stratford Station. [87413]

Derek Twigg: As the operator and owner of the national rail network, Network Rail has responsibility for trackside maintenance and appearance and between now and the games. We will discuss with them and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) what practical steps can be taken to improve the appearance of the route. The Olympic Transport Plan is due to be issued for consultation in the autumn by the ODA and will include the arrangements for working with the rail industry on the transport required to stage the games.

Local Transport Budgets

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used in deciding to reduce Stoke-on-Trent city council's transport budget for each year until 2010. [81769]

Gillian Merron: The levels of Stoke-on-Trent city council's transport budgets are ultimately a matter for the council to determine. Government funding support for local transport in Stoke is provided in a variety of ways including through the revenue support grant, which is not allocated between individual council services.

Government support for councils' transport capital programmes is provided in three main areas. The support provided to Stoke-on-Trent city council for one of those areas is planned to reduce.

This is because, following consultation, a formula is being introduced over the five years up to 2010-11 to distribute much of the support for integrated transport improvements over the next five years. The factors considered in this formula are set out in my reply of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 922-23W.

Further details of its rationale can be found in the paper about financial planning guidelines for local transport plans on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk) in the consultation paper sub-section of the regional and local transport section.

Stoke-on-Trent city council has been issued with planning guidelines for this part of its funding support for the years 2007-08 to 2010-11. Stoke-on-Trent city council may mitigate the planned funding reduction in a number of ways, including through demonstrating strong delivery of its previous programme.

London Transport (Offences)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many offences were committed on London Transport in each year since 1997. [87709]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Information relating to offences committed on the London Underground system and on the rail system in London is held by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail:

general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

M40

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the projected increase in traffic flow between junctions 3 and 7 of the M40 for each year between 2006 and 2026. [88320]

Dr. Ladyman: The table shows the factors by which the previous year's traffic flows would be multiplied in each year, according to current long-term forecasts in themselves, as outcomes for each year will vary in ways that reflect unpredictable events and other short term factors.

	OV[1]	*HGV*[2]
2005 to 2006	1.0165	1.0255
2006 to 2007	1.0165	1.0255
2007 to 2008	1.0146	1.0244
2008 to 2009	1.0146	1.0244
2009 to 2010	1.0146	1.0244
2010 to 2011	1.0146	1.0244
2011 to 2012	1.0146	1.0244
2012 to 2013	1.0137	1.0252
2013 to 2014	1.0137	1.0252
2014 to 2015	1.0137	1.0252

	OV[1]	HGV[2]
2015 to 2016	1.0137	1.0252
2016 to 2017	1.0137	1.0252
2017 to 2018	1.0101	1.0239
2018 to 2019	1.0101	1.0239
2019 to 2020	1.0101	1.0239
2020 to 2021	1.0101	1.0239
2021 to 2022	1.0101	1.0239
2022 to 2023	1.0069	1.0227
2023 to 2024	1.0069	1.0227
2024 to 2025	1.0069	1.0227
2025 to 2026	1.0069	1.0227
2026 to 2027	1.0069	1.0227

[1] Vehicles below 5 metres in length
[2] Vehicles above 5 metres in length

Ministerial Journeys

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ministerial journeys he has made on public transport in each of the last five years. [86409]

Gillian Merron: Since the Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002, my right hon. friend the Secretary of State and his predecessor have made 221 journeys on ministerial business using scheduled public transport for which the Department has paid. The number undertaken in each financial year is:

	Number
2002-03	30
2003-04	63
2004-05	55
2005-06	62
2006-07[1]	11

[1]Up to 5 July 2006.

No information is available on short journeys which may have been made using public transport locally during the course of visits or in undertaking visits within London.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87637]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State's office has been decorated once in the last five years, in 2002-03.

Nightstar Rolling Stock

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who received the revenue from the sale to Canada of Nightstar rolling stock; and if he will make a statement. [82437]

Derek Twigg: The proceeds from the sale were credited to London and Continental Railways.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent from public funds on the manufacture of Nightstar rolling stock; and if he will make a statement. [81628]

Derek Twigg: The order for Nightstar stock was placed in 1992 by European night services, a consortium of European railway operators, which included British Rail.

The financial consequences of the decision not to proceed with Nightstar services were described by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions in his statement to the House of 3 June 1998.

Noise Hotspots

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish the Highways Agency's report An Assessment of Noise Hotspots Alongside the M40. [88337]

Dr. Ladyman: The report has just been finalised and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House. The report is to be published on the Highways Agency's website shortly.

Noise Severity Index

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will alter the formula for calculating the noise severity index to take account of the local environment. [88319]

Dr. Ladyman: No. The calculation of the index is already carried out in such a way as to ensure resources are targeted at locations where noise levels are greatest and where the greatest number of people would derive benefit from the measures taken.

North London Line

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many journeys were subject to delays on the North London line in each year since 1997. [87716]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held by the Department in the format requested. Information on delayed trains is held by Network Rail.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* assaults and *(b)* robberies there were on the North London line in each year since 1997. [87719]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Information relating to assaults and robberies on the North London line is held by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many freight journeys there were on the North London line in each year since 1997. [87720]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Ministerial Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [84010]

Gillian Merron: Between 1 July 2005 and 30 June 2006 the current Secretary of State and his predecessor visited the English regions on departmental business as set out in the following table:

Region	*Number of visits*
South East	3
South West	2
East Midlands	4
West Midlands	2
East of England	2
Yorkshire and Humber	2
North East	1
North West	3

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what administrative functions for which his Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment he has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81556]

Gillian Merron: The Department and its component agencies have no administrative functions outsourced overseas. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has, in the past, looked at outsourcing its customer call centre function. This option was rejected following a full analysis of the economic and social impact and the potential effect on customer service levels.

Parliamentary Questions

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he issues to officials in his Department on the use of publicly available information such as external websites in answers to parliamentary questions. [84411]

Gillian Merron: The approach taken by departmental staff is that where the information requested in parliamentary questions is easily available, such as in the House Libraries or on websites, hon. Members are advised accordingly.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85197]

Gillian Merron: As at 19 July 2006, 35 Department for Transport parliamentary questions which were due to be answered on 10 July 2006 or before were awaiting a reply, one of which has been waiting more than two weeks.

Passenger Transport Executives

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1700W, on the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, what the equivalent figures are for each of the other Passenger Transport Executive areas. [85913]

Gillian Merron: The total funds allocated by the Department for Transport in the annual settlement and in grants to Passenger Transport Executives in England are shown in the following table. These totals include funding for rail, bus services and local transport. In the case of rail and bus service funding, these allocations are entirely in the form of grant. Local Transport Plan funding covers integrated transport block (for small schemes), maintenance and major projects, and is allocated as a combination of capital grant and supported borrowing. 2005-06 figures are provisional and subject to audit.

£ million

Passenger Transport Executive	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Merseyside	105.8	110.3	112.8	110.1	101.7
West Midlands	60.3	60.6	63.3	87.0	82.3
Tyne and Wear	22.3	19.9	26.4	19.7	9.2
West Yorkshire	62.6	70.9	91.7	111	64.1
South Yorkshire	50.5	36.1	36.5	30.6	29.0

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out, wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83164]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Rail Fares

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the elasticity of demand of rail fares. [84687]

Derek Twigg: Rail fare demand elasticity is assessed and researched jointly by the Department and train operators. The findings are commercially confidential.

The Department also has a research programme to develop its own understanding of the relationship between fares and other demand factors. The first phase of this work is due to report during 2007.

Rail Freight Interchanges

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what environmental factors are taken into account when deciding where to grant permission for a rail freight interchange. [88609]

Derek Twigg: Granting of planning permission for freight interchanges is a matter for local authorities. Planning guidance is published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and is available on their web site at www.communities.gov.uk .

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will visit the proposed site for a rail freight interchange in Park Street, St. Albans. [88727]

Derek Twigg: The possible development of a rail freight interchange is a matter between the private sector developer and the local authority.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department took into account when deciding there was a need for four rail freight interchanges. [88728]

Derek Twigg: Consideration for the national provision of rail freight interchanges was undertaken by the Strategic Rail Authority. Their Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy was published in March 2004. The SRA has since been abolished but a copy of this document and a note of its current status is available on our website at www.dft.gov.uk.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent studies have been undertaken on the capacity of the rail systems around London to accommodate freight; and if he will make a statement. [88729]

Derek Twigg: Network Rail will be publishing the Cross London Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS), which deals with the availability of rail capacity around London, towards the end of August 2006. A network-wide Freight RUS is also in the course of preparation, and a consultation draft will be available shortly.

Railways

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has established a working group in his Department to carry out a feasibility study into the potential of additional high speed rail lines. [82316]

Derek Twigg: The Government have a manifesto commitment to look at the feasibility and affordability of a new north-south high-speed link. The Government have committed to take this forward in the development of a long-term strategy for the railways, drawing on Sir Rod Eddington's advice on the long-term impact of transport decisions on the UK's productivity, stability and growth. The Department has established a working group to look at a range of options for inter-urban rail travel including, but not restricted to, high speed lines. The group's work will contribute to the long term strategy for the railways to be published in summer 2007.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many passengers on average used the Cambridge to London rail service during peak hours in each of the last five years; and how many used the service in each year; [82591]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the expected number of passengers using the rail service between Cambridge and London Liverpool Street during the course of the contract operated by One *(a)* during peak hours and *(b)* in total. [82599]

Derek Twigg: Table A shows the number of passengers arriving in the AM peak and departing in the PM evening peak at both London Kings Cross and London Liverpool Street from Cambridge for 2001 to 2005 inclusive.

Table B shows the number of passengers arriving in the AM peak and departing in the PM peak at London Liverpool Street from Cambridge for the years 2004 and 2005.

Table A

	Cambridge-London[1] AM	*London-Cambridge[1] PM*
2001	7,839	7,381
2002	7,832	7,512
2003	7,839	7,637
2004	10,383	9,336
2005	10,896	9,825

[1] Figures are for arrivals and departures at both London Kings Cross and London Liverpool Street. In 2004 service became 'One' Railway and now includes Cambridge trains previously operated by WAGN.

Table B

	Cambridge-London Liverpool Street AM	*London Liverpool Street-Cambridge PM*
2004	5,039	5,545
2005	5,362	4,505

Prior to the letting of the Greater Anglia franchise, the Department for Transport estimated in its specification for that franchise that the number of passengers using the West Anglia routes in the peak to be just under 20 million in 2001 and just above 21.5 million in 2011. It estimated the number of passengers using the West Anglia routes in the off peak to be 11 million in 2001 and forecast that it would be approximately 14 million by 2011.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to improve rail services between Swindon and Westbury and at intermediate towns to provide transport alternatives for the new housing planned in the area. [84821]

Derek Twigg: Improving rail performance is a key objective for the Department for Transport. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and First Great Western to address performance issues, including the Swindon to Westbury route. These are monitored monthly.

Demand for rail services between Westbury and Swindon is concentrated at peak periods, and the Government have specified direct train services at these times.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which routes *(a)* are and *(b)* are expected by 2014 to be carrying trains which are loaded with passengers to a level that is in excess of capacity. [85566]

Derek Twigg: The Passengers in Excess of Capacity (PIXC) measure only applies to London commuter services.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) publishes PIXC figures in its National Rail Trends publication, the most recent version of which was published on 5 July 2006.

The document is on the internet at the following address http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/294.pdf and has been made available in the Library of the House.

Network Rail's Route Utilisation Strategies forecast passenger demand and identify where this might exceed current peak capacity. Network Rail has recently published an overview of this in its Initial Strategic Business Plan for the period from 2008-09 to 2013-14.

The Department for Transport is now undertaking a network appraisal of passenger demand to inform the development of the High Level Output Specification, assisted by the work done by Network Rail. Increased passenger capacity is one of the three key outputs that will be sought through the HLOS, the others being safety and reliability. The HLOS will set out the railway the Government wish to procure for 2008-09 to 2013-14 and the funds it will make available for this, and will be published in July 2007.

Road Schemes

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what potential carbon dioxide impacts have been included in the Appraisal Summary Tables of local authority road schemes approved through the Local Transport Plans since 2000. [86137]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 23W. Information on the carbon dioxide impacts of each road scheme approved since 2000 through local transport plans could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Road Statistics

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* total number of accidents, *(b)* average daily traffic flow and *(c)* accident rate per million vehicle kilometres was for the stretch of (i) A14 between Girton and Cambridge, (ii) the A10 between Cambridge and Ely and (iii) the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge in each year since 1997. [88733]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police, the annual average daily traffic flow and the accident rate per million vehicle kilometres, for the roads requested are given in the following tables.

The number of damage only accidents is not available.

Table 1: Accidents, average daily traffic flow, and accident rate per million vehicle kilometres on the A14 between where it joins the A428 in Girton and the A10 in Cambridge: 1997-2005

	Accidents[1]	AADF[2]	Accident rate[3]
1997	26	53,587	0.2
1998	31	49,775	0.3
1999	16	53,682	0.1
2000	20	51,447	0.2
2001	18	56,847	0.2
2002	22	57,068	0.2
2003	21	56,541	0.2
2004	22	53,589	0.2
2005	17	54,470	0.2

[1] Personal injury road accidents reported to the police.
[2] Annual average daily traffic flow.
[3] Accident rate per million vehicle km's.

Table 2: Accidents, average daily traffic flow, and accident rate per million vehicle kilometres on the A10 between where it joins the A14 in Cambridge and the junction with the A142 in Elys: 1997-2005

	Accidents[1]	AADF[2]	Accident Rate[3]
1997	55	14,656	0.4
1998	62	14,994	0.4
1999	52	14,921	0.3
2000	73	14,807	0.5
2001	67	16,360	0.4
2002	58	16,769	0.3
2003	52	16,522	0.3
2004	70	17,775	0.4
2005	53	17,353	0.3

[1] Personal Injury road accidents reported to the police
[2] Annual average daily traffic flow
[3] Accident rate per million vehicle km's.

Table 3: Accidents, average daily traffic flow, and accident rate per million vehicle kilometres on the A1307 between the junctions with A143 in Haverhill and the A1134 in Cambridge: 1997-2005

	Accidents[1]	AADF[2]	Accident Rate[3]
1997	106	14,752	0.8
1998	114	15,071	0.8
1999	96	15,279	0.7
2000	135	15,603	0.9
2001	114	15,641	0.8
2002	106	16,071	0.7
2003	97	16,372	0.6
2004	103	16,261	0.7
2005	81	15,735	0.5

[1] Personal Injury road accidents reported to the police
[2] Annual average daily traffic flow
[3] Accident rate per million vehicle km's.

Ship-to-Ship Oil Transfers

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the protection offered under the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998, in conjunction with the

Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994, for European wildlife sites in respect of ship-to-ship transfers of oil and other cargoes in harbour authority areas. [87810]

Dr. Ladyman: In the recent case of Forth Ports' proposal to carry out ship-to-ship transfers in the Firth of Forth, the Department concluded that Forth Ports has powers to regulate (and if necessary, prevent) ship-to-ship transfers in the Firth of Forth. Forth Ports also has power under byelaws enacted under local legislation to regulate whether vessels can anchor to transfer cargo. As a competent authority under the habitats regulations, Forth Ports also must have regard to the requirements of the habitats directive insofar as they may be affected by the exercise of its functions.

Additionally, under regulation 44 of the habitats regulations, there is provision to license activities that could disturb a European protected species, or damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places. As this is for a devolved purpose, it is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive to determine whether a licence would be required for ship-to-ship transfers in the Firth of Forth.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are available to regulate programmes of ship-to-ship transfer of oil proposed to be carried out for commercial purposes *(a)* within harbour authority areas and *(b)* elsewhere in UK internal and territorial waters. [87812]

Dr. Ladyman: Within statutory harbour authority areas, the Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998 apply. The regulations require harbour authorities to have an oil spill contingency plan (OSCP) approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. These plans include a risk assessment and the provision of oil combating equipment commensurate to the identified risk. The approval of harbour authority OSCPs does not grant permission for the activities identified within the plan to take place. It is the role of the harbour authority through appropriate byelaws to decide whether to permit these activities.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what compensation under the Habitats Directive will be available if the proposed ship-to-ship oil transfer planning applications by Melbourne marine services in the Firth of Forth is approved. [89069]

Dr. Ladyman: The role of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, for which the Secretary of State for Transport has responsibility, is limited to amending and approving oil spill contingency plans. Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, which is the Article which refers to compensatory measures, does not apply in this case because the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has concluded that the submitted oil spill contingency plan covering ship-to-ship transfers in the Firth of Forth and the amendments to the overarching Clearwater Forth contingency plan will not have any adverse effects on the integrity of the relevant nature conservation sites, or on relevant species such as seals and seabirds outside those sites.

Furthermore, under regulation 44 of the Habitats Regulations, there is provision to license activities that could disturb a European protected species, or damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places. As this is for a devolved purpose, it is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive to determine whether a licence would be required for ship-to-ship transfers in the Firth of Forth.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of whether the ship-to-ship oil transfer planning application in the Firth of Forth by Melbourne maritime services fulfils the criterion set out in the Habitats Directive that the project must be in the overriding public interest. [89070]

Dr. Ladyman: It is for Forth Ports, as the competent harbour authority, to decide whether to permit ship-to-ship transfers.

Furthermore, under regulation 44 of the Habitats Regulations, there is provision to license activities that could disturb a European protected species, or damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places. As this is for a devolved purpose, it is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive to determine whether a licence would be required for ship-to-ship transfers in the Firth of Forth.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* the Maritime and Coastguard Agency had with the (i) Scottish Executive and (ii) the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency regarding the ship-to-ship oil transfer planning application by Melbourne Marine Services in the Firth of Forth. [88581]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department and its Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) are in regular contact with the Scottish Executive and its agencies on a number of issues, including this one.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation the Maritime and Coastguard Agency undertook with local authorities regarding the ship-to-ship oil transfer planning application by Melbourne Marine Services in the Firth of Forth. [89067]

Dr. Ladyman: The role of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is limited to approving or amending oil spill contingency plans.

Forth Ports plc. was required, in accordance with published MCA guidance entitled "Contingency Planning for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response: Guidelines for Ports", to consult a range of consultees before formally submitting the oil spill contingency plans for approval. The list of consultees included the local authorities for the area concerned.

The MCA hosted a stakeholder meeting in Grangemouth on 25 July 2005 in which East Lothian Council, Fife Council, Forth Ports, Melbourne Marine Services, the Scottish Executive, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage all participated.

A public consultation was also held by the MCA to assess the implications for relevant nature conservation sites of Forth Ports' oil spill contingency plans. A number of local authorities for the area concerned responded as consultees.

In light of the consultation responses and taking into account the advice of Scottish Natural Heritage, the statutory nature conservation authority, the MCA finalised its assessment and considered whether any amendments to the plan were required.

The MCA announced on 14 July 2006 its intention to approve the submitted plans, subject to a number of specified changes.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission regarding the ship-to-ship oil transfer in the Firth of Forth in the context of the Habitats Directive. [89068]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has had no such discussions with the European Commission.

Smoking Ban (Railway Stations)

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* train operators on the introduction of the ban on smoking in railway stations in 2007. [89144]

Derek Twigg: Network Rail and the Association of Train Operating Companies were among those whose views were sought as the Health Bill progressed through Parliament. The rail industry has a further opportunity to comment through a consultation (which began on 17 July) on Regulations which it is proposed will be made now that the Bill has received Royal Assent.

South Coast Study (Bristol/Bath)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why his Department decided to pursue a timetable specification that does not accord with the findings of the Bristol/Bath to South Coast Study. [85237]

Derek Twigg: In preparation of the Greater Western franchise specification, an assessment was made of the existing and future demand for passenger rail traffic on the Cardiff/Bristol to Southampton/Portsmouth rail corridor; this confirmed that the existing hourly train service was adequate to cater for the demand.

Staff Absenteeism

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1272W, on staff absenteeism, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the increase in the average cost of an employee's absence between 2003 and 2004. [85226]

Gillian Merron: When comparing the years 2003 and 2004 the estimated total cost of absenteeism provided in the previous answer has actually gone down. The costs were calculated by multiplying the total number of days lost to sick absence by the average daily cost used by the Cabinet Office in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service". There was a small increase in the average daily cost figure between the two years.

Street Lighting

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's policy is on street lighting remaining on after 1am. [86965]

Gillian Merron: Street lighting service levels are a matter for individual highway authorities.

The effects of reducing lighting levels or turning lights off will vary from case to case. Any cost savings from reduced energy use would have to be balanced against potential adverse effects, for example on accidents or crime.

The Department is represented on the UK Lighting Board, which has already prepared Well-lit Highways, the code of practice on highway lighting management (December 2004, TSO). The board is currently preparing additional guidance for authorities on the implications of dimming or turning off lights.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate how many tons of carbon would be saved by switching off street lights at 1am. [86967]

Gillian Merron: There are approximately 5 million street lighting columns in England, but no comprehensive information is collected centrally relating to their energy consumption.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of street lights which *(a)* are solar-powered, *(b)* are wind-powered and *(c)* have light sensitive switches. [88821]

Gillian Merron: Street lighting is a matter for each individual highway authority. No information is collected centrally concerning the proportion of street lights which are wind-powered, whether directly or through sustainable energy contracts. There are no economically viable solar power systems available at present. Although precise figures are not centrally collected, more than 90 per cent. of English local authorities' five million street lights are controlled by photo-electric cells, as are the great majority of those on the Highways Agency's network.

Taxi Access

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce taxi access regulations under Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 before 2010. [86527]

Gillian Merron: The Government do not intend to bring forward the introduction of taxi accessibility regulations under Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, ahead of the proposals announced in the House on 26 October 2003. These would see the phasing in of regulations, under Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, in specified licensing areas from 2010 (for all newly licensed vehicles), with full compliance by 2020.

The 2010 date has been proposed to accommodate a full public consultation process, to give sufficient time for vehicle manufacturers and converters to produce new models that meet the regulations, and to give the trade sufficient time to adapt to the change.

We are currently developing the technical specification which will form the basis for the regulations.

In the period before regulations are introduced, local licensing authorities remain free to introduce their own accessibility policies and many have done so already.

Thameslink

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions were made about the *(a)* level of fares and *(b)* number of passengers to be carried at peak times in the successful bid by First Capital Connect for the Thameslink franchise; and if he will make a statement. [84360]

Derek Twigg: The First Capital Connect bid was consistent with the current fares policy. Unregulated fares and restrictions as to their use are a matter for the train operating company's commercial judgment.

First Capital Connect forecasts increased patronage on its routes throughout the term of the franchise. The Department is working with the industry to increase the length of peak services on routes to Bedford, St. Albans and Luton so that all will have eight carriages by the end of 2009.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the companies bidding for the former Thameslink franchise incorporated *(a)* passenger reductions and *(b)* fare increases in their base line bid; and if he will make a statement. [82679]

Derek Twigg: We cap the price of regulated fares. It is a commercial decision for Train Operators to set unregulated fares and to set individual regulated fares within the regulatory constraint.

Three of the five bidders for the Thameslink/Great Northern franchise put forward proposals for demand management in order to address the level of crowding on particular services. No bidder included proposals for passenger reduction.

Train Operating Companies

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued to train operating companies regarding their communication with hon. Members. [88302]

Derek Twigg: None.

Train Services

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to review peak time train services along the Brighton to London Victoria line. [89125]

Derek Twigg: Peak time services between London and Brighton are among the issues currently being considered as part of the Department's evaluation of the Brighton Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to review train services to Crowhurst, East Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [89108]

Derek Twigg: Southeastern plan a major timetable review in 2007, ahead of the introduction of CTRL Domestic Services. This will provide an opportunity to review service patterns across the franchise.

Train Timetables

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the formats in which train timetables are produced by Network Rail are governed by regulations; [88352]

(2) what assessment has been made of the impact of changing to internet-only railway timetables; [88353]

(3) in what formats Network Rail produces train timetables; and whether changes are planned. [88361]

Derek Twigg: Network Rail's Network Licence places an obligation on it to "publish or procure the publication of a national timetable of railway passenger services".

Network Rail currently discharges this obligation by producing a National Rail Timetable in A5 format.

Any decision to change the current, publication and distribution of the National Rail Timetable is the responsibility of Network Rail.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the address below for an answer to his question:

John Armitt, Chief Executive, Network Rail, 40 Melton Street, London NW1 2EE.

Transport Access (Disabled People)

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what further plans he has to improve access to transport for disabled people in West Lancashire. [83546]

Gillian Merron: We are committed to an accessible public transport system in which disabled people have the same opportunities to travel as other members of society and have already made significant progress in this area. At a national level regulations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) have been introduced making all new rail vehicles, buses and coaches accessible to disabled people, including wheelchair users. Over 4,400 accessible rail vehicles are already in service and almost half of the bus fleet used

nationwide on scheduled services is accessible. We have also announced our policy proposals for taxis. As a result, many more disabled people, are now able to use public transport and those improvements will continue as more new vehicles are introduced.

Measures in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA 2005), which significantly extends disabled people's civil rights, will further strengthen legislation in relation to transport. The Act enables Part 3 of the DDA 1995, which covers access to goods, facilities and services, to be applied to transport services. We have already laid regulations which will cover land-based public transport (regardless of whether those vehicles are regulated under the DDA 1995), vehicle hire and breakdown services. The Disability Rights Commission has drafted a code of practice to assist transport service providers in understanding the new duties which will come into force on 4 December 2006. The Commission is also developing further, sector specific, guidance on what it might be reasonable for transport operators to do to make their services more accessible to disabled people.

The Act also includes further measures on rail including the setting of an "end date", of no later than 1 January 2020, by which time all rail vehicles will have to be fully accessible, applying accessibility regulations to older rail vehicles when they are refurbished, the introduction of compliance certification and decriminalisation of offences. We intend to have all the major provisions of the DDA 2005, including those on transport, in place by the end of December 2006 and are on course to achieve this.

However, provision of accessible vehicles on their own is not sufficient to deliver an accessible transport system. We are also looking at this issue and have implemented the majority of the recommendations from the Social Exclusion Unit's report on transport and social exclusion (Making the Connections, 2003).

These include the introduction of "accessibility planning" into the local transport planning process to encourage local authorities and other agencies to assess whether people can access key services such as health care, education and jobs.

Accessibility planning aims to ensure that there is a clearer and more systematic approach to identifying and tackling the barriers that people, particularly those from disadvantaged groups and areas, face in accessing jobs and key services. Considering the accessibility needs of disabled people is part of this process.

Lancashire county council's proposals for delivering improvements in accessibility are set out in its second Local Transport Plan which is available on the Council's web site at www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/ltp/index.asp.

Transport Direct Portal

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* estimated and *(b)* outturn cost was in each year since inception of the (i) development and (ii) running of the Transport Direct portal. [85819]

Dr. Ladyman: Since inception, estimated and outturn spend on the Transport Direct Portal Design, Build and Operate (DBO) contract, which covers both development and operational costs, has been as follows:

Period	Estimate	£ million Outturn
2002-03	1.9	1.3
2003-04	9.9	9.3
2004-05	8.5	9.6
2005-06	9.1	9.8

These figures represent the total sums paid to Atos Origin (the DBO contractor) for all aspects of the DBO contract.

The overall budget for the Transport Direct (TD) Programme, which included this contract among many other things, was £57 million (Capital and Resource) for the Period of Spending Review 2002 (April 2003 to March 2006). The overall programme budget underspent by £12 million and, with the agreement of the TD Programme and Project Boards, funds were transferred from the TD Programme to the Portal DBO contract to reflect the fact that some of the work originally envisaged as programme was undertaken within the project. This accounts for the minor overspends noted above against 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Transport Infrastructures (High Temperatures)

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the abilities of the *(a)* rail and *(b)* road infrastructure to cope in temperatures greater than 30 degrees centigrade. [88285]

Derek Twigg: Bituminous road surfacing can be susceptible to extremes in temperature causing deformation, usually in the form of rutting. High temperatures can also reduce the skid resistance of the surface.

Design and maintenance of the local road network in England are matters for individual local highway authorities, and no central assessment has been made of their susceptibility to high temperatures. The UK Roads Board has recently published "Well-maintained Highways" (July 2005, TSO and at www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org), a code of practice for highways maintenance. This specifically includes advice on dealing with high temperatures.

On the motorway and trunk road network in England, two types of bituminous surfacing are used; "hot rolled asphalt" and "thin surfacings". Approximately seventy per cent. of this network is covered in hot rolled asphalt that is designed to withstand road surface temperatures of 50 degrees Celsius. Thin surfacings, that cover the remainder, consist of coarse aggregate bound by hard bituminous materials and can withstand road surface temperatures of 60 degrees Celsius. All new or replacement surfacings laid by the Highways Agency on this network are "thin surfacings".

Bridges and other types of structure on the road network are designed to accommodate changes in temperatures in a way that is appropriate to their location.

The resilience of the rail infrastructure to very high temperatures is an operational matter for Network Rail, the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for an answer to his question:

John Armitt, Chief Executive, Network Rail, 40 Melton Street, London NW1 2EE.

Travel Costs (Royal Family)

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to public funds was of the travel of HRH the Duke of York on 19 July 2006; and if he will make a statement. [87797]

Gillian Merron: On 19 July, HRH The Duke of York undertook a number of official engagements in Cheshire and Merseyside in support of his role as Special Representative for International Trade and Investment. The Queen's Helicopter was used for travel as this provided the most effective and least disruptive means for The Duke to attend seven official engagements during the day. The total cost of the four flights was £2,799.

Trunk Roads (Gravesham)

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of future traffic patterns on trunk roads in Gravesham; and whether provision has been made for possible increases in traffic. [86680]

Gillian Merron: As part of operating in partnership with key stakeholders, the Highways Agency and Kent county council are working with Gravesham and Dartford borough councils to estimate and model future traffic patterns to ensure growth is planned in the most sustainable way on both the strategic and local road networks. This work is on-going and will help inform Gravesham's Local Development Framework.

UK International Airports/Ports

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the international *(a)* airports and *(b)* ports in the United Kingdom. [87296]

Gillian Merron: UK airports handling international terminal passenger traffic are listed in table 10.1 of UK Airport Statistics 2005, which is published on the Civil Aviation Authority's website www.caa.co.uk. All active sea ports in the UK are potentially capable of receiving international traffic. The main sea ports which are known to handle international traffic based on returns to the Department are given in tables 1.9 and 3.1 (a) of Maritime Statistics 2004, covering freight and passenger traffic respectively. These tables are published on the Department's website www.dft.gov.uk.

Vehicle Relicensing

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what transaction charge is issued by each credit card company for relicensing vehicles on line; how the £2.50 charge to cover the costs incurred by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in providing this service was calculated; and how many credit card transactions took place in the last year for which information is available. [88815]

Dr. Ladyman: Charges applied for processing credit card transactions by the credit card companies are of a sensitive commercial nature and therefore cannot be disclosed. The £2.50 fee is calculated to cover the full cost of administering the service and is reviewed annually. The fee includes credit card costs incurred and DVLA operating costs. There have been 448,372 credit card payments since introduction of the service in November 2005.

Violence on Trains

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of violence on trains have been reported to the British Transport police in the last five years. [87213]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Information relating to incidents of violence on trains is held by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

PRIME MINISTER

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Prime Minister what advertising campaigns his Office has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87059]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-East (Mr. McFadden) the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office on 24 July [87070].

Background Reading

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister what publications have been provided by his civil servants as background reading for his ministerial duties since taking office; and if he will make a statement. [87589]

The Prime Minister: Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Cash for Peerages

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether legal representation was provided at public expense to Number 10 staff questioned by police officers in connection with the current Scotland Yard investigation into allegations regarding cash for peerages; [87018]

(2) whether legal representation was provided at public expense to Cabinet Office staff questioned by police officers in connection with the current Scotland Yard investigation into allegations regarding cash for peerages. [87019]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my Official Spokesman on Friday 14 July. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

G8

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the conversation he had with the President of the US at the G8 which was broadcast by mistake. [88437]

The Prime Minister: No.

Lords Appointments

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* others are entitled (i) to view and (ii) to know the contents of (A) application and (B) disclosure forms submitted by those who are to be proposed for peerages prior to such forms being received by the Lords Appointments Commission. [85866]

The Prime Minister: Different processes apply to different categories of nominations, for example, applications made direct to the House of Lords Appointments Commission, party-political nominations, and the limited number of candidates I recommend for people in high public office on their retirement.

Ministerial Holiday Deputies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister when he will be out of the country on holiday this summer; between what dates the Deputy Prime Minister will act in his stead; and who will deputise for the Deputy Prime Minister. [88435]

The Prime Minister: For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) at Prime Minister's questions on 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1384-85.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Prime Minister what trade-related *(a)* missions he plans to undertake and *(b)* meetings he plans to hold during the parliamentary recess. [86764]

The Prime Minister: For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister which public appointments are in his gift, apart from Ministers of the Crown; what emoluments are payable; what the comparable figures were in *(a)* 1976, *(b)* 1979, *(c)* 1986 and *(d)* 1996; and if he will make a statement. [83230]

The Prime Minister: I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of the appointments which I make.

The remainder of the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

Standing Order No. 13

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what criteria he uses to determine when to make representations to the Speaker seeking the earlier meeting of the House under Standing Order No. 13. [88436]

The Prime Minister: The criteria is set out in Part 1 of Standing Order 13.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Burglary

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic burglaries have taken place in each year since 1997. [88518]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is published in Table 2.04 of "Crime in England and Wales 2005/06", Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/06. A copy of the publication is available on the Home Office website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0506.html

Capita Group

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have held with directors and senior executives of (i) Capita Group plc and (ii) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2004; and whether (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries have provided input (1) in writing and (2) in person to policy discussions in his Department since 1 January 2004. [61074]

John Reid: It is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs.

Community Support Officers

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there are; and if he will make a statement. [86312]

Mr. McNulty: The most recent available information is contained in the following table.

Police community support officer (PCSO) strength in England and Wales (full-time equivalents)[1] as at 30 September 2005

Police force area	PCSO strength (fte)
Avon and Somerset	146
Bedfordshire	43
Cambridgeshire	92
Cheshire	77
Cleveland	86
Cumbria	19
Derbyshire	43
Devon and Cornwall	75
Dorset	56
Durham	72
Essex	193
Gloucestershire	62
Greater Manchester	264
Hampshire	23
Hertfordshire	135
Humberside	20
Kent	103
Lancashire	159
Leicestershire	119
Lincolnshire	78
London, City of	14
Merseyside	161
Metropolitan Police	2,053
Norfolk	67
Northamptonshire	38
Northumbria	143
North Yorkshire	69
Nottinghamshire	112
South Yorkshire	125
Staffordshire	62
Suffolk	33
Surrey	102
Sussex	231
Thames Valley	109
Warwickshire	56
West Mercia	86
West Midlands	247
West Yorkshire	433
Wiltshire	38
Dyfed Powys	24
Gwent	81
North Wales	61
South Wales	116
Total 43 Forces	6,324

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. These figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Convictions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who reside in *(a)* Torbay and *(b)* Devon and Cornwall have been prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since it was enacted; and how many dangerous dogs have been destroyed in (i) Torbay and (ii) Devon and Cornwall in each year since 1999. [85512]

Mr. Coaker: The data requested on defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts in Devon and Cornwall police force area for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, for the years 1992-2004, are provided in the following table. It is not possible to identify defendants from Torbay as their individual circumstances are not separately collected and the data is not broken down to that level of detail.

Information on the number of dangerous dogs destroyed is not collected centrally.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Devon and Cornwall Police Force Area, 1992-2004[1, 2]

Offence description	Principal statute	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Abandoning or allowing to stray a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	—	—	2	—	—	—
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	2	2	2	—	—	—
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	5	7	5	7	6	11
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	7	5	2	7	5	5
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	—	1	1	1	—	—

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Devon and Cornwall Police Force Area, 1992-2004[1, 2]

Offence description	*Principal statute*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	2	1	1	—	—	—
Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8)	1	1	1	—	—	—
Total all offences		22	17	14	15	11	16

Offence description	*Principal statute*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Giving or offering to give a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	—	4	1	—	—	—	—
Abandoning or allowing to stray a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	15	12	17	19	22	27	17
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	7	8	8	8	7	8	7
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	—	1	—	2	—	—	1
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8)	6	27	16	34	25	19	17
Total all offences		29	52	42	64	56	55	42

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis. [2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Crime Statistics

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of reported crimes in each London borough resulted in *(a)* an arrest and *(b)* a conviction in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [85936]

Mr. McNulty: Data collected centrally do not track individual offences to conclusion. Recorded offences are counted on the basis of crimes committed and are available by London borough. Arrests are counted on the basis of offenders by police force area only and convictions are counted on the basis of offenders by court.

Information on arrests and convictions is not available for 2005. The latest published data can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbpubs1.html

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* robberies and *(b)* burglaries were reported in (i) Barnsley and (ii) Doncaster in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in conviction. [87635]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the tables as follows. Recorded crime deals with offences while convictions data is based on offenders. For this reason the two data sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Recorded offences of robbery and burglary in Barnsley and Doncaster—2001-2002

	Barnsley		Doncaster	
	Robbery	Burglary	Robbery	Burglary
2001-02	135	5,363	300	8,952

Table 2: Recorded offences of burglary and robbery in Barnsley and Doncaster—2002-03 to 2005-06

	Barnsley		Doncaster	
	Robbery	Burglary	Robbery	Burglary
2002-03	162	5,380	375	9,962
2003-04	125	4,408	227	7,173
2004-05	76	2,810	200	5,977
2005-06	82	3,056	227	6,210

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for 2001-02

Table 3: Number of defendants convicted at all courts of Burglary and Robbery as a result of proceedings brought in Barnsley and Doncaster Local Criminal Justice areas, by committing court, 2000-04[1,2]

Offence / Committing court	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Burglary					
Barnsley District	149	128	126	136	157
Doncaster	283	251	270	255	199
Total	432	379	396	391	356
Robbery					
Barnsley District	19	20	22	33	24
Doncaster	44	67	55	40	55
Total	63	87	77	73	79

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Crown Prosecution Service

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to require the Crown Prosecution Service to contact the families of murder and manslaughter victims prior to a trial. [46419]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

In October 2005, the Attorney-General issued the Prosecutors' Pledge. The Pledge commits prosecutors to 10 specific areas of service that will be provided to victims, including the families of murder and manslaughter victims and witnesses. These 10 pledges include: commitments to taking into account the impact on the family when making a charging decision; informing the family when a charge is withdrawn, discontinued or substantially altered and, where practical, seeking the views of the family when considering the acceptability of a defendant's pleas; encouraging communication between the family and the prosecutor at court; objecting to inappropriate cross-examination that may attack the character of a victim; on conviction challenging defence mitigation which is derogatory to the victim's character, and explaining to the families the effect of court judgments and the progress of any appeals.

These services will be provided by prosecutors working with the police and assisted by joint police/Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Witness Care Units (WCUs). Day to day contact with the families will ordinarily be undertaken by the police family liaison officer. The role of the WCU in murder and manslaughter cases is to maintain communication between the prosecutor and the family liaison officer so as to ensure that the family is properly informed about the progress of the case and receives appropriate support throughout the criminal justice process.

Curfews

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners at *(a)* Chelmsford, *(b)* Coldingly, *(c)* Elmsley and *(d)* Rochester prison convicted of offences under section 18 of the Offences against the Persons Act 1861 were given home detention curfews in each of the last five years; how many prisoners at each institution were registered for home detention curfews in each year, broken down by grounds for rejection; and how many appeals by prisoners at each institution against rejection of applications for home detention curfews were granted in each year. [50369]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows (i) the number of prisoners released on Home Detention Curfew (HDC) and (ii) the number of prisoners who were sentenced to three months to less than four years and who had an HDC eligibility date in the periods specified.

The information on the number of prisoners who were sentenced to three months to less than four years and who had an HDC eligibility date in the periods specified, will include prisoners who are not eligible for release under the scheme, either because they are excluded by statute or are presumed unsuitable as a matter of policy. Other prisoners will opt-out of being assessed for release on HDC, or will turned down following risk assessment. As prisoners may move between prisons these figures should be used as broad estimates.

The offences recorded on the central prison IT system do not relate to offences under specific pieces of legislation. The information in the table includes those prisoners recorded with offences of wounding (inflicting GBH) and assault with intent to cause GBH.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so can be used for purposes of looking at the relative magnitude of components.

All figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Information on the reasons for refusal of individual applications, and the outcome of appeals, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners with sentences of three months to less than four years with an HDC eligibility date in the periods specified, and number released on HDC: wounding (inflicting GBH); and assault with intent to cause GBH

	Prisoners with sentences of three months to less than four years with an HDC eligibility date in the period	*Number released on HDC*
2001		
Chelmsford	15	10
Coldingley	5	5
Elmley	30	15
Rochester	5	5
2002		
Chelmsford	5	5
Coldingley	5	—
Elmley	40	20
Rochester	15	10
2003		
Chelmsford	5	5
Coldingley	5	—
Elmley	10	5
Rochester	30	20
2004		
Chelmsford	15	5
Coldingley	—	—
Elmley	10	5
Rochester	35	20
2005		
Chelmsford	5	—
Coldingley	5	—
Elmley	20	5
Rochester	40	20
2006 until end June		
Chelmsford	5	—
Coldingley	—	—
Elmley	5	—
Rochester	15	10

Notes:
'—' Indicates nil or less than three.
- nil or less than 3

These statistics are based on information recorded on the central Prison Service IT system at week ending 16 July 2006.
Further updates and amendments may be made to records on this system in future resulting in revised figures.
These figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants at grade 5 or above have been disciplined over failures in the UK immigration system since 1 January; and if he will make a statement. [73891]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 June 2006]*: Since January, there has been no disciplinary action against any member of the senior civil service in relation to the work of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

In setting up the Immigration and Nationality Directorate as an Executive agency of the Home Office we will establish stronger accountability arrangements and set demanding targets for performance and delivery.

Dogs

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take the necessary steps to record and publish the number of dogs that *(a)* go missing and *(b)* are stolen in each year in England and Wales. [87761]

Mr. McNulty: There are currently no plans to separately identify from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office the number of dogs stolen. Information on dogs reported missing is not collected by the Home Office.

Engagements

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety last visited Watford in her official capacity. [54058]

John Reid: My right hon. Friend the Member for Salford (Hazel Blears) did not visit Watford in her official capacity as a Home Office Minister.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* public speeches and *(b)* official visits he has made since 5 May 2005; and how many letters he sent in this period. [55706]

John Reid: I have undertaken 72 public speeches, 19 official visits and sent 1,017 letters since the 5 May 2005. Each speech and visit was conducted in accordance with the ministerial code.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. The report for 2004 was published on 6 April 2005, *Official Report*, column 137. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. The report for 2005 will be published in due course

Extradition

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department of which individuals the United States is seeking extradition from the UK on grounds of terrorist affiliation. [87574]

Mr. McNulty: Seven people wanted by the US on charges connected to terrorism are the subject of extradition proceedings. It is not our policy or practice to list the names of those concerned.

Fraud

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what his estimate is of the cost of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* fraud excluding large-scale fraud in each of the last three years; [89114]

(2) what his estimate is of the cost of fraud outside *(a)* the responsibility of the City of London police and *(b)* London in 2005-06. [89115]

Mr. Coaker: There is no recent reliable estimate of the cost of fraud, although a Home Office commissioned report in 2000 estimated the total economic cost of fraud then to be around £14 billion. The figure six years later is likely to be considerably higher. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has commissioned a study on the nature, extent and economic impact of fraud which will report later this year. The Home Office has actively helped with the tendering process and the terms of reference for the project.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* national banks and *(b)* the police regarding the prevention of identity fraud. [89123]

Joan Ryan: Work on identity fraud reduction is led by the Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC) and supported by the Identity Fraud Forum (IFF). The IFSC and IFF include members from the police and the British Bankers' Association, as well as representatives from other sectors. The IFSC and the IFF meet regularly to take forward the Government's work on reducing identity fraud and to co-ordinate this activity across all sectors. A number of sub-groups meet on a regular basis to identify, scope and prioritise opportunities to reduce identity fraud.

In particular, we have established a network of Single Points of Contact in all police forces, as well as in a range of Government Departments and agencies, for dealing with identity fraud investigations and prosecutions. Also, a number of banks have produced co-branded versions of the Home Office identity theft leaflet for their customers. The leaflet explains how to keep personal information safe, how to get help if one is the victim of identity fraud and what is being done to combat the problem.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity thefts were reported in each London borough in each of the last five years; and how many resulted in a conviction. [88667]

Joan Ryan: The Government take the problem of identity fraud very seriously. There is no single offence of either identity theft or identity fraud. On 7 June 2006 we brought into force sections 25 and 26 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 which created new criminal offences of being in possession or control of false identity documents. These offences relate to a wide range of identity documents, including passports, driving licences, ID cards and immigration documents. The maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment for an offence of possession with intent to use the document for establishing registrable facts about another person, such as name, address, date of birth and other personal details, and two years imprisonment for possession without reasonable excuse. Investigation of offences under these provisions is already underway and statistics on the number of prosecutions and convictions will be published in due course.

There is also a range of other criminal offences to combat identity fraud. These include, for example, the offences in the Theft Acts of 1968 and 1978 of obtaining property by deception (property includes money), obtaining services by deception and obtaining a money transfer by deception. The number of these offences that were committed using a false or stolen identity is not recorded centrally and it is not possible to provide figures for London boroughs or any other area. However, identity theft and identity fraud questions were incorporated into the British Crime Survey in 2005 and the results should give us more information on the number of victims and the types of fraud that are being committed.

Gun Crime

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) West of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 66W, on gun crime, why the requested data is not in a form suitable for publication. [87680]

Mr. McNulty: From 1986 to 1996-97 firearm offences data collected centrally did not include reference to whether weapons were held legally or illegally. Attempts were made between 1997-98 and 2003-04 to collect these data, but there were concerns over their quality. There is a difficulty for the police being able to identify whether a firearm used in an offence was legally or illegally held, particularly if that firearm was not retrieved. As a result the data for this period were not published. Because of these concerns, and following consultation with police force representatives, the data ceased to be collected centrally from one April 2004.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is a specific department within the Serious Organised Crime Agency that deals with combating human trafficking. [82697]

Mr. McNulty: One of top priorities for the Serious Organised Crime Agency is the combating of organised immigration crime, which includes human trafficking. The responsibility for this work is shared by a number of different departments within the Agency.

Illegal Drugs

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by law enforcement agencies in the fight against illegal drugs in the last three years. [87679]

Mr. Coaker: The Government made available £380 million of direct annual expenditure for drug supply reduction activity in each of the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. These figures represent expenditure by agencies with the Concerted Inter-Agency Drug Action Group (CIDA) including National Crime Squad, National Criminal Intelligence Service and HM Revenue and Customs. It does not include any expenditure of the Police Grant in policing local drug markets.

Illegal Imports (Animal Products)

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions were brought in each of the last six years for illegally importing products of animal origin into the UK; and how many resulted in a custodial sentence. [85617]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have had responsibility for anti smuggling controls on products of animal origin since 11 April 2003.

The number of prosecutions taken forward by HMRC for products of animal origin (POAO) illegal imports offences, is set out in the following table:

April to March	*Number of prosecutions*
2003-04	0
2004-05	7
2005-06	2

All prosecutions were successful.

Of these nine prosecutions, one conviction (in June 2005) resulted in the imposition of a 28-day custodial sentence. The most recent prosecution led to a fine and the individual found guilty was deported.

Details of prosecutions taken by local authorities, specifically for offences relating to illegal imports meat into the UK, are not held centrally.

Immigration Cases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in the last 12 months *(a)* he has and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have declined a request to meet hon. Members to discuss immigration cases. [67700]

John Reid *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* The information is not available in the form requested.

Juvenile Deaths (Police Establishments)

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what public inquiries have taken place in the last 30 years into the deaths of children in police establishments. [86233]

Mr. McNulty: To the best of our knowledge there have been no public inquiries regarding deaths of children in police establishments over the last 30 years.

Knives

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asaults with knives were recorded in England and Wales in each of the last five years, broken down by length of blade. [88573]

Mr. McNulty: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are knife related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans *(a)* to extend the knife amnesty and *(b)* to introduce a permanent knife amnesty. [87968]

Mr. Coaker: There are no plans to extend the knife amnesty or to bring in a permanent knife amnesty. It is open to police forces to run local amnesties where they consider this to be appropriate.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has met *(a)* Sir Christopher Evans and *(b)* representatives of Merlin Biosciences Ltd. in the past 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [61766]

John Reid: The Home Secretary has not met with either Sir Christopher Evans or representatives of Merlin Biosciences Ltd. in the past 12 months.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which probation centres Ministers in his Department have visited in each year since 1997; and for what purposes. [63059]

John Reid: This information can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Motoring Offences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 10 most common motoring offences were for which women were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted, *(c)* fined and *(d)* sent to prison in (i) Essex, (ii) Hertfordshire, (iii) the Metropolitan Police area of London and (iv) England and Wales in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by age group. [78832]

Mr. Coaker: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the 10 most common motoring offences for which women were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted, *(c)* fined and *(d)* sent to prison within Essex, Hertfordshire, the Metropolitan police force areas and England and Wales from 2002 to 2004 (latest available) is given in the following tables.

Data for 2005 will be available early in 2007.

10 most common motoring offences for which women aged 21 and over were prosecuted, found guilty, fined and given a custodial sentence, England and Wales, 2004

Offence description	*Rounded Total proceedings*
Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	36,400
Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	33,500
Vehicle test offences	31,200
Speed limit offences	30,500
Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	26,600
Other miscellaneous motoring offences	20,500
Other insurance offences (excluding fraud and forgery)	12,000
Failing to produce driving licence	8,700
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	8,500
Other vehicle registration offences (excluding forgery and deception)	6,600

	Rounded Total findings of guilt
Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	30,800
Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	28,200
Speed limit offences	25,600
Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	17,600
Vehicle test offences	16,900
Other miscellaneous motoring offences	12,500
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	8,400
Other vehicle registration offences (excluding forgery and deception)	4,700
Driving without due care and attention	4,200
Dangerous driving	3,700

	Rounded Total fined
Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	27,600
Speed limit offences	25,400
Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	20,500
Other miscellaneous motoring offences	11,400
Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	8,900
Vehicle test offences	7,300
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	6,200
Other vehicle registration offences (excluding forgery and deception)	4,400
Driving without due care and attention	3,400
Other obstruction, waiting and parking offences	1,900

	Rounded Total immediate custody
Driving while disqualified	700
Dangerous driving	400
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	200
Causing injury and damage by aggravated vehicle taking	70
Causing death by dangerous driving	60
Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle etc	50
Unfit to drive through drink and drugs (impairment)	30
Driving and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)	20
Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs	20
Failing to stop after accident, etc.	10

Notes:

1. A person appearing in court can be dealt with for more than one offence at that appearance. The tables show the number of offences dealt with and not the number of persons appearing in court.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Neighbourhood Watch

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many neighbourhood watch schemes are in operation; and if he will make a statement. [88646]

Mr. McNulty: Neighbourhood Watch groups are not required to register with the Home Office and therefore we do not have information on exactly how many schemes exist. However, Neighbourhood Watch schemes requiring public liability insurance cover funded by the Home Office need to register with the insurance provider, and the most recent figure for the number of schemes registered is 137,238 (as of 1 July 2006). Information on the number of schemes existing that have not registered for PLI is not collected.

News of the World

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has held with representatives of the *News of the World* in the last four weeks. [79809]

John Reid: The Minister has meetings with the media from time to time and this has included discussions with the *News of the World*.

Offenders (Licensed Release)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders on licence given permission to travel abroad in the last 12 months have *(a)* returned late, *(b)* absconded and been re-arrested and *(c)* absconded and not been recaptured, broken down by the type of offence for which they were convicted. [79596]

John Reid: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, revised arrangements are being put in place in relation to life sentenced prisoners which require the notification centrally of any trip abroad that is due to take place and any trip which has been undertaken. This requirement forms part of a recent update to the Lifer Manual which shortly will be communicated formally to probation areas via a probation circular.

Parliamentary Questions

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department will answer questions *(a)* 44633 on the Probation Service, *(b)* 50812 on Cumbria Police Authority and *(c)* 64424 on crime in Cumbria, tabled by the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale. [75140]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member as follows:

(b) question 44633—5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 297W; and

(c) question 64424—30 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 874W.

My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Sutcliffe) replied to *(a)* question 50812 on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 883W.

Police

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have closed in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Cornwall, *(c)* Somerset and *(d)* Dorset in each of the last five years. [76251]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 June 2006]*: Information provided by the respective police forces is set out in the following table.

Number of police stations opened and closed since 2002

Year (as at 31 March)	Devon and Cornwall			Avon and Somerset			Dorset		
	Open	Closed	Total	Open	Closed	Total	Open	Closed	Total
2002	[1]	[1]	61	2	0	43	3	2	23
2003	0	0	61	1	1	43	0	1	22
2004	0	0	61	0	0	43	2	1	23
2005	3	3	61	1	1	43	2	1	24
2006	0	0	61	0	1	42	0	1	23

[1] Data not available.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his assessment is of the costs and benefits of *(a)* no change, *(b)* a federated structure, *(c)* a single strategic force and *(d)* other strategic co-working arrangements for police force restructuring in Wales. [82367]

Mr. McNulty: The business case for the amalgamation of the four Welsh police forces, which was sent to Welsh police forces and police authorities with the then Home Secretary's notice of intention to merge on 3 March 2006, contained details of all the options that had been considered and HMIC's assessment of them.

The notice of intention to merge was withdrawn on 13 July.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the future use of *(a)* Willesden Green and *(b)* Harlesden police station. [87490]

Mr. McNulty: Questions about the use of the Metropolitan police estate are for the Metropolitan Police Authority and for the Commissioner. However I am informed by the Metropolitan police that these stations are considered to be beyond their viable lives and may be considered for disposal. MPS have confirmed that no Metropolitan police station will

close unless a suitable replacement in the general location has been provided. Full local consultation will take place. The long-term accommodation strategy for the Brent area includes enhanced custody centre facilities, a patrol base and safer neighbourhood bases.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults per head of population there were on *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers in each constabulary in 2005-06. [88963]

Mr. McNulty: Assaults on police community support officers are not recorded separately by the Home Office. They are recorded under the more general category of common assault if no injury results. If injury is involved they are recorded under the appropriate section of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

Statistics of assaults on a constable by police force area for 2005-06 are given in the table.

Recorded offences of assault on a constable per 100,000 population by police force area—2005-06

Police force area	*Assault on a constable per 100,000 population*
Avon and Somerset	56
Bedfordshire	50
Cambridgeshire	58
Cheshire	36
Cleveland	52
Cumbria	44
Derbyshire	13
Devon and Cornwall	20
Dorset	42
Durham	51
Dyfed-Powys	42
Essex	41
Gloucestershire	52
Greater Manchester	45
Gwent	43
Hampshire	51
Hertfordshire	60
Humberside	50
Kent	44
Lancashire	53
Leicestershire	49
Lincolnshire	29
London, City of	
Merseyside	50
Metropolitan Police[1]	41
Norfolk	49
Northamptonshire	42
Northumbria	44
North Wales	28
North Yorkshire	55
Nottinghamshire	31
South Wales	40
South Yorkshire	33
Staffordshire	60
Suffolk	48
Surrey	45
Sussex	52
Thames Valley	41
Warwickshire	49
West Mercia	25
West Midlands	13
West Yorkshire	39
Wiltshire	22
Total	41

[1] Includes City of London

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Point of Order on 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1393, on police force mergers, if he will clarify the implications for the proposed abolition of West Mercia Constabulary and the creation of a regional West Midlands force. [85899]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, made it clear in the House on 19 June and again on 12 July that he did not intend to proceed with enforced police force mergers. The notice of intention to merge which was issued to West Mercia by the then Home Secretary on 3 March has been withdrawn.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what undertakings he has given to chief constables and police authorities on central Government funding for police force amalgamations. [74594]

John Reid: The Government gave undertakings to meet 100 per cent. of reasonable set up revenue and capital costs of restructuring, net of reasonable savings.

As I said on 19 June, I do not, however, intend to proceed with enforced amalgamations. We will work with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, as well as HMIC, to improve protective services, preserve neighbourhood policing and increase efficiencies through use of shared services.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* street wardens there were in Hackney and Stoke Newington in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available. [85291]

Mr. McNulty: Information on police officers is not collected at constituency level.

Information has been collected centrally by Operational Command Unit since March 2003. The most recent figures are as at 31 March 2005, showing that Hackney had 789 full-time equivalent police officers. The deployment of police officers to OCUs and other specialist units in the Metropolitan Police is an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis.

The Department for Communities and Local Government have collected information on street wardens sine 2001, and state that there are currently 30 wardens operating in Hackney.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* resignations and *(b)* retirements of police officers from Cambridgeshire Constabulary there have been in each year since 1997. [85993]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the following table.

Full-time equivalent[1] Police Officer resignations and retirements in Cambridgeshire (1997-2005)

As at 31 March	Voluntary resignations[2]	Retirements[3]
1997	9	50
1998	8	48
1999	16	46
2000	11	38
2001	22	43
2002	23	44
2003	22	34
2004	23	40
2005	34	45

[1] Prior to 2003, FTE figures excluded those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. These figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Voluntary resignations does not include those who are dismissed and required to resign.
[3] Retirements includes normal retirements and medical retirements.

Prison Service Accounts

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum amount deposited *(a)* in each prison establishment and *(b)* by foreign national inmates is in prison service accounts; and if he will make a statement. [87803]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prison/Court Escort Service

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on prison and court escort services in each of the last five years. [85398]

John Reid: Details of expenditure on inter-prison transfer and court escort services are set out in the following table:

	Cost (£ million)
2001-02	105.1
2002-03	111.1
2003-04	116.1
2004-05	126.5
2005-06	140.7

Prisons

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list prisons he has visited since he took up his post; and if he will make a statement. [32677]

John Reid: The Home Secretary visited Wandsworth prison on 28 June 2006. His predecessor visited Brixton prison on 22 November 2005.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have absconded from each open prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and how many abscondees from each prison were foreign nationals. [85127]

John Reid: There have been 4,307 absconds from open prisons in England and Wales since one April 2001. A break down by establishment is given in the following table by financial year. Information on the number of abscondees who were foreign nationals could be obtained only by examination of individual records at a disproportionate cost.

Prisoners who have absconded from open prisons in England and Wales 2001-02 to 2005-06

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
North Sea Camp	36	34	79	33	49
Sudbury	81	68	75	77	76
Hollesley Bay	8	14	36	32	16
Askham Grange	19	12	31	12	14
East Sutton Park	3	—	1	2	4
Morton Hall	—	—	—	—	—
Ford	57	91	142	110	96
Stanford Hill	37	83	89	39	58
Kirkham	163	208	213	120	74
Thorn Cross	135	152	130	90	105
Leyhill	19	33	114	102	66
Spring Hill	12	23	60	36	34
Prescoed	5	8	35	19	9
Hewell Grange	8	14	36	32	24
Moorland	—	—	68	73	49
Wealstun	79	101	144	74	28
Total	662	841	1,253	851	702

Racially Aggravated Crimes

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded *(a)* perpetrators and *(b)* victims of racially aggravated crimes there were in the most recent year for which figures are available, broken down by ethnic origin. [77412]

Mr. McNulty: The available information relates to the number of offences recorded as racially aggravated and the number convicted or cautioned for these offences.

The number of racially or religiously aggravated crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2004-05 was 37,028. This collection does not identify the ethnicity of the victims or offenders.

The Home Office Court Proceedings database contains information on the number of persons convicted and cautioned at courts for racially aggravated offences. In 2004, 897 persons were cautioned and 6,379 persons prosecuted for racially aggravated offences in England and Wales. Of those prosecuted, 3,512 persons were convicted at courts for such offences. Information on ethnicity of defendants is not available.

Relocation Support

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what government *(a)* grants and *(b)* other initiatives are available for inner city London boroughs to encourage relocation of residents (i) outside London and (ii) in Essex. [71211]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not make specific grants to London boroughs for relocation schemes. Support for relocation services is made via the Housing and Employment Mobility Services (private sector) contract which facilitates relocation out of London via a scheme known as LAWN.

Security Industry

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most recent performance statistics are of the *(a)* Security Industry Authority for the issuing of licences for door supervisors and *(b)* Criminal Records Bureau on the vetting procedure for door supervisors. [82748]

John Reid: The information is as follows:

(a) As at 14 July 2006, 47,597 door supervisor licences have been issued by the Security Industry Authority.

(b) Specific performance statistics for the vetting of door supervisors are not available. Door supervisors are eligible for the Standard Disclosure check provided by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The most recent performance figures show that in June 98.6 per cent of applications for Standard Disclosure were processed by the CRB within its Public Service Standard.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of persons engaged in the security industry *(a)* requiring a licence and *(b)* in receipt of a licence. [62304]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority's most recent estimate is that about 183,000 individuals require a licence to work in the private security industry. As at 5 July, the SIA had accepted 162,452 complete applications, granted 119,653 licences, and refused 4,231. The remaining 38,568 applications were in the SIA's processing system. There are also 213 companies with Approved Contractor Status that are able to legally deploy a proportion of their staff while their licence applications are being processed, who are between them legally deploying about 15,000 staff.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Security Industry Authority will process the application for a door supervisor's licence submitted by Mark Fleet-Chapman on 5 January. [87509]

Mr. Coaker: I will write to my hon. Friend on this matter.

Sexual Offences

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial support his Department provided for the National Organisation for Rape Crisis and Sex Abuse Victims in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [86338]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office core-funded the Rape Crisis Federation from April 2001 until it closed in November 2003 due to internal issues: £406,000 in 2001-02; £432,000 in 2002-03; and £209,800 in 2003-04.

The Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group has received grants totalling £79,000 from the Victims Fund since 2004: £18,200 in 2004-05; £30,800 in 2005-06; and £30,000 in 2006-07. The Victims Fund has also awarded grants to a number of local Rape Crisis organisations.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of his Department. [80655]

Mr. McNulty: Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the code of conduct for special advisers.

Terrorism Act

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested under the Terrorism Act 2003 and subsequently charged with a non-terrorism related offence. [86721]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not collate the information on charges in the specific format requested. Statistics compiled from police records show that between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2006, 997 people were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT). Of these, 175 people were charged with offences under legislation other than TACT.

However, it must be pointed out that a charge under other legislation is not necessarily a non terrorist related charge because not all offences with which suspected terrorists may be charged are necessarily contained in the Terrorism Act. Many are charged with offences under the general criminal law, for example, murder. Other offences such as those involved in the use of firearms and explosives are contained in the legislation dealing with those matters.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested under the Terrorism Act 2003; and how many were held for the full 14 days. [86811]

Mr. McNulty: Statistics compiled from police records show that between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2006, 997 people were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT). The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 14 days with effect from 20 January 2004. Our records show that from 20 January 2004 to 31 March 2006, which are the most recent statistics available, 14 people have been held for 13-14 days.

Violent Crime

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* gun and *(b)* knife-related crimes there were in Brent in each year since 1997. [87491]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally. Statistics on offences involving firearms are only collected at police force area level. With the exception of homicides, offences involving knives cannot be identified in the recorded crime statistics.

TREASURY

32 (The Royal) Squadron

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer(1) why 32 (The Royal) Squadron made two return flights to Brussels on 21 January 2003 on his behalf; and if he will make a statement; [66147]

(2) in respect of which official duties he used 32 (The Royal) Squadron for flights *(a)* on 23 May 2003 and *(b)* in the first week of April 2002; what the approximate take-off and landing times were of each flight; whether the carbon emissions were offset in respect of each flight; what other transport options were considered on each occasion; why other transport options were not used; and if he will make a statement. [66162]

John Healey: The rules on the use of special flights are set out in "Travel by Ministers". The annual lists of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500 set out when special flights are used, and the purpose of each trip. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Carbon dioxide emissions arising from 32 Squadron flights are included in the Government's carbon offsetting commitment. Carbon emissions arising from the use of these flights will be recorded and offset in the same way as the use of scheduled flights by all Departments from April 2006

The Chancellor of the Exchequer travelled by The Royal Squadron on 21 January 2003 to attend a meeting of ECOFIN in Brussels. The squadron returned to England to re crew during the visit.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81489]

John Healey: Information relating to payments made to individual employment agencies is commercially confidential. The average hourly rate, averaged across all employment agencies used by the Treasury in 2005-06, was £25.67.

Alcohol Excise Duty

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his policy to veto proposals from the Finnish EU presidency to raise EU minimum excise duty rates on alcohol. [83830]

John Healey *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* To date the European Commission has not published a proposal on EU alcohol duty rates under the Finnish EU presidency. It is not the Government's policy to comment on specific proposals before they have been published.

Art (Downing Street)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the 10 most valuable pieces of publicly owned art in 11 Downing street are. [87581]

John Healey: The 10 most valuable pieces of art held in the official areas for which HM Treasury is responsible for, at 11 Downing street are:

	£
Bookcase, a George IV mahogany breakfront bookcase	40,000.00
Table, demi-lune console George III carved giltwood (circa 1780)	25,000.00
Clock, mahogany longcase, a fine George III	25,000.00
Tables, side carved giltwood a George I style	12,000.00
Tables, carved giltwood George I style side table x 2	[1]17,500.00
Cabinets, Japanese lacquered 18th century cabinet x 2	[1]17,500.00
Table, a Victorian mahogany dining table	7,000.00
Mirror, carved giltwood George I period	4,000.00

[1] Total value.

Average Incomes (Brent, East)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the average income in *(a)* Brent and *(b)* Brent East in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age and (iii) ethnicity. [87425]

Dawn Primarolo: Available information on HM Revenue Customs' website for taxpayers at a national level broken down by gender and age, can be found in table 3.2 "Distribution of median and mean income by age range and gender".

Information on mean incomes at borough, district and unitary authority level and constituency level can be found in tables 3.14 "Income by borough and district or unitary authority " and 3.15 "Income by parliamentary constituency". http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income distribution/menu-by-year.htm - 31

HM Revenue and Customs does not hold data regarding the ethnicity of taxpayers and therefore breakdowns by ethnicity are not available.

Background Reading

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what publications have been provided by his civil servants as background reading for his ministerial duties since taking office; and if he will make a statement. [87593]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers read a wide range of publications in connection with their official duties.

Barker Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost has been of the Barker Review, separately identifying the cost of *(a)* consultants and *(b)* civil servants working on the review; and what Ms Barker's fees are for the work. [88218]

John Healey: The Barker Review of Land Use Planning is funded through existing Department for Communities and Local Government and HM Treasury budgets. It is due for completion later this year so the final costings of the review are not currently available. To date the review has spent approximately £8,700 on outside experts. The Bank of England is compensated for Ms Barker's time.

BBC

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the BBC received as a VAT rebate under section 33 of the VAT Act in each of the last five financial years. [87388]

Dawn Primarolo: Section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 does not permit HM Revenue and Customs to disclose information relating to the tax affairs of individual taxpayers.

Betting

Mr. Moss: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax taken from betting on sport in the UK in each of the last five years. [87236]

John Healey: Tax receipts from betting are not broken down according to the nature of a bet. Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Bulletin, available at http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbett.

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74394]

John Healey: Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, we understand DEFRA is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to induce local and central government to cooperate to encourage dissemination of best practice and innovation on reducing emissions by the public sector. [87454]

John Healey: Budget 2006 announced a seminar to be held at HM Treasury later this year to bring together central and local government to encourage the further dissemination of best practice and innovation to reduce emissions in the public sector. The purpose of this was to encourage and motivate more local authorities to reduce their carbon emissions. Since the announcement, Treasury officials have worked closely with other Departments to plan the event, which will be held during the autumn.

Child Benefits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the fraud and error rate in *(a)* percentage terms and *(b)* cash terms for (i) child benefit and (ii) the child trust fund; and if he will make a statement. [81631]

Dawn Primarolo: It is estimated that in 2005-06 the rate of fraud on child benefit is around 0.1 per cent. or around £10 million in cash terms and the estimated rate of error is around 0.03 per cent. or £3 million in cash terms.

For the child trust fund, the issue of the initial voucher is dependent on a successful child benefit application. The low rate of error and fraud in child benefit suggests a low rate of error and fraud in the child trust fund.

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88753]

John Healey: The information is as follows.

	Laptop computers	*External computer hard drives*	*Desktop computers*
2005			
April	8	—	—
May	2	—	30
June	5	—	—
July	3	—	—
August	15	—	30
September	3	—	—
October	3	—	100
November	13	—	—
December	9	—	—
2006			
January	14	—	—

	Laptop computers	External computer hard drives	Desktop computers
February	3	1	100
March	27	—	140
April	8	—	—
May	1	—	—
June	2	—	—

Notes:
1. No internal computer hard drives have been purchased since March 2005.
2. The numbers given for USB, Compact discs and DVD discs are not held in the form requested.

Condoms

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to encourage retailers to pass the VAT reduction on condoms on to consumers; and if he will make a statement. [88585]

Dawn Primarolo: The VAT reduction for contraceptive products, which took effect from 1 July, is designed to allow wider access to these products where appropriate, consistent with the Government's sexual health policies. The Government therefore expects all retailers to promote access by passing the VAT reduction on within the retail prices charged to consumers. As a result of the VAT reduction, retailers might typically reduce the retail price of a packet of three condoms by around 30 pence.

Prior to implementation of the VAT reduction, the Department of Health commissioned a survey of major retailers, which found that the vast majority of those surveyed planned to cut retail prices by the full 12.5 per cent. reduction in VAT either on 1 July or shortly thereafter, and some had already reduced prices in anticipation of the VAT change. The Department of Health will continue to monitor the impact of the VAT reduction on retail prices.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88466]

John Healey: Since 1997, HM Treasury as lead Department has created the following offences in Orders in Council which are still in force:

The Sudan (United Nations Measures) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1454)

Articles 4(2), 5(2), 7, 9(6), 9(7) and 11 and paragraphs 2(3) and 4(a) to (d) of the Schedule.

The Lebanon and Syria (United Nations Measures) Order 2005 (S.I.2005/3432)

Articles 4(2), 5(2), 7, 9(6), 9(7) and 11(4) and paragraphs 2(3) and 4(a) to (d) of the Schedule.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (United Nations Measures) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/1511)

Articles 3(1), 4(9) and (10), 5, 6(1)(a) to (c) and (2) and 7(3) and paragraph 3(a) to (d) of the Schedule.

The Ivory Coast (United Nations Sanctions) Order 7005 (S.I. 2005/253)

Articles 3(1), 4(9) and (10), 5, 6(1) and (2), 7(1)(a) and (b) and 9(6) and paragraph 3(a) to (d) of the Schedule.

The Iraq (United Nations Sanctions) (Amendment) Order 2004 (S.I. 2004/1498)

Articles 5(6) and (8) and 6(3)

The Iraq (United Nations Sanctions) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/1519)

Articles 5(1) (a) to (c), 7(3), 8(2) and (3), 11, 12(1) and (2), 13(2) and (3), 17(3)(a) to (c), 20(6), paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 and paragraph 5(a) to (d) of Schedule 3.

The Iraq (United Nations Sanctions) Order 2000 (S.I. 2000/3241)

Articles 3(1), 3A(1), 4A(10), 5(4), 5A(7), 6, 7, 8(1)(a) to (c), 9(7)(a) to (c), 10(2) and 11(4).

In this period, HM Treasury as lead Department has created other offences in Orders in Council that are no longer in force. It is not possible to list these without incurring disproportionate cost.

Customs Officers (Holyhead)

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers are stationed permanently at the port of Holyhead. [88325]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on staff by location cannot be disclosed, as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts were awarded by his Department to Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 1997; what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was; and if he will make a statement. [88180]

John Healey: Bird and Bird is one of the law firms participating in the L-Cat framework agreements established by the Office of Government Commerce, the Department for Education and Skills and the Treasury Solicitor's Department to facilitate the procurement of quality legal services for government and achieve better value for money.

In the period since 2002-03, the Treasury has had one contract with Bird and Bird, which was in April 2002 with a total value of £1,151.03. Information on contracts prior to 2002-03 could be provided only at disproportionate cost due to a change in accounting system during that year.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the expenditure of his Department on newspapers, magazines and periodicals was in each year since 1999. [83490]

John Healey: The Treasury's expenditure on newspapers and periodicals since 2002-03 is as follows. Information for years prior to 2002-03 could be provided at disproportionate cost only due to a change of accounting system in that year.

	£000
2002-03	155
2003-04	143
2004-05	120
2005-06	130

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conferences have been funded in whole or part by his Department in the last 12 months; how many attendees there were at each; and what the cost of the conference was to the Department. [83500]

John Healey: The details of conferences with 100 or more attendees funded by the Treasury in the past 12 months are as follows.

	Title of conference	Number of attendees	Cost (£000)
December 2005	Advancing Enterprise	390	77
May 2006	Launch of the Third Sector Review	135	8
December 2005	Promoting Economic Growth in the West Bank and Gaza through the Private Sector	170	86
May 2006	Special Investigations Group of government financial investigators	100	1
June-July 2006	Third Sector Review Regional consultation events (6 events so far)	615	59

Departmental Report

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what calculations underlie paragraph 3.11 of the Treasury's Departmental Report 2006. [88097]

John Healey: The Treasury's methodology of calculating trend productivity growth is set out in Table B2 of Budget 2006 (HC 968).

Departmental Staff

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed by *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* the Royal Mint, *(c)* National Savings and Investments, *(d)* the Government Actuaries Department, *(e)* the Debt Management Office, *(f)* the Office for National Statistics, *(g)* OGC Buying Solutions, *(h)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(i)* the Valuations Agency in each of the last 12 months for which data is available; and how many and what percentage of posts were vacant in each region in each month. [51171]

John Healey: Civil service statistics are available in the Library and at the following address on the Cabinet Office Statistics Website http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/index.asp

Vacancy information is not held centrally for HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs and to collate this information would be at disproportionate costs.

Vacancy figures for The Royal Mint

	Vacancies	Percentage vacancies (versus establishment)
2005		
February	2	0.26
March	10	1.29
April	1	0.13
May	5	0.65
June	6	0.78
July	11	1.42
August	6	0.78
September	12	1.56
October	7	0.91
November	0	0.00
December	1	0.13
2006		
January	1	0.13

Note:
The Royal Mint is based in Wales.

Vacancy figures for the Debt Management Office

Quarterly figures	Vacancies	Percentage vacancies (versus establishment)
1 April 2005	12	16
30 June 2005	12	16.5
30 September 2005	12	16
31 December 2005	12	17

Notes:
1. The average vacancy rate for each quarter compared to the DMO's Agreed Establishment was approximately 12 FTEs.
2. The Debt Management Offices are based in London.

Vacancy figures for Office of National Statistics

	Average number of posts vacant	Percentage of posts vacant
London	6.8	1
Newport, South Wales	5.7	<1
Titchfield, Hampshire	11.8	1
Southport	0.3	<1
Social survey interviewers	65	6

Vacancy figures for OGC Buying Solutions

	Total vacancies	Percentage vacancies (versus establishment) North West	Eastern	London
2006				
January	11	5.96	8.89	0
2005				
December	15	6.62	5.56	0
November	17	7.94	5.56	0
October	18	8.61	5.56	0
September	23	9.27	10	0
August	27	9.93	13.3	0
July	31	11.92	14.4	0
June	26	9.27	13.3	0
May	27	9.93	13.3	0

Vacancy figures for OGC Buying Solutions

	Total vacancies	Percentage vacancies (versus establishment) North West	Eastern	London
April	18	5.96	10	0
March	18	5.96	10	0
February	20	7.28	10	0
January	17	5.96	8.89	0

Note: These are based on an average number of posts in each region over this time period. The total number of vacancies for any given month includes both new vacancies and those that are on-going.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints of racial abuse have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in his Department in each of the last five years. [70554]

John Healey: The Treasury has well published policies on unacceptable behaviour including racial abuse, which make it clear that such behaviour is a disciplinary offence.

The procedures for investigating complaints of racial abuse have been initiated less than five times in each of the last five years. Numbers are therefore not available on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79073]

John Healey: The annual costs for the period 2005-06 for each website for which the Treasury and its agencies are responsible are as follows:

Department/agency	Website address	Direct costs (£)
HM Treasury	www.hm-treasury.gov.uk	100,355
HM Treasury Invest to Save Budget website	www.isb.gov.uk	10,575
HM Treasury campaign sites	www.euro.gov.uk	18,997
	www.ges.gov.uk	
	www.wga.gov.uk	
	www.csren.gov.uk	
	www.opg.gov.uk	
	www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk	
	www.financial-reporting.gov.uk	
	www.stakeholdersaving.gov.uk	
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	www.hmrc.gov.uk	[1]934,078
	www.taxevasionhotline.co.uk	[1]4,800
	www.ctfhelp.com	[1]3,288
	www.taxcredits.inlandrevenue.gov.uk	[2]
Debt Management Office	www.dmo.gov.uk	[1]35,718
	www.crnd.gov.uk	
	www.pwlb.gov.uk	
OGC	www.ogc.gov.uk	[1]92,850
OGC buying solutions	www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk	[1]136,300
	www.sustainablesolutions.gov.uk	
	www.s-cat.gov.uk	
Government Actuaries Department	www.gad.gov.uk	[1]2,115
Valuation Office Agency	www.voa.gov.uk	[1]351,001
	www.mybusinessrates.gov.uk	4,100
National Savings and Investments	www.nsandi.com	[1]1,392,882
Royal Mint	www.royalmint.com	[1]78,789
	www.royalmint.gov.uk	
	www.royalmintwholesale.com	

Department/agency	Website address	Direct costs (£)
Office for National Statistics	www.statistics.gov.uk www.statistics.gov.uk/PBC www.statistics.gov.uk/about www.stats4schools.gov.uk www.gro.gov.uk www.cip.gov.uk www.eustatistics.gov.uk www.ness.gov.uk	[1]1,800,000

[1] Indicates that staff costs are included.
[2] Costs included in main site.
[3] Plus VAT.

Notes:
1. These figures include all direct costs, for example web hosting, software support, infrastructure. We have not been able to include indirect costs, such as office accommodation, without incurring excessive research costs.
2. Staff costs (including figures for salary, pension, superannuation and overtime) have not been included in every instance due to excessive cost for research.
3. HM Treasury is committed to the Transformational Government Strategy which sets out plans to rationalise governmental web presence and limit the number web addresses for each Department. We are currently reviewing all Treasury websites, and Treasury agency sites to minimise the number currently registered.
4. Costs of hosting the HMRC site are significantly higher than most Government websites because of the high visitor rate. Since merger, the site has had 294.1 million page visits and 30.4 million unique visitors.

Disabled People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of Government procurement policy in promoting good practice regarding equal opportunities for disabled people; [88887]

(2) what account Government procurement takes of suppliers' employment conditions in relation to disabled workers; and if he will make a statement. [88890]

John Healey: All public procurement decisions should be based on value for money and be conducted in line with the EU procurement rules. Within this framework, there is scope to take account of other factors, such as those related to disability equality, where they are relevant to the subject of the contract. The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) offers advice and guidance to Departments on the scope to take account of such factors in the procurement process. However, Departments are responsible for their own procurement decisions, in line with the legal and policy framework outlined above, the obligations of the new duty to promote disability equality, which are set out in a Code of Practice, and their own objectives.

Public procurement law includes a provision enabling contracting authorities to reserve contracts for supported businesses and factories employing more than 50 per cent. disabled people.

Drug Deaths

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how many deaths of people aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 18 years in 2005 in (i) London and (ii) each London borough the use of (A) heroin/morphine, (B) ecstasy, (C) amphetamines, (D) other substances and (E) alcohol was recorded as the cause. [88961]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for how many deaths of people (a) under and (b) over 18 years in 2005 in (i) London and (ii) each London borough the use of (A) heroin/morphine, (B) ecstasy, (C) amphetamines, (D) other substances and (E) alcohol was recorded as the cause. I am replying in her absence. (88961)

Information from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on drug-related poisonings is extracted from a special database of these deaths. This database does not yet include deaths for 2005. Figures for 1997-2003 were provided in response to your similar question in October 2005.

Alcohol-related deaths for 2005 are available and figures for London and London boroughs are included in the table below. There were no alcohol-related deaths of people aged under 18.

Alcohol-related deaths were selected using the ONS definition of these deaths which is based on those causes most closely related to alcohol consumption. This definition has recently been revised and details of the changes are available via the National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=1091

Alcohol-related deaths[1] by London borough[2], age 18 and over, 2005[3]

London borough	Number
City of London	1
Barking and Dagenham	15
Barnet	21
Bexley	21
Brent	34
Bromley	40
Camden	25
Croydon	35
Ealing	35

Alcohol-related deaths[1] by London borough[2], age 18 and over, 2005[3]

London borough	Number
Enfield	18
Greenwich	24
Hackney	20
Hammersmith and Fulham	28
Haringey	33
Harrow	14
Havering	14
Hillingdon	23
Hounslow	22
Islington	15
Kensington and Chelsea	13
Kingston upon Thames	16
Lambeth	33
Lewisham	27
Merton	10
Newham	22
Redbridge	24
Richmond upon Thames	20
Southwark	28
Sutton	21
Tower Hamlets	20
Waltham Forest	19
Wandsworth	19
Westminster	34
London	744

[1] Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause of death. The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
The codes used to select alcohol-related deaths are listed as follows:
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol—ICD-10 F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol—ICD-10 G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy—ICD-10 G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy—ICD-10 I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis—ICD-10 K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease—ICD-10 K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified—ICD-10 K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver—ICD-10 K74 (excluding K74.3-K74.5—Biliary cirrhosis)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis—ICD-10 K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol—ICD-10 X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol—ICD-10 X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent—ICD-10 Y15
[2] Usual residents of these areas.
[3] Deaths registered in 2005.

Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the calculation underlying paragraphs 1.35 and 1.36 of HC 968, the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report and Financial Statement and Budget Report, March 2006. [87531]

Dawn Primarolo: The figures in paragraphs 1.35 and 1.36 of HC 968, the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report and Financial Statement and Budget Report, March 2006 were produced using micro-simulation models of the tax and benefit system and the 2003-04 Family Resources Survey (FRS).

It is not possible to provide the calculations that underpin the figures, as they are the result of complex models that cannot be reduced to a small number of calculations.

Economic Growth (Scotland)

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the reasons for the different rates of growth in Scotland and the rest of the UK since 1997. [88375]

Mr. Timms: Scotland has experienced sustained economic growth since 1997. The Government aim to promote economic prosperity in all countries and regions of the UK. In Scotland, the Government work in partnership with the Scottish Executive to promote this objective.

Electoral Registration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage electoral registration rate was for the 100 *(a)* richest and *(b)* poorest wards in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland, (iii) England and (iv) Northern Ireland in the most recent year for which figures are available. [87731]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the percentage electoral rate for the 100 *(a)* richest and *(b)* poorest wards in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland, (iii) England and (iv) Northern Ireland, in the most recent year for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence (87731)

The following tables containing percentage electoral registration rates are enclosed, and will also be placed in the House of Commons Library—Table 1 for the 100 richest wards in Wales, Table 2 for the 100 poorest wards in Wales, Table 3 for the 100 richest wards in England and Table 4 for the 100 poorest wards in England. Data for Scotland and Northern Ireland are not currently available.

Ward level income data have been used as a proxy for the richest and poorest wards. The income data used are the model-based Census Area Statistics (CAS) ward estimates for average household income for 200-02. The methodology used to produce the model-based estimates is relatively new and as a result may be subject to consultation, modification and further development. In view of this ongoing work the model-based estimates are classified as experimental statistics.

In common with any ranking based on estimates, care must be exercised in interpreting the ranking of the wards. The variability of the income estimates when using these figures needs to be taken into account. For example, due to some uncertainty over the accuracy of the estimates, it needs to be recognised that the income estimate for the highest ranked ward will lie among the group of wards with the highest income levels, but cannot with absolute certainty be considered to be the ward with the highest average ward income. Therefore the top and bottom 100 richest wards for England and Wales based on income levels cannot be considered to be a definitive list.

It should be borne in mind that the percentage of the "resident population" who are registered to vote does not provide a reliable estimate of the registration rate of the eligible population. This is mainly because there are definitional differences between "usually resident" and eligibility to vote and therefore the estimated resident population aged 18 and over is not the same as the number of people eligible to vote. For example, the resident population includes all those who usually live in an area irrespective of nationality whereas the parliamentary electorate excludes foreign nationals (but Commonwealth and Irish citizens are included) and may include some overseas electors who do not

currently live in the area. Further, there is inevitably some double counting of the registered electorate and this can occur for a number of reasons. People who have more than one address, including students, may register in more than one place. Electoral registration officers may vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or after they have died.

The latest available population data available at ward level are for mid-2002. The ward electorate counts used for calculating the electoral registration rates are for December 2002 parliamentary electors, including attainers. The parliamentary electorate has been used rather than the local government electorate even though the latter is definitionally closer to the resident population because the local government electorate is not available at ward level. No adjustment has been made to reflect the difference between these two time points.

The population data are estimates and as such are subject to a margin of confidence. The CAS ward level population estimates have been published with the status of experimental statistics. Therefore, the estimates, and electoral registration rates derived from them, should be treated with some care.

There are a number of wards where the electorate counts are greater than the 18+ population estimate, resulting in electoral registration rates above 100 per cent. These cases are attributable to definitional differences between the estimates and electoral counts, the accuracy of the ward estimates, the accuracy of the electoral registers and limitations in the methodology used to convert electoral counts to the CAS ward geography.

Electrical Items (Standby)

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of electrical items left on standby each night in his Department's buildings in London. [83584]

John Healey: No such estimate can be reliably made.

Energy Efficiency

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of how the wear and tear allowance might be reformed to incentivise landlords to invest in energy efficiency. [87455]

John Healey: The Government announced in pre-Budget report 2005 its intention to reform the existing Wear and Tear Allowance for landlords by making it conditional on the energy efficiency of the rental property. Any changes to the Allowance will be announced by the Chancellor within the Budget process.

Energy Services Market

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what report he has received on the Treasury-hosted seminar to explore how Government and business community can encourage the development of energy services markets; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [87452]

John Healey: As the Energy Review states, the Government wishes to incentivise energy suppliers to engage more actively with customers in order to deliver greater energy efficiency in the home. We want to provide the right stimulus for them to develop new market opportunities to sell energy services, so what the consumer buys are services for heating, lighting and powering their homes, in the most energy efficient way practicable. I hosted a seminar at HM Treasury with representatives of energy supply companies and other organisations, including non-governmental organisations and Government departments. Outcomes of this meeting fed into the Energy Review consultation. A note of this meeting will be placed in the House Library as soon as possible.

Ethnic Minority Advisory Group

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the members are of the Treasury's Ethnic Minority Advisory Group; and when it has met in each of the last three years. [87459]

John Healey: The Ethnic Minority Advisory Group (EMAG) is an internal group within the Treasury that works independently, but co-operatively, with Treasury senior management to ensure that all issues which affect the Treasury's black and minority ethnic staff are taken into account in personnel and management policies, and to play a full part in the Department's diversity agenda. The EMAG includes staff from across the Department, on a voluntary basis, and meets regularly as a group and with senior managers and other interested parties within the Treasury.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter he sent to EU Finance Ministers earlier this year on the economic case for extending and strengthening the EU Emissions Trading Scheme beyond 2012 as the foundation of a global carbon market. [77147]

John Healey: The Chancellor wrote to EU Finance Ministers to highlight the economic case for extending and strengthening the EU Emissions Trading Scheme beyond 2012 as the core of a global carbon market. Developing the scheme is important in ensuring it maintains competitiveness for European firms and supports investment in low carbon technology in developing countries through the Clean Development Mechanism and in providing certainty for industry. The Chancellor enters into correspondence with EU colleagues on a number of issues, and these documents are not generally released.

Exports/Imports

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what percentage *(a)* exports and *(b)* imports changed between 1998 and 2004; and what assessment he has made of the connected trends in world trade over the same period. [87503]

John Healey: IMF figures suggest that world trade growth averaged 6 per cent. per year between 1998 and 2004. Over the same period, total UK exports of goods and services grew by 26 per cent. (an annual average of 4.3 per cent.), while imports of goods and services increased by 41 per cent. (annual average growth of 6.8 per cent.). The divergence between UK export growth and world trade growth over this period is likely partly to reflect relatively weak growth in domestic demand in the UK's main export market—the euro area—as well

as some loss of the UK's share of world export markets in the face of increasing competition from emerging economies. However, UK export growth was at its strongest for five years in 2005, outpacing import growth.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what percentage *(a)* exports and *(b)* imports with European Union countries changed between 1998 and 2004; and what assessment he has made of such trends in trade over the same period. [87504]

John Healey: The Office for National Statistics publish trade volume figures for goods, rather than for goods and services, for the ED and non-EU. UK goods export volumes to EU-25 countries rose by 13.5 per cent. between 1998 and 2004, while imports from the ED increased by 39.6 per cent. These trends, which have taken place against a background of relatively strong world trade growth, are likely partly to reflect the relative weakness of domestic demand in the euro area over recent years, relatively robust domestic demand in the UK over much of the period in question, and some loss of UK export market share in the EU in the face of increasing competition from emerging economies. More recently, growth in UK goods exports to the EU has picked up, rising by over 6 per cent. in 2005—the strongest growth rate for five years.

Household Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in the UK have three or more children, broken down by ethnic background. [87964]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your request for the number of families in the UK that have three or more children, broken down by ethnic background. I am replying in her absence. (87964)

The latest available figures are from the 2001 Census, as this is the only source that can be used to look at families in this detail. The data are taken from commissioned census table M502 which is available on request from Census Customer Services (census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk). Figures for the UK are given in the attached table, based on the ethnic groups that are available for all the constituent countries of the UK.

Families[1] with three or more dependent children[2] by ethnic group of family reference person[3,4], United Kingdom, 2001

	Percentage of families with dependent children that have three or more dependent children	Number of families with three or more dependent children	All families with dependent children All Ethnic Groups
	17.7	1,278,447	7,221,558
White	16.9	1,100,900	6,524,220
Mixed	18.9	11,509	61,053
Asian	30.1	112,130	372,041
Black	20.9	41,724	199,794
Chinese or other ethnic group	18.9	12,184	64,450

[1] A family consists of a couple (married or cohabiting) with or without children, or a lone parent and their children. Cohabiting couples includes same sex couples.

[2] A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0 to 15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 who is a full-time student in a family with parent(s).

[3] Family Reference Person (FRP) is used to identify a family and its characteristics. The FRP in a couple is based on economic activity, then age (oldest), then the first member of the couple on the Census form.

[4] The ethnic group of a family is given by the ethnic group of the FRP. It does not follow that everyone in the family will be of the same ethnic group as the FRP.

Cells in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

Source:

Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics; Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland; Census, April 2001, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Financial Skills

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what action the Government is taking to ensure that financial skills are increased among the adult population. [88688]

Mr. Timms: The FSA leads the national strategy on financial capability in partnership with the Government, the financial services industry and voluntary organisations.

In March 2006, the FSA published "Delivering Change", setting out its initiatives to promote financial capability. (www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/other/fincap_delivering.pdf). Most of these initiatives are aimed at the adult population.

The Government have given strong support to the strategy and the 2005 pre-Budget report announced that we would strengthen adult capability, especially for groups with particular needs, by including financial education in adult basic skills; and encouraging local authorities to provide more financial education to parents through Sure Start Children's Centres and local family numeracy programmes.

The Government will publish a 10 year strategy in the autumn, setting out long term plans for improving financial capability in the adult population.

Fire (Fatalities)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fatalities were attributed to fires in each year since 2003. [88967]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many fatalities were attributed to fires in each year since 2003. I am replying in her absence. (88967)

The most recently available information for deaths is for 2004. Figures for deaths due to exposure to smoke, fire or flames are shown in the table below for 2003 and 2004.

Number of deaths due to exposure to smoke, fire or flames[1], England and Wales[2], 2003 to 2004[3]

	Number of deaths
2003	449
2004	326

[1] The cause of death was defined using the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were selected using the following ICD-10 codes: X00-X09, X76, X97, Y26. These include deaths given a verdict of accident, assault, suicide or undetermined intent.
[2] Including non-residents.
[3] Deaths occurring in each calendar year.

First-time Buyers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Government have made of the proportion of first-time buyers with a loan-to-value mortgage ratio of 80 per cent. or over. [83005]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates using the Regulated Mortgage Survey for the first quarter of 2006 show that 78 per cent. of first time buyers buying with a mortgage have a mortgage loan to price ratio of 80 per cent. or more.

Gershon Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what processes there are in his Department to check Gershon efficiency savings figures before publishing them; and if he will make a statement. [88584]

Mr. Timms: Efficiency Technical Notes, developed in consultation with the National Audit Office, and published on departmental websites, set out how efficiencies are to be achieved.

Quarterly returns are provided to the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), signed off at senior level within the Department. These detail the value of efficiencies made to date on each programme against an agreed methodology and baseline. Evidence is also sought that there are no reductions in service quality as a result of the efficiency.

Headcount reductions and relocations to date are also reported quarterly. OGC scrutinises the data submitted against the delivery plan, the agreed methodologies, the expected forecasts and previous data submitted to ensure its robustness.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has given to departments to ensure that all reported Gershon efficiency savings are genuine; and if he will make a statement. [88588]

Mr. Timms: The Office of Government Commerce has provided guidance, developed in consultation with the National Audit Office, to departments on measuring and reporting their efficiency savings including guidance on the robustness of their data systems assurance and covering the measurement of productive time and procurement savings.

DCLG has issued guidance to local authorities regarding how they should prepare their Annual Efficiency Statements in order to report gains delivered locally.

The measurement and data robustness guidance is in use across the efficiency programme.

Graduate Unemployment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many graduates from each of the last five academic years for which records are available are registered as unemployed. [88691]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployed graduates. I am replying in her absence. (88691)

The attached table gives estimates of the numbers of unemployed among the people who graduated with a degree in the years 2001 to 2005. These estimates are from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three month period ending March 2006.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unemployed graduates[1] of working age[2] according to year of graduation, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Year of graduation	Unemployed graduate—three months ending March 2006 (Thousand)
2001	5
2002	3
2003	5
2004	8
2005	15

[1] People whose highest qualification is degree level or above
[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59
Source:
ONS—Labour Force Survey

Greyhound Racing Levy

Mr. Moss: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much VAT was paid on the greyhound racing levy in each of the last three years. [87237]

Dawn Primarolo: The voluntary contributions paid to the British Greyhound Racing Fund by bookmakers are not liable to VAT.

HM Revenue and Customs

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conference bookings were made by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors through Sabre-Holdings or its subsidiaries including

Travelocity-Business formerly known as First Option Events in each of the last three years; what the *(a)* location, *(b)* duration, *(c)* number of delegates and *(d)* cost was of each conference; and what fees were applicable to each booking where the event was (i) cancelled and (ii) scaled down. [85357]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested cannot be easily extracted from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs own records.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which HM Revenue and Customs offices have been closed since January 2005; how many are planned to close before January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [83445]

Dawn Primarolo: Since January 2005 HMRC has closed, or is in the process of closing, the following offices:

Building name	*Town*
Swinson House (Unit 5)	York
Chesterfield House	London
Meridian House	London
Trinity Park House	Edinburgh
Containerbase	Coatbridge
Princess House	Barnstaple
Loud House	Ashford
Whitehall	Shrewsbury
Imperial Buildings	Falmouth
Cater House	Chelmsford
Melbourne House	London
1st Floor, Units 3 & 4	Wallsend
Paxton House	Swindon
Duchy House	London
Aviation House	London
City Gate House	London
Conquest House	London
5th Floor, 10 Great George Street	London
Custom House	Shoreham
Harbour Masters Office	Rye
Custom House	Berwick
Tyne Bridge Tower	Gateshead
Custom House	Scilly
Heath House	Southend
Greyfriars House	Aberdeen
Lancaster House	London
Surrey House	London
Pinnacle House	Bootle
Fuller House, 1st Floor	Telford
Park House	Croydon
Bentinck House	Gloucester
Cale Cross House	Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
Crown House	Windsor
New Court	London
Crown Building	Aberystwyth
Haymarket House	Edinburgh
Caledonian House	Watford
Government Buildings	Droitwich
Crown Building	Ruislip
Solar House	New Malden
33 St. James Street	Newport
Jubilee House	Woking
5 Shepperton House	Shepperton
Crown House	Hitchin
Loddon House	Basingstoke
New Freight Village	Belfast
31 High Street, Ealing	London
Concord House	Paignton
Elmbridge Court	Gloucester
Jephson House	Leamington Spa

HMRC has also announced plans to close the following offices before January 2007:

Building name	*Town*
Angel Court	London
Coniston House	Washington
Bridge House	Grimsby
Maybrook House	Dover
Sussex House	Crawley

These closures are part of HMRC's on-going programme of rationalising and consolidating its estate following the merger of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs & Excise.

HMRC has continued to maintain a face-to-face customer service in all the locations where this service was already in existence.

Household Incomes

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average annual household income was in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Cumbria, *(c)* Westmorland and Lonsdale, *(d)* urban areas and *(e)* rural areas in each year since 1997. [88641]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average annual household income was in (a) England and Wales (b) Cumbria (c) Westmorland and Lonsdale (d) urban areas (e) rural areas in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (88641)

The main national source of statistics on household income is the Family Resources Survey (FRS) which the Department of Work and Pensions use to produce the annual publication Households Below Average Income (HBAI). The tables attached here have been provided by DWP. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have also produced some estimates of household income for wards for 2001/02 only, and these have been used to calculate an estimate of household income for the Westmoreland and Lonsdale constituency.

Household income statistics are shown both including housing costs (before housing costs), and excluding housing costs (after housing costs). Using these two bases, Table 1 shows both the mean and median annual household income in England and Wales from 1996/97 to 2004/05. The median is the middle income i.e. the income above which half of the population live and below which the other half live. All household incomes shown here are equivalised. This means that they are standardised to take into account the different size and composition of households.

Table 2 shows the mean and median annual household income in the North West and Merseyside Government Office Region (GOR). GORs are the smallest areas for which robust estimates

can be produced from the Family Resources Survey. These regional estimates are produced by averaging over three survey years. Cumbria and Westmorland and Lonsdale are situated in the North West and Merseyside GOR.

Table 3 shows incomes for households situated in the urban and rural areas of England.

ONS has published estimates of household income for wards for 2001/02 only. These estimates are based on a statistical model and are experimental statistics—this means they have been developed in accordance with the principles set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice but have yet to be fully accredited as National Statistics. These ward based estimates have been used to estimate mean annual equivalised household income for the Westmoreland and Lonsdale constituency for 2001/02. Mean income before housing costs was £18,680, while after housing costs it was £17,130. It should be remembered that these estimates are produced using different methods so there is some uncertainty about how comparable they are with the estimates based solely on the FRS, used in Tables 1-3.

Table 1: Mean and Median Household Income, England and Wales, 1996/97 to 2004/05

Annually equivalised pounds, current prices

	Before Housing Costs		*After Housing Costs*	
	Mean	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*
1996/97	16,200	13,200	13,900	11,200
1997/98	16,900	13,600	14,600	11,600
1998/99	17,700	14,000	15,200	11,900
1999/2000	18,500	14,800	15,900	12,700
2000/01	19,200	15,200	16,700	13,100
2001/02	20,400	16,000	17,900	14,000
2002/03	21,000	16,900	18,600	14,800
2003/04	21,500	17,300	19,000	15,100
2004/05	22,600	18,100	19,800	15,700

Note:
All results shown for England and Wales are single-year values as sample sizes for England and Wales are large enough to support a robust single-year time-series.
Source:
FRS

Table 2: Mean and Median Household Income, North West and Merseyside, 1996/97-1998/99 to 2002/03-2004/05

Annually equivalised pounds, current prices

	Before Housing Costs		*After Housing Costs*	
	Mean	*Median*	*Mean*	*Median*
1996/97-1998/99	15,100	12,600	13,100	10,800
1997/98-1999/2000	15,900	13,100	13,900	11,300
1998/99-2000/01	16,500	13,700	14,400	11,900
1999/2000-2001/02	17,200	14,500	15,100	12,700
2000/01-2002/03	17,800	15,000	15,700	13,300
2001/02-2002/03	18,800	15,700	16,800	14,000
2002/03-2004/05	19,700	16,300	17,700	14,500

Note:
Figures in this table are provided using three-year moving averages, as single year estimates derived from sample sizes for a GOR the size of North West and Merseyside do not provide a robust guide to changes over time. Hence, information may not be consistent with previously published single-year estimates for North West and Merseyside.
Source:
FRS

Table 3: Mean and Median Household Income in the Urban and Rural areas in England, 1996/97 to 2004/05

Annually equivalised pounds, current prices

	Before Housing Costs				*After Housing Costs*			
	Mean		*Median*		*Mean*		*Median*	
	Urban	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*
1996/97	16,000	17,300	13,000	14,000	13,600	15,000	11,000	12,100
1997/98	16,700	18,000	13,300	14,500	14,300	15,600	11,300	12,500
1998/99	17,700	18,200	13,800	14,700	15,100	15,900	11,600	12,500
1999/2000	18,500	19,100	14,600	15,700	15,800	16,500	12,400	13,500
2000/01	19,200	20,000	15,000	16,100	16,600	17,500	12,900	14,000
2001/02	20,600	20,700	15,900	20,700	17,900	20,700	13,800	14,800
2002/03	21,100	21,400	16,500	17,900	18,600	19,000	14,600	15,900
2003/04	21,700	21,900	17,200	17,900	19,000	19,500	14,900	15,800
2004/05	22,600	20,600	17,700	20,600	19,700	20,600	15,200	16,900

Note:
All values presented for rural and urban areas in England are single-year estimates as sample sizes for these areas are large enough to support a robust single-year time-series.
Source:
FRS

Household Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of families with three or more children lived in each county of *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England and *(d)* Northern Ireland in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986, (iii) 1996 and (iv) 2006, ranked in descending order by county. [87735]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for the number and percentage of families with three or more children that lived in each county of (a) Wales (b) Scotland (c) England and (d) Northern Ireland ranked in descending order by country in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986, (iii) 1996 and (iv) 2006. I am replying in her absence. (87735)

Estimates of the figures requested on families are not available at county level from sources other than the Census. For this reason figures cannot be provided for the years indicated. Data from the 1971, 1981 and 1991 Censuses could only be collated at disproportionate cost.

I am placing in the House of Commons library, figures from the 2001 census giving the number and percentage of families with three or more children by county / unitary authority for England and local authority for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These data have been extracted from commissioned census table M501 which is available on request from Census Customer Services (census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk).

Families with three or more dependent children: by local authority, Wales, 2001

	Families with three or more dependent children		
	Percentage	*Number*	*All families with dependent children*
Wales	17.3	62,913	364,627
Gwynedd/Gwynedd	20.1	2,714	13,529
Ceredigion/Sir Ceredigion	19.9	1,524	7,671
Powys/Powys	19.8	2,934	14,790
Cardiff/Caerdydd	19.6	7,374	37,620
Pembrokeshire/Sir Benfro	19.0	2,704	14,265
Newport/Casnewydd	18.5	3,435	18,579
Conwy/Conwy	18.2	2,269	12,473
Denbighshire/Sir Ddinbych	18.2	2,035	11,210
Isle of Anglesey/Sir Ynys Mon	17.9	1,449	8,083
The Vale of Glamorgan/Bro Morgannwg	17.8	2,816	15,848
Monmouthshire/Sir Fynwy	17.6	1,849	10,509
Torfaen/Tor-faen	17.1	2,068	12,075
Flintshire/Sir y Flint	17.0	3,213	18,890
Carmarthenshire/Sir Gaerfyrddin	16.9	3,574	21,136
Wrexham/Wrecsam	16.8	2,675	15,950
Swansea/Abertawe	15.9	4,299	27,055
Caerphilly/Caerffili	15.8	3,650	23,101
Rhondda; Cynon; Taff/Rhondda; Cynon; Taf	15.6	4,765	30,563
Merthyr Tydfil/Merthyr Tudful	15.3	1,188	7,771
Blaenau Gwent/Blaenau Gwent	15.1	1,419	9,418
Bridgend/Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	14.8	2,501	16,885
Neath Port Talbot/Castell-nedd Port Talbot	14.3	2,458	17,206

Notes:
1. A family consists of a couple (married or cohabiting) with or without children, or a lone parent and their children.
2. Cohabiting couples includes same sex couples.
3. A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0 to 15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 who is a full-time student in a family with parent(s).
4. Figures have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.
5. Crown Copyright©2004.
6. Data are taken from Census Commissioned Table M501.

Source:
Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics.

Families with three or more dependent children: by local authority, Scotland, 2001

	Families with three or more dependent children		
	Percentage	*Number*	*All families with dependent children*
Scotland	14.8	90,936	1,422,314
Shetland Islands	23.5	630	6,119
Eilean Siar	20.9	627	7,147
Orkney Islands	19.6	446	5,539
Highland	17.5	4,407	60,085
Argyll and Bute	17.3	1,809	25,602

Families with three or more dependent children: by local authority, Scotland, 2001

	Families with three or more dependent children		
	Percentage	*Number*	*All families with dependent children*
East Renfrewshire	16.9	2,034	25,743
Aberdeenshire	16.6	4,861	67,017
Moray	16.5	1,727	25,078
Scottish Borders	16.4	2,023	31,482
Dumfries and Galloway	16.1	2,764	43,767
East Lothian	15.9	1,794	26,549
Perth and Kinross	15.7	2,439	39,138
Stirling	15.7	1,603	24,156
East Dunbartonshire	15.5	2,175	31,354
Midlothian	15.4	1,612	24,088
Clackmannanshire	14.8	926	13,938
Angus	14.7	1,910	31,981
Edinburgh, City of	14.7	6,751	114,416
Fife	14.5	6,305	101,386
North Ayrshire	14.2	2,485	39,594
Glasgow City	14.2	9,863	146,745
Inverclyde	14.1	1,517	23,554
West Lothian	14.0	3,055	46,768
North Lanarkshire	13.9	5,915	92,261
South Ayrshire	13.6	1,799	32,885
East Ayrshire	13.5	2,078	35,315
South Lanarkshire	13.5	5,246	87,503
West Dunbartonshire	13.4	1,641	26,262
Dundee City	13.4	2,257	38,714
Aberdeen City	13.4	2,993	56,381
Renfrewshire	13.0	2,863	49,408
Falkirk	13.0	2,381	42,339

Notes:
1. A family consists of a couple (married or cohabiting) with or without children, or a lone parent and their children.
2. Cohabiting couples includes same sex couples.
3. A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0 to 15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 who is a full-time student in a family with parent(s).
4. There is a discrepancy of one, because of an inconsistency in the Scottish data.
5. Figures have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.
6. Crown Copyright©2004.
7. Data are taken from Census Commissioned Table M501.

Source:
Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland.

Families with three or more dependent children: by unitary authority and county, *England, 2001*

	Families with three or more dependent children		
	Percentage	*Number*	*All families with dependent children*
England	17.8	1,067,950	6,011,517
Blackburn with Darwen UA	24.2	4,673	19,325
Luton UA	23.9	5,800	24,289
Slough UA	22.6	3,463	15,333
Inner London	21.8	68,215	312,736
Leicester UA	21.6	7,903	36,509
West Midlands (Met County)	20.6	67,613	328,919
Nottingham UA	19.9	6,197	31,185
Southampton UA	19.6	4,638	23,704
Peterborough UA	19.5	3,948	20,198
Reading UA	19.4	3,123	16,059
Derby UA	19.4	5,346	27,524
Medway UA	18.9	6,335	33,546
Buckinghamshire County	18.9	11,236	59,542
Middlesbrough UA	18.9	3,458	18,342
East Sussex County	18.7	10,376	55,599
West Yorkshire (Met County)	18.5	48,927	263,806
Southend-on-Sea UA	18.5	3,629	19,578
Bristol; City of UA	18.5	7,976	43,221
Kent County	18.3	29,733	162,249

Families with three or more dependent children: by unitary authority and county, *England, 2001*

	Families with three or more dependent children		
	Percentage	*Number*	*All families with dependent children*
Bath and North East Somerset UA	18.3	3,388	18,562
Kingston upon Hull; City of UA	18.2	5,708	31,285
Outer London	18.1	100,775	555,966
Greater Manchester (Met County)	18.1	57,908	320,507
Bedfordshire County	18.0	8,771	48,626
Suffolk	18.0	14,289	79,286
Hertfordshire	17.8	23,042	129,745
Lancashire County	17.8	25,244	142,175
North East Lincolnshire UA	17.7	3,758	21,208
Oxfordshire	17.7	12,447	70,246
Devon County	17.7	13,707	77,430
Herefordshire; County of UA	17.7	3,648	20,617
Essex County	17.7	28,073	158,802
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	17.7	2,735	15,476
Thurrock UA	17.7	3,336	18,892
Merseyside (Met County)	17.6	30,892	175,319
Cambridgeshire County	17.6	11,413	64,798
Somerset	17.6	10,122	57,487
Isle of Wight UA	17.6	2,627	14,925
Gloucestershire	17.6	11,777	66,984
Torbay UA	17.5	2,525	14,411
Surrey	17.5	21,787	124,731
West Sussex	17.5	15,127	86,645
Dorset County	17.5	7,296	41,796
Wokingham UA	17.4	3,316	19,016
Portsmouth UA	17.3	3,834	22,170
Milton Keynes UA	17.2	4,994	28,953
Northamptonshire	17.2	13,913	80,756
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	17.1	9,890	57,827
Wiltshire County	17.1	8,994	52,737
Telford and Wrekin UA	17.0	3,675	21,571
Lincolnshire	17.0	12,898	75,744
Hampshire County	17.0	25,790	151,537
South Gloucestershire UA	16.9	5,202	30,722
West Berkshire UA	16.9	3,025	17,905
Shropshire County	16.8	5,525	32,824
Cheshire County	16.7	13,793	82,448
Swindon UA	16.7	3,838	22,981
Bournemouth UA	16.7	2,801	16,802
Redcar and Cleveland UA	16.6	2,945	17,737
North Yorkshire County	16.6	11,108	67,010
North Somerset UA	16.5	3,668	22,234
Warwickshire	16.5	10,051	61,042
Norfolk	16.4	14,598	88,849
Hartlepool UA	16.3	1,965	12,021
Bracknell Forest UA	16.3	2,356	14,477
Plymouth UA	16.2	4,723	29,066
South Yorkshire (Met County)	16.2	25,435	157,200
Worcestershire County	16.2	10,597	65,525
Halton UA	16.1	2,619	16,278
Rutland UA	16.0	629	3,934
Leicestershire County	15.9	11,783	74,210
Blackpool UA	15.9	2,639	16,641
Brighton and Hove UA	15.9	4,071	25,672
Poole UA	15.8	2,512	15,918
Stockton-on-Tees UA	15.7	3,744	23,917
Stoke-on-Trent UA	15.6	4,744	30,403
Cumbria	15.5	8,884	57,307
North Lincolnshire UA	15.5	3,023	19,504
York UA	15.4	3,087	19,993
Darlington UA	15.4	1,913	12,456

Families with three or more dependent children: by unitary authority and county, *England, 2001*

	Families with three or more dependent children		
	Percentage	*Number*	*All families with dependent children*
Derbyshire County	15.3	13,812	90,251
Nottinghamshire County	15.3	14,128	92,477
Staffordshire County	15.3	15,362	100,653
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	15.2	5,693	37,351
Warrington UA	15.0	3,756	25,120
Northumberland	14.8	5,524	37,367
Tyne and Wear (Met County)	14.8	19,770	133,866
Durham County	13.6	8,339	61,462

Notes:
1. A family consists of a couple (married or cohabiting) with or without children, or a lone parent and their children.
2. Cohabiting couples includes same sex couples.
3. A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0 to 15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 who is a full-time student in a family with parent(s).
4. Figures have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.
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6. Data are taken from Census Commissioned Table M501.

Source:
Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics.

Families with three or more dependent children: by local authority, *Northern Ireland, 2001*

	Families with three or more dependent children		
	Percentage	*Number*	*All families with dependent children*
Northern Ireland	24.8	56,666	228,980
Dungannon	32.0	2,093	6,537
Magherafelt	31.9	1,750	5,489
Cookstown	31.7	1,446	4,560
Newry and Mourne	30.9	3,836	12,431
Omagh	30.5	2,079	6,815
Armagh	29.4	2,199	7,476
Fermanagh	29.1	2,258	7,758
Moyle	28.3	603	2,134
Strabane	28.2	1,546	5,476
Down	27.7	2,460	8,890
Derry	26.7	4,256	15,912
Ballymoney	25.1	919	3,663
Limavady	24.9	1,164	4,679
Craigavon	24.4	2,790	11,445
Belfast	24.1	8,390	34,756
Lisburn	23.6	3,651	15,445
Banbridge	23.6	1,332	5,651
Antrim	23.2	1,552	6,685
Coleraine	21.4	1,602	7,479
Ballymena	21.3	1,653	7,748
Larne	20.3	824	4,060
Castlereagh	19.9	1,712	8,585
Newtownabbey	19.3	2,061	10,669
Ards	18.7	1,808	9,653
North Down	18.1	1,755	9,681
Carrickfergus	17.5	927	5,303

Notes:
1. A family consists of a couple (married or cohabiting) with or without children, or a lone parent and their children.
2. Cohabiting couples includes same sex couples.
3. A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0 to 15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16 to 18 who is a full-time student in a family with parent(s).
4. Figures have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.
5. Crown Copyright©2004.
6. Data are taken from Census Commissioned Table M501.

Source:
Census, April 2001, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Identity Fraud (Training)

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what internal training courses on tackling identity fraud are provided to departmental staff who have access to members of the public's personal information. [86645]

John Healey: I have nothing further to add to the reply I gave to the hon. Member on 19 April 2006.

Income Tax

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of uncollected income tax in each of the last four financial years. [81477]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The amount of uncollected income tax for financial year 2005-06 appears in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Annual Report: Trust Statement: Notes, section 6. The report was published on 11 July 2006. Figures for years 2003-04 to 2004-05 appear in the previous Inland Revenue Trust Statements. The method for calculating unpaid liabilities changed in 2003-04 so there are no comparable figures for earlier years. The uncollected amounts shown in the statements are a snapshot at the end of the year. HMRC currently collects around 99.5 per cent. of all income tax brought into charge.

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income tax was raised in the last year for which figures are available. [87155]

Dawn Primarolo: For the amount of income tax raised in 2005-06 I refer the hon. Member to page 87 of the HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts (HC1159).

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of administering the income tax system in the latest year for which figures are available. [87157]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of collecting income tax in 2004-05 is published in Table 1 of Annex F in the HMRC Annual Report 2004-05. Administering the income tax system forms part of the wider cost of administering the PAYE and self-assessment systems, which also collect national insurance contributions and other statutory payments and administer student loans.

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of income the *(a)* richest and *(b)* poorest 20 per cent. of the population paid in all taxes in the last year for which figures are available. [88312]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of income the *(a)* richest and *(b)* poorest 20 per cent. of the population paid in all taxes in the last year for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (88312)

This response is based on the Office for National Statistics' analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income, 2004/05'. This was published on the National Statistics website on 12th May 2006 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. It also appeared in the May 2006 edition of Economic Trends. The analysis is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

For the year 2004/05, the top 20% of households, ranked by equivalised disposable income paid 35.6% of their gross income in taxes. The bottom 20% of households paid 36.4%. Household gross incomes include all income from wages, employee benefits, self-employment income, pensions, investment income, state benefits and tax credits. Taxes include income tax, employees' national insurance contributions, council tax, VAT, duties, and other indirect taxes.

More detailed information can be found in table 3 of this article, and further explanation is provided in the article itself.

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of total income tax the 10 per cent. of people who paid the most income tax contributed in the last year for which figures are available; [88313]

(2) how many people paid income tax in 2005-06. [88314]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the share of income tax liabilities by percentile groups for 1999-2000 to 2006-07, and the number of income tax payers in 2005-06 can be found on HM Revenue and Customs' website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm in table 2.4 "Shares of total income tax liability" and table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers" respectively.

Inheritance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of estates inherited by under-18 year olds included the transfer of net debt in each of the last five years for which records are available. [87770]

Dawn Primarolo: No estimates are available.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the estates of people over 65 years entered probate with negative asset value in the last year for which records are available. [87771]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2003-04 the proportion of estates of people over 65 entering probate with a negative asset value was less than 0.5 per cent.

Inheritance Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 829W, on inheritance tax, what *(a)* preliminary regulatory impact assessments and *(b)* preparatory work related to regulatory impact assessments have been (i) placed in the Library and (ii) published. [87959]

Dawn Primarolo: In line with normal procedure and Cabinet Office guidance full (i.e. final) Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) to support legislation, and partial RIAs to support formal consultation documents, are published on the HMRC website: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/menu.htm. Copies of all full and partial RIAs published at pre-Budget report or on Budget day are placed in the Library. Copies of full RIAs published at other times of the year are also placed in the Library. No preliminary RIAs or preparatory work related to RIAs are placed in the Library or published.

International Advisory Council

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) who the members of the International Advisory Council are; and when it has met; [87462]

(2) on what dates his International Business Advisory Council has met; and how many members were present at each meeting. [87534]

John Healey: The first meeting of the International Business Advisory Council will take place in November 2006.

The information on the current members of the International Business Advisory Council is available on the HM Treasury website at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./newsroom_and_speeches/press/2006/press_19_2006.cfm

Iraq

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on which dates since February he has visited British soldiers injured in Iraq; and what locations were visited. [80993]

Mr. Gordon Brown *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* I regularly meet members of the armed forces, veterans and their families on my visits around the UK and in my constituency.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88972]

John Healey: HM Treasury's suppliers are chosen from those on the OGC Buying Solutions Catalist list. These are suppliers with whom OGC Buying Solutions have a framework agreement, and full details are available on their website at www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk.

A full list of IT contracts and values for each of the last five years could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Resident Population

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of people in the UK lived in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in each year since 1997; and what estimates have been made for each year to 2020. [88643]

John Healey: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many and what percentage of people in the UK lived in (a) rural and (b) urban areas in each year since 1997; and what estimates have been made for each year to 2020. I am replying in her absence. (88643)

Figures on urban and rural areas are only available for 2001, Census year. In England and Wales urban areas are defined by Department of Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) as settlements with a usually resident population of 10,000 or more people/Figures for England and Wales have been presented on this basis. Responsibility for urban/rural definitions is a devolved matter and, as such, definitions differ across the UK, however comparable figures are available across the UK for the number of people living in settlements with 10,000 or more usual residents. The table shows the number of people who (i) live in settlements with a usually resident population of 10,000 or more people and (ii) live either in settlements of under 10,000 people or do not live in a settlement i.e. the remainder.

The England and Wales figures have been extracted from Table KS01 on the CD supplement to the *Census 2001 Rural and Urban Classification 2004*, which is available on request from the Office for National Statistics Census Customer Services: census.customerservices@ons.gsi.gov.uk

The Scotland figures have been extracted from Table KS01 from *Scotland's Census 2001 Key Statistics for Settlements and Localities Scotland*, which is available on request from the General Register Office for Scotland's, Census Customer Services [customer@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk].

The Northern Ireland figures have been extracted from Table KS01 on the *Census 2001 Key Statistics for Settlements Report*, which is available on request from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's Census Customer Services [census.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk]. Further information on settlement classifications in Northern Ireland can be found at: http://www.nisranew.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/financeandpersonnel/DMB/urban_rural.htm

Number and percentage of people who (i) live in settlements with a usually resident population of 10,000 or more and (ii) live either in settlements of under 10,000 people or do not live in a settlement i.e. the remainder, United Kingdom, April 2001

		People living in settlements with 10,000 people or more		*People living outside settlements of 10,000 people or more*	
Area	*All people*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Percentage*	*Percentage*
United Kingdom	58,789,194	45,938,430	78.14	12,850,764	21.86
England	49,138,831	39,631,606	80.65	9,507,225	19.35
Wales	2,903,085	1,865,989	64.28	1,037,096	35.72
Scotland	5,062,011	3,446,036	68.08	1,615,975	31.92
Northern Ireland	1,685,267	994,799	59.03	690,468	40.97

Notes:
In England and Wales, settlements with 10,000 or more people are defined as urban and settlements with less than 10,000 people are defined as rural.
Source:
Table KS01 in the Census 2001 Rural and Urban Classification 2004, Table KS01 from Scotland's Census 2001 Key Statistics for Settlements and Localities Scotland and Table KS01 on the Census 2001 Key Statistics for Settlements Report

Long-term Unemployment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are long-term unemployed in each London borough. [88213]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployment. I am replying in her absence. (88213)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of long-term unemployed (more than 12 months), resident in each London borough for the 12 months ending December 2005.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached shows the number of people, resident in each London borough, who have been claiming JSA for more than 12 months, in June 2006 and as a proportion of the resident population of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59).

Table 1: Number of long-term unemployed[1] persons, aged 16 and over, resident in London boroughs; 12 months ending December 2005

London borough	*Number (Thousand)*
Barking and Dagenham	2
Barnet	4
Bexley	[2]
Brent	3
Bromley	1
Camden	2
City of London	[2]
Croydon	2
Ealing	3
Enfield	3
Greenwich	3
Hackney	4
Hammersmith and Fulham	2
Haringey	2
Harrow	1
Havering	1
Hillingdon	3
Hounslow	[2]
Islington	1
Kensington and Chelsea	2
Kingston upon Thames	[3]
Lambeth	5
Lewisham	2
Merton	2
Newham	3
Redbridge	1
Richmond upon Thames	1
Southwark	3
Sutton	[2]
Tower Hamlets	4
Waltham Forest	1
Wandsworth	2
Westminster	3

[1] Over 12 months.
[2] Sample size too small to provide estimates.
[3] Less than 500.
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Long-term claimants[1,2] of jobseeker's allowance resident in London boroughs, June 2006

London borough	*Number*	*[3]Percentage*
Barking and Dagenham	715	0.7
Barnet	915	0.4
Bexley	540	0.4
Brent	1,665	0.9
Bromley	760	0.4
Camden	1,460	0.9
City of London	15	0.3
Croydon	1,015	0.5
Ealing	875	0.4
Enfield	1,135	0.6
Greenwich	1,190	0.8
Hackney	1,595	1.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	670	0.5
Haringey	2,165	1.4
Harrow	395	0.3
Havering	380	0.3
Hillingdon	440	0.3
Hounslow	310	0.2
Islington	1,355	1.1
Kensington and Chelsea	565	0.4
Kingston upon Thames	150	0.1
Lambeth	1,750	0.9
Lewisham	1,475	0.9
Merton	560	0.4
Newham	1,525	0.9
Redbridge	750	0.5
Richmond upon Thames	250	0.2
Southwark	2,070	1.2
Sutton	375	0.3
Tower Hamlets	2,245	1.6

Table 2: Long-term claimants[1,2] of jobseeker's allowance resident in London boroughs, June 2006

London borough	Number	[3]Percentage
Waltham Forest	1,565	1.1
Wandsworth	1,055	0.5
Westminster	785	0.5

[1] Computerised claims only. Dataset rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Over 12 months.
[3] Proportion of resident mid-2004 population estimates of working age (males aged 16 to 69 and females aged 16 to 59).
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data held on NOMIS.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were in long-term unemployment in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster in each of the last eight years. [88379]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployment. I am replying in her absence. (88379)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of long-term unemployed (more than 12 months), resident in Barnsley and Doncaster for the 12 month periods ending in February from 1999 to 2004 from the annual local area LFS and for the 12 month periods ending in March 2005 and December 2005 from the APS.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA). Table 2, attached, shows the annual average number of people, resident in Barnsley and Doncaster claiming ISA for more than 12 months, from 1998 to 2005 and as a proportion of the resident population of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59).

Table 1: Number of long-term unemployed[1] persons aged 16 and over, resident in Barnsley and Doncaster

12 months ending	Barnsley	Thousand Doncaster
February 1999	4	3
February 2000	3	3
February 2001	2	3
February 2002	1	2
February 2003	1	1
February 2004	1	1
March 2005	1	2
December 2005	1	2

[1] Over 12 months
Note:
Estimates re subject to sampling variability
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Long-term claimants[1, 2] of jobseeker's allowance resident in Barnsley and Doncaster, 1998 to 2005

	Barnsley		Doncaster	
Annual averages	Number	Percentage[3] of resident population of working age	Number	Percentage[3] of resident population of working age
1998	1,520	1.1	2,845	1.7
1999	1,205	0.9	2,040	1.2
2000	920	0.7	1,205	0.7
2001	615	0.5	770	0.4
2002	365	0.3	770	0.4
2003	285	0.2	680	0.4
2004	235	0.2	500	0.3

[1] Computerised claims only. Dataset rounded to nearest 5
[2] Over 12 months
[3] Proportion of resident mid-year population of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59). Note that 2005 uses mid-2004 estimates.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data held on NOMIS®

Malnutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many deaths malnutrition was given as a cause of death in each of the last three years, broken down by age. [88958]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking in how many deaths malnutrition was given as a cause in each of the last three years, broken down by age. I am replying in her absence. (88958)

The most recently available information for deaths is for 2004. Figures showing numbers of deaths by age group where malnutrition or deprivation of food were mentioned on the death certificate are given in the table below for the years 2002 to 2004.

Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger,[1] England and Wales,[2] 2002 to 2004[3]

	2002	2003	2004
All ages	296	286	276
0-44	23	24	14
45-64	51	63	54
65-74	50	41	44
75-84	91	86	93
85+	81	72	71

[1] Causes were defined using the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10).
The ICD-10 codes used to select deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger were:
E40-E46—Malnutrition
T73.0—Effects of hunger
Records were selected where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate using the final cause of death.
[2] Including non-residents.
[3] Deaths which occurred in each calendar year.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of people in the *(a)* Houghton and Washington, East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area were being paid below the minimum wage upon its introduction. [87369]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask how many and what percentage of people in the (a) Houghton and Washington East constituency and (b) Sunderland City Council area were being paid below the minimum wage limit upon its introduction. (87369)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid below the minimum wage for Parliamentary Constituencies and Local Authorities are not available. However the Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculates estimates of the number of jobs paid less than national minimum wage rates for the United Kingdom and Government Office Regions. A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles and data can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Ministerial Flights

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81404]

John Healey: The Treasury, along with other Government departments, will contribute to a Government Carbon Offsetting fund (GCOF) administered by DEFRA which will make contributions to offset emissions from air travel.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has any records of meetings between him and *(a)* Sir Ronald Cohen and *(b)* the hon. Member for Coventry, North-West (Mr. Robinson) in the last three years. [83496]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Ministerial Private Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the size is of his private office in square feet. [83583]

John Healey: The dimensions of the office allocated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1 Horse Guards Road are 18' 8" by 12' 4".

National Youth Volunteering Service

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 12 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 620W, on the National Youth Volunteering Service, what discussions the Economic Secretary to the Treasury had with the Chancellor's private office on that question; and whether there has been any communication between the Chancellor and Rod Aldridge *(a)* in writing, *(b)* by telephone and *(c)* by e-mail. [83492]

Ed Balls: Treasury Ministers have regular discussions with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as well as with officials within the department as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Nuclear-related Exports

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which countries the UK has exported nuclear-related equipment since 1998. [87575]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on exports is collected using a European-wide product classification system, which does not identify all nuclear-related equipment; therefore, the requested information is not available.

Office of Government Commerce

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* targets have been issued by the Office of Government Commerce to Government Departments on the procurement of fairly traded products; [87521]

(2) what responsibilities the Office of Government Commerce has for encouraging the use of fairly traded products by Government Departments. [87522]

John Healey: OGC is responsible for the Government's procurement policy based on value for money, and for the negotiation, implementation and application of the ED and WTO procurement rules.

OGC provides advice and guidance to Departments on the scope to take social and environmental issues, such as fair and ethical trade, into account within the legal and policy framework that governs public sector purchasing. Within this framework, Departments are responsible for their own decisions regarding what goods and services they choose to procure, in line with their own Departmental strategies and priorities.

OGC has published "Guidance on Fair and Ethical Trading", produced in consultation with the Fairtrade Foundation and DFID (who support the ethical trading initiative). In addition to this, OGC produced further guidance, "Social Issues in Purchasing", in February 2006, which highlights how Departments can pursue a range of social issues in the procurement process, including ways to promote and encourage greater purchasing of fair and ethically traded goods. OGC is also on hand to assist Departments with their objectives to promote fair and ethical trade through their own procurement processes.

Official Residences

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which official residences he has access; and how many times he has stayed at Dorneywood since May 1997. [83514]

John Healey: The Chancellor of the Exchequer's official residence is No. 11 Downing street. He has not stayed at Dorneywood.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have held meetings with representatives of companies or consortia on the shortlist for the contract as the Olympic Delivery Authority Deliver Partner; which (i) Ministers and (ii) companies or consortia partners were at each meeting; where each meeting took place; what was discussed; and if he will make a statement. [88200]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Online Gambling

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the contribution of the online gambling industry to the UK economy. [87313]

John Healey: Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Bulletin, available at http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbett.

Opinion Polls

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many opinion polls of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public his Department has commissioned in the last 12 months. [83495]

John Healey: The Treasury carries out an annual internal staff attitude survey. The most recent was conducted in December 2005. A summary of the results can be found on the HM Treasury website (www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/information/about survey index.cfm).

There have been three opinion polls of the public undertaken in the period:

An opinion poll to support the HM Treasury and DCMS feasibility study on a potential bid for the 2018 World Cup.

A joint poll for HM Treasury and the Button Trust on children's aspirations to inform the review on Children and Young People for the Comprehensive Spending Review.

A survey is being undertaken on behalf of HM Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government research programme.

The Department also conducts staff and public consultations, where appropriate, to aid operational and policy development.

Parliamentary Questions

Peter Luff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many written questions to his Department remain unanswered at 25 July for *(a)* between two and four weeks, *(b)* between four and six weeks, *(c)* between six and eight weeks and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [87920]

John Healey: In the current session, Treasury Ministers have answered substantively in the House of Commons 5,602 written questions. 78 per cent. of the answers concerned were given on or before the date on which they were due.

Information relating to unanswered questions is given in the table.

Weeks	*Total number of questions*	*Named day questions*
2-4	11	—
4-6	21	3
6-8	—	—
Over 8	—	—

Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Government received in tax from pension scheme funds that started to wind-up before 6 April 2005 with insufficient funds to cover all of their members' pension entitlements; and if he will make a statement. [89102]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC does not hold centrally, details of the amount of tax paid by pension schemes winding-up.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the projections in respect of unfunded public sector pension schemes in the 2005 Long Term Public Finance Report are, excluding the cash inflows from member contributions. [87529]

Mr. Timms: The projections of expenditure in respect of unfunded public sector pension schemes in the 2005 Long Term Public Finance Report exclude the cash inflows from member contributions. The net projections could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We are considering showing gross and net figures in the future.

Personal Allowance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total cost of allowing the personal allowance to be transferred between spouses for families with children under three years old; and if he will make a statement. [85798]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The estimated annual cost of permitting the basic personal allowance (of £5,035 per year) to be transferable between married couples who have at least one child aged two or under, during 2006-07, is £0.3 billion.

This estimate excludes any behavioural response to the change. It was calculated using the Department's tax and benefit mode, (IGOTM) based on data from the Family Resources Survey 2003-04, uprated to 2006-07 prices.

Personal Debt

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total amount of personal debt was in Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [88735]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on personal debt in the UK. (88735)

We are unable to provide levels of total personal debt by region. The following table shows estimates for the whole of the UK.

	Total personal debt (end-year) (£ million)
1997	586,659
1998	625,134
1999	675,599
2000	734,790
2001	810,665
2002	923,144
2003	1,046,913
2004	1,172,032
2005	1,275,740

The estimates of debt and income are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. Estimates for households alone are not available. NPISHs are legal entities which are principally engaged in the production of non-market services for households and whose main resources are voluntary contributions by households. Examples of NPISHs are: charities; relief and aid organisations; educational establishments; Trade Unions; Professional Associations, Political Parties and Religious Organisations, and Sports Clubs and Associations.

Further data are available from table A64 in United Kingdom Economic Accounts which is available at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Post Office Network Services/Contracts

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the Post Office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79195]

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for which services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81535]

John Healey: The Treasury does not hold contracts with nor provide services (nor has done in the last five years) through Post Office Limited (POL). The only associated public bodies of the Treasury that do hold formal contracts with POL and provide services through the POL network are HMRC and National Savings and Investment (NS&I).

HMRC has a contract with POL for the provision of the Post Office card account (POCA) service. The service is available at all PO branches. The contract runs from 22 March 2002 to 31 March 2010.

HMRC has a contract with Post Office Ltd. (POL) for the provision of the Post Office card account (POCA) service. The service is available at all PO branches.

HMRC started paying tax credits and child benefit into POCAs in April 2003. As of 30 June 2006, there were 156,178 people are paid tax credits through a POCA and 629,042 people receiving their child benefit through a POCAs. However, there is a significant overlap and the overall number of HMRC customers using a POCA is approximately 700,000. Approximately 14 per cent. of all child benefit payments are made into POCAs, for tax credits the figure is 4.5 per cent. In 2005 HMRC made 27,527,140 payments into POCAs.

NS&I currently have a two-year rolling contract with POL, which began on 1 April 2004, with no fixed end date.

The Post Office provides the following services to NS&I's customers:

over the counter transactions (sales and repayments) for the majority of NS&I products;

provision of up-to-date product brochures for the majority of NS&I products and other forms and leaflets; and

provision of accurate oral information on NS&I products and transactions in response to enquiries made by members of the general public at Post Offices or through the Post Office's customer telephone helpline.

NS&I uses around 14,000 Post Offices. The Post Office carried out approximately 9.8 million transactions (sales, payments, enquiries etc.) across a range of NS&I products during the FY2005-06. Approximately 5 million of these transactions represent new and subsequent sales through Post Office Counters.

Postal Services (VAT)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to implement Postcomm's suggestion that a uniform 5 per cent. VAT rate be applied to all postal services. [88696]

Dawn Primarolo: European VAT agreements provide a mandatory VAT exemption for services provided by the "public postal services". Under these same agreements, which cannot be changed without the unanimous approval of all EU member states, a reduced rate of 5 per cent. is not available for any postal services.

Private Finance Initiative Contracts

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private finance initiative contracts commissioned directly by each Government Department and Government Agency in each year since 1997 *(a)* have been completed, *(b)* have been contracted but not completed and *(c)* are subject to current tender; and what the aggregate value is in each case. [88676]

John Healey: There are currently over 500 projects that have been signed and are now in operation.

Around a further 200 projects have reached financial close, but are yet to become operational.

The combined capital value of all signed projects is over £48 billion. Information on PFI projects that have reached financial close may be obtained from the 'PFI Signed Projects List' on the Treasury's public website.

At the time of the Budget around 80 projects were at the preferred bidder stage and around 155 had yet to appoint a preferred bidder. The estimated aggregate capital value of these projects is around £26 billion. The capital value of projects at preferred bidder stage is shown in table C18 of the Budget.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department or public bodies for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83195]

John Healey: Detailed information in the form requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department in each year since February 2004. [88565]

John Healey: The information is in the following table.

Security passes

	Lost	*Stolen*
2004	17	—
2005	34	2
2006	11	2

Skin Cancer

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were diagnosed with skin cancer in *(a)* Brent and *(b)* London in each year since 1997. [87663]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with skin cancer in *(a)* Brent and *(b)* London in each year since 1997. [87663]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2003. Numbers of cases of melanoma skin cancer for the years 1997 to 2003 for London borough of Brent and London Government Office Region (GOR) are given in the table as follows.

Number of newly diagnosed cases of melanoma skin cancer[1] for London borough of Brent and London GOR, 1997-2003

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Brent LB	8	13	9	18	14	15	18
London GOR[2]	505	548	532	571	508	459	543

[1] Melanoma skin cancer is defined as code C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10).
[2] Figures for London GOR for the years 2000-03 are available in Table 4 of the Annual Reference Volume, Cancer statistics: Registrations, Series MB1.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecoms

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what agreements exist between the Government and the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication; [86453]

(2) whether tracking financial transactions involving British citizens by counter-terrorism officials through the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication programme has been legally reconciled with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998; [86499]

(3) how many financial transactions have been tracked *(a)* in total and *(b)* by counter-terrorism officials using the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication programme in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [86501]

(4) how many UK bank accounts have been frozen by his Department *(a)* as a counter-terrorism measure and *(b)* for other reasons as a result of financial transactions tracked using the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication programme in each year since 1997; [86502]

(5) to what UK financial regulation the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication programme is subject; [86503]

(6) what discussions the Government have had with its US counterparts to ensure the privacy of UK citizens who may have had their financial transactions viewed as part of US counter-terrorism investigations in conjunction with the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication. [86504]

Ed Balls: A total of 388 individuals and 181 entities are legally prevented from raising, moving or using funds in the UK pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002)

relating to the Taliban, Osama Bin Laden and the al-Qaeda network and UNSCR 1373 (2001). A total of 152 bank accounts in the UK have been frozen pursuant to the UK's international obligations under these Resolutions.

It has been the policy of successive governments not to comment on specific security matters.

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) is an industry owned cooperative. It is headquartered in Belgium. I refer the hon. Member to the statement posted by SWIFT on its own website some years ago on compliance (www.swift.com/index.cfm?item_id=6149) and the statement more recently on 23 June 2006 (www.swift.com/index.cfm?item_id=59897) which stated that "In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, SWIFT responded to compulsory subpoenas for limited sets of data from the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the United States Department of the Treasury." The UK Government are aware of the arrangement between the US Government and SWIFT.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases where there has been a successful prosecution for tax credit fraud the sum involved was less than *(a)* £1,000, *(b)* £5,000, *(c)* £10,000, *(d)* £25,000, *(e)* £50,000, *(f)* £100,000, *(g)* £500,000 and *(h)* £1,000,000; and what proportion of successful prosecutions for tax credit fraud each figure represents. [83798]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to provide the information in the format requested.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many direct recovery tax credit overpayment cases were outstanding as at 31 May; and if he will make a statement. [75842]

Dawn Primarolo: At 31 May 2006 there were some 759,000 households with direct recovery overpayments outstanding. Claimants subject to direct recovery are offered the facility to pay back overpayments over a 12 month period with some repayment arrangements exceeding 12 months.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff have been employed on tax credit compliance in each quarter since 2001-02; how many are planned to be employed up to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [76421]

(2) how many claimant compliance officers have been working on tax credits in each quarter since April 2002; and if he will make a statement; [78375]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff have worked in the Tax Credit National Intelligence Analysis Team in each quarter since April 2003; [83794]

(4) how many staff in his Department have been engaged in detecting and assessing tax credit fraud in each month since July 2005. [76996]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member for Yeovil to my reply of 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2420W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been dealing with disputed tax credit overpayments in each quarter since 2001. [76480]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of full-time equivalent staff dealing with disputed overpayments each quarter between quarter ending June 2004 and quarter ending June 2006, was around;

Quarter ending	*Number of staff*
June 2004	120
September 2004	150
December 2004	300
March 2005	350
June 2005	500
September 2005	950
December 2005	1,000
March 2006	1,000
June 2006	1,050

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of increasing tax credits and benefits for the poorest families in areas where the cost of living is higher. [76809]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently no plans to set varying tax credit rates across regions.

The main costs which vary locally are housing and child care. Both the child care element of working tax credit, and housing benefit are directly related to the actual costs individuals face. As such they already offer greater support to those in areas where the cost of living is higher.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings he has had on reducing tax credit fraud and error since April 2005; and if he will make a statement; [78160]

(2) how many reports on tax credit compliance *(a)* he and *(b)* the Paymaster General received in each quarter from April 2003 to May 2006; and if he will make a statement. [78407]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have a number of meetings and receive reports on a wide range of subjects, including tax credits, as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people received a tax credit payment twice due to an error made by the Tax Credit Office in each month since January 2003; what the Department's policy is in relation to such payments; and if he will make a statement. [78385]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

HMRC's approach to the recovery of overpayments is set out in its Code of Practice 26 "What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit" available at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/credit.htm.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what results were achieved by the tax credits office in Northern Ireland in reducing fraudulent cases of living together as husband and wife; and if he will make a statement. [78405]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC have a range of approaches to tackle non-compliance. All claims, for example, are subject to an automated risk assessment process which looks at the features of a claim against known risks.

In 2005-06 the number of compliance interventions settled in HMRC favour where an undeclared partner was established by the claimant compliance team in Northern Ireland was 59.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit overpayments were *(a)* disputed and *(b)* successfully disputed in Northern Ireland in each month of the last two financial years. [78763]

Dawn Primarolo: A total of around 16,000 households in Northern Ireland disputed an overpayment in 2004-05 and 2005-06. A monthly breakdown of this figure is not available. HM Revenue and Customs centralised its work on disputed overpayments in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in January 2006 and has not kept a separate count of disputes received from Northern Ireland households since the end of November 2005.

The number of overpayments remitted, in full or in part, because of Official Error in each month, from July 2004 was around:

	Number of payments written off[1]
2004-05	
July	5
August	10
September	10
October	20
November	10
December	10
January	10
February	10
March	20
2005-06	
April	10
May	2,150
June	3,900
July	1,300
August	3,000
September	1,800
October	1,100
November	400
December	100

[1] Figures represent the numbers of remissions made and are therefore net comparable with the figures for the number of households disputing overpayments.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what anti-fraud packages were designed for the tax credits system; whether these are *(a)* enabled and *(b)* operational; and if he will make a statement. [81149]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not appropriate to give specific details of anti-fraud packages as to do so could provide assistance to those engaged in criminal activity.

Information of a more general nature can be found in "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" available on the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance has been given to tax credit contact centres in relation to giving out the addresses of HM Revenue and Customs Enquiry Centres for claimants needing emergency payments; and if he will make a statement. [81152]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC's guidance tells Tax Credit Helpline advisers to provide details of Enquiry Centre addresses local to the claimant's area when an emergency payment is requested.

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have been employed on tax credit helplines *(a)* for the general public and *(b)* exclusively for the use of hon. Members and their staff in each year since they were created. [81524]

Dawn Primarolo: For the number of staff employed on dedicated tax credits helplines in April 2003, April 2004 and April 2005 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 81W, and to the answer given on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1628W.

At April 2006 there were 3500 full-time equivalent staff, this includes staff from Northern Ireland who became part of the tax credit virtual network in November 2005.

(b) The number of FTE staff (Advisers) available to answer calls to the MP Hotline, are shown as at June 2003 (the first date for which number are available) and in April of each year thereafter and are around:

	Number of staff[1]
June 2003	20
April 2004	33
April 2005	36
April 2006	32

[1] Full-time equivalent

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to reduce errors in payments of tax credit payments. [81525]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the HMRC publication "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" available at www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what financial provision has been made to date by his Department to cover losses from tax credit fraud since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [81753]

Dawn Primarolo: Financial provisions are set out in HM Revenue and Customs' accounts.

HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts: The Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report is available at http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/05-06/05061159.htm.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overpayments of tax credits in the last 12 months have been due to administrative errors; and what steps are being taken to reduce such errors. [82435]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the HMRC publication "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" available at www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm and to HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts: The Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report, Part 2, available at http://www.nao.org.uk/pn05-06/05061159.htm.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any bonus payments have been made to staff dealing with tax credits since 12 December 2005; and if he will make a statement. [82887]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The information is not available. Staff in various parts of HM Revenue and Customs, not only the Tax Credit Office, may be deployed to tax credits work or deal with tax credits in addition to other work. It is not possible to isolate those in receipt of bonus payments.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many prosecutions there have been for *(a)* tax credit fraud and *(b)* tax credit fraud over £250,000 in each month since January 2004; and if he will make a statement. [63040]

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were prosecuted in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06 for tax credit fraud; how many were found guilty; how much money was fraudulently obtained in each such case where proceedings are complete; and if he will make a statement. [77590]

Dawn Primarolo: For numbers of prosecutions and successful prosecutions I refer the hon. Member and my hon. Friend to the publications "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" available on the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm. and to HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts: The Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report, part 2, available at http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/05-06/05061159.htm.

The other information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in South East Cambridgeshire were *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid child and working tax credit in each of the last five years; and what the value was of (i) underpayments and (ii) overpayments. [88734]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1421W.

Teenage Pregnancies

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many underage pregnancies there were in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87507]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many underage pregnancies there were in each London borough in each year since 1997. (87507)

Available figures are estimates of the number of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 in each London Borough for the years 1997-2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 years by area of usual residence, London, 1997-2004[1]

Area of usual residence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004[1]*
London	1,141	1,152	1,058	1,246	1,252	1,229	1,247	1,127
Camden LB	25	24	21	24	22	25	23	14
Hackney LB and City of London	64	65	45	69	62	56	62	52
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	26	16	27	21	22	21	25	11
Haringey LB	50	50	33	60	59	59	46	62
Islington LB	29	20	34	27	37	30	33	35
Kensington and Chelsea LB	16	11	18	19	14	13	8	5
Lambeth LB	81	81	69	78	80	95	100	64
Lewisham LB	66	63	55	62	61	70	74	59
Newham LB	55	54	61	69	71	59	45	47
Southwark LB	59	57	61	63	68	77	83	66
Tower Hamlets LB	23	49	19	39	42	34	28	35
Wandsworth LB	46	46	48	44	48	41	39	27
Westminster City of LB	14	16	20	20	20	17	17	8
Barking and Dagenham LB	43	25	34	45	51	43	44	41
Barnet LB	28	20	28	35	34	27	38	34
Bexley LB	34	37	30	22	34	36	27	36
Brent LB	32	36	49	55	52	50	54	49

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 years by area of usual residence, London, 1997-2004[1]

Area of usual residence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]
Bromley LB	30	29	24	35	33	38	39	36
Croydon LB	64	77	67	78	72	68	57	63
Ealing LB	28	43	31	41	31	32	29	32
Enfield LB	47	33	26	48	43	51	58	46
Greenwich LB	62	52	59	43	51	45	45	49
Harrow LB	22	19	9	15	24	21	18	25
Havering LB	22	22	25	31	23	18	29	25
Hillingdon LB	37	47	27	32	37	39	48	50
Hounslow LB	30	25	41	34	38	25	34	36
Kingston upon Thames LB	14	18	14	10	9	8	9	9
Merton LB	13	26	13	34	20	22	27	24
Redbridge LB	23	20	22	26	26	28	25	25
Richmond upon Thames LB	13	11	7	9	10	9	8	12
Sutton LB	9	25	13	17	17	23	25	20
Waltham Forest LB	36	35	28	41	41	49	50	30

[1] Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Note:

To preserve confidentiality, counts for City of London have been combined with those for Hackney LB.

Teleworker Heat and Fuel Allowance

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department takes to monitor the cost of domestic fuel for those entitled to the teleworker heat and fuel allowance. [86549]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC does not monitor the cost of domestic fuel used by particular groups of individuals. All employers can reimburse the full additional heat and fuel costs of employees working at home under the statutory homeworking exemption without a tax or national insurance charge arising.

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review the teleworkers heat and fuel allowance. [86550]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no current plans to change the exemption for additional household expenses incurred by employees who work at home.

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what threshold he has set for rises in domestic fuel costs that will trigger consideration on increasing the teleworkers heat and fuel allowance. [86552]

Dawn Primarolo: Employers can reimburse the full additional heat and fuel costs of employees working at home under the statutory homeworking exemption without a tax or national insurance charge arising.

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether research has been carried out into the extent to which teleworkers' income is being affected by changes in *(a)* domestic fuel costs and *(b)* the teleworkers heat and fuel allowance. [86553]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC does not monitor the cost of domestic fuel used by particular groups of individuals. There have been no changes to the statutory homeworking exemption under which employers can reimburse employees the full additional costs of working from home without a tax or national insurance charge arising.

Unemployment Statistics

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs were lost in the *(a)* tourism, *(b)* agriculture, *(c)* fishing and *(d)* defence-related industries in each constituency in Devon and Cornwall in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [87391]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about job losses in tourism, agriculture, fishing and defence-related industries. (87391)

While statistics of jobs lost or created are not available explicitly, statistics from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in the number of jobs from year to year.

The attached table shows the number of employee jobs in tourism-related industries in each constituency in Devon and Cornwall in 2004, and net changes since 2003. These figures are obtained by combining estimates of employee jobs in the following industries, as identified by the Standard Industrial Classification 2003:

Hotels and other tourist accommodation

Restaurants, bars and canteens

Transport

Travel agencies/tour operators

Recreation services.

The table also shows the number of employee jobs in agriculture, fishing, and defence activities in Devon and Cornwall as a whole, and for those constituencies where information is available.

These estimates are from the Annual Business Inquiry and, as with any sample survey, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employee jobs in tourism, agriculture, fishing and defence activities in Devon and Cornwall, by Parliamentary Constituency, 2003 and 2004

	Tourism[1]			Agriculture, hunting and forestry[2]	
	2003	2004	Change: 2003-04	2003	2004
East Devon	4,300	5,100	800	[5]	[5]
Exeter	6,200	7,000	800	[5]	[5]
Falmouth and Camborne	4,500	4,300	-200	[5]	[5]
North Cornwall	8,800	8,500	-300	[5]	[5]
North Devon	6,200	7,200	1,000	100	100
Plymouth, Devonport	1,900	2,000	100	[5]	[5]
Plymouth, Sutton	6,600	7,800	1,200	[5]	[5]
South East Cornwall	5,000	4,900	-100	100	100
St. Ives	5,700	5,700	0	[5]	[5]
Teignbridge	5,100	6,000	900	200	100
Tiverton and Honiton	5,300	5,900	600	200	200
Torbay	7,600	9,000	1,400	[5]	[5]
Torridge and West Devon	4,800	5,700	900	300	300
Totnes	4,600	5,300	700	100	100
Truro and St. Austell	6,000	6,000	0	[5]	[5]
Devon and Cornwall	82,700	90,200	7,500	1,400	1,300

	Fishing[3]		Defence activities[4]	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
East Devon	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Exeter	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Falmouth and Camborne	100	[5]	[5]	[5]
North Cornwall	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
North Devon	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Plymouth, Devonport	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Plymouth, Sutton	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
South East Cornwall	100	[5]	[5]	[5]
St. Ives	200	100	[5]	[5]
Teignbridge	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Tiverton and Honiton	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Torbay	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Torridge and West Devon	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Totnes	100	[5]	[5]	[5]
Truro and St. Austell	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]
Devon and Cornwall	700	400	3,400	3,500

[1] Tourism is defined as Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2003 Groups: 551-555: Hotels and restaurants; 601-623: Transport; 633: Travel agencies and tour operators n.e.c; 925: Library, archives, museums and other cultural activities; 926: Sporting activities; 927: Other recreational activities.

[2] SIC 2003 Division A: Agriculture, hunting and forestry. These figures are aggregates from which agriculture class 0100 (SIC 2003) have been excluded.

[3] SIC 2003 Division B: Fishing

[4] SIC 2003 Class 7522: Defence activities

[5] These figures are not shown in order to prevent the disclosure of data that could lead to individual businesses being identified.

Note:

The estimates for individual industries in Parliamentary Constituencies are based on very small sample sizes and are hence subject to significant sampling variation. Changes between years cannot be assessed at all reliably for these cases.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which public sector organisations the Valuation Office Agency obtains data; and with which it shares data. [88072]

Dawn Primarolo: VOA obtains or shares data in accordance with its statutorily authorised activities across a very wide range of public sector organisations in central and local government. A comprehensive list could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Vehicle Excise Duty

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cars in each vehicle excise duty band are *(a)* leased to and *(b)* owned by (i) HM Treasury and (ii) its agencies. [83581]

John Healey: Details of the Treasury and its agencies are as follows.

Chancellor's Department	Owns	VED/CO_2 Band	Leases	VED/CO_2 Band
Core HM Treasury	0	—	0	—
ONS	9	C	0	—
ONS	4	D	0	—
Royal Mint	2	C	0	—
Royal Mint	1	E	0	—

Chancellor's Department	Owns	VED/CO_2 Band	Leases	VED/CO_2 Band
Royal Mint	1	F	0	—
OGC Buying Solutions	0	—	5	D
OCG	0	—	2	C
OCG	0	—	4	D
OCG	0	—	1	E
NS and I	0	—	0	—
DMO	0	—	0	—

Veredus

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which appointments in his Department have been made using the recruitment agency Veredus; what the date was of each appointment; and how much was paid to Veredus in respect of each. [83577]

John Healey: The Head of Business Delivery for the Debt Management Office, an executive agency of HM Treasury, was recruited using Veredus in August 2005. It would not be appropriate on grounds of commercial confidentiality to disclose how much was paid to Veredus.

Welsh Speakers

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Welsh speakers there are in Wales; and what proportion this is of the Welsh population. [88376]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many Welsh speakers there are in Wales; and what proportion this is of the Welsh population. I am replying in her absence. (88376)

The most recent information available on Welsh speakers is from the 2001 Census. The table below shows that on Census day (29 April 2001) there were 582,368 people living in Wales who reported that they were able to speak Welsh, which is 20.8 per cent. of the Welsh population. The figure has been extracted from Table T39 on the CD supplement to the Census 2001 National report for England and Wales, which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Welsh speakers in Wales, 29 April 2001

	All people aged 3 and over
All people	2,805,701
Number of people who reported that they spoke Welsh	582,368
Percentage of people who reported that they spoke Welsh	20.8

Note:
In line with standard Census reports on language skills children under 3 have been excluded from the table.
Source:
Table T39 in the Census 2001 National report for England and Wales

Winter Deaths

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many excess winter deaths there were in each London borough in 2005. [88550]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many excess winter deaths there were in London borough in 2005. I am replying in her absence. (88550)

The latest available figures on excess winter deaths (the excess number of deaths each winter compared to the average during other months of the year) for local authorities are for 2003/2004. Figures for London boroughs were given in a Written Answer on 17th Novemebr2005 (Hansard Column 1574W), in response to a previous question of yours.

Estimates for 2004/5 are expected to be published in November 2006.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 25 July 2006

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what guidance has been provided to health professionals on advice to be provided to women seeking abortions. [87978]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety has set up a Working Group with representatives from a wide range of professional and specialty backgrounds including nursing and midwifery, obstetrics and gynaecology, public health, psychiatry, clinical genetics, Family Planning doctors and General Practitioners to develop guidance on abortion in Northern Ireland.

It is proposed to issue the draft "Guidance on Termination of Pregnancy in Northern Ireland" to interested parties for consultation in September. The completed guidance will be published early next year along with supporting leaflets for public use.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the outcome was of the survey conducted in September 2005 of health professionals on advice for females seeking abortions. [87979]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety set up a working group to inquire into the adequacy of termination of pregnancy services provided in Northern Ireland (including aftercare); and following such inquiry, and after appropriate consultation with concerned organisations, to issue appropriate guidance.

The Working Group developed a suite of questionnaires in consultation with Obstetricians and GPs. The responses from these questionnaires have been used to inform the drafting of "Guidance on Termination of Pregnancy in Northern Ireland". It is anticipated the guidance will be released for consultation with interested parties in early September 2006.

It is intended that the completed guidance will be issued early next year along with supporting leaflets for public use.

Adult Community Learning

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what budget has been allocated to adult community learning by each education and library board in each of the last five years. [85438]

Maria Eagle: The Education and Library Boards are not responsible for Adult Community Learning therefore no budget has been allocated to Education and Library Boards for adult community learning in the last five years.

Ambulance Service

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of *(a)* current mileage levels for Omagh ambulance crews and *(b)* mileage levels prior to the acute services status change at Tyrone county hospital. [87279]

Paul Goggins: The mileage recorded by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service for its emergency A and E ambulances and non-emergency patient care service vehicles based in Omagh during the most recent quarter following the changes to acute services at Tyrone county hospital and the equivalent quarter in the previous year are shown in the tables as follows:

A and E ambulances

	2005	*2006*	*Percentage change*
April	6,345	11,105	75
May	6,854	9,597	40
June	6,898	11,679	69
Total	20,097	32,381	61

PCS vehicles

	2005	*2006*	*Percentage change*
April	7,955	8,823	11
May	6,649	10,650	60
June	5,889	11,584	97
Total	20,493	31,057	51

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the outcome was of the review of the effectiveness of the Ambulance Service's arrangements for ambulance cover at the Northland Road Fire and Rescue Service Station. [87280]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service's review has confirmed that its performance has improved significantly in the area covered by the Northland Road ambulance deployment point, which opened in May 2006. Almost 62 per cent. of life threatening emergency calls received in June 2006 were responded to within the national eight minute response target compared to 53.1 per cent. in April.

Breast Cancer

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans his Department has *(a)* to review the training and *(b)* conduct retraining of consultant radiologists in relation to breast cancer; what funding is available for this initiative; and what assessment he has made of the findings of the inquiry into the conduct of radiology in Antrim hospital. [86579]

Paul Goggins: The independent review by the Regulation and Quality and Improvement Authority (RQIA) into the conduct of radiology did not identify

problems with training in breast radiology locally. However, staff shortages in the specialty were considered by the RQIA a contributory factor. The RQIA review recommended the promotion of the sub-speciality of breast radiology to medical trainees and also encouragement of the development of various models of service provision through a range of skill mix options as outlined in the NHS Breast Screening Programme. The Department is currently considering the detailed recommendations of the RQIA review and is exploring with the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency the feasibility of increasing the number of specialist trainees in breast radiology.

Charity Fraud

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many charities are under investigation in Northern Ireland regarding possible fraudulent transactions. [87129]

Paul Goggins: It is not normal policy for the PSNI to comment on on-going investigations as this may prejudice inquiries.

Chief Medical Officer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* salary is and *(b)* other benefits are of the newly appointed Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland. [87990]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows:

(a) The salary of the newly appointed Chief Medical Officer will be in the range £135,000 to £140,000. The Chief Medical Officer has been appointed on secondment terms from the Royal Victoria Hospital to the Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety. He will retain all the terms and conditions available from his present employer.

(b) No other benefits are available to the Chief Medical Officer.

Civil Servants

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants in Northern Ireland who were convicted of fraud or theft were *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed in each of the last three years. [81668]

Mr. Hanson: The following table covers Northern Ireland civil servants working within the 11 NI Departments/agencies and also includes staff employed in the Northern Ireland Office.

	Convicted of fraud		*Convicted of theft*	
	Disciplined	*Dismissed*	*Disciplined*	*Dismissed*
2005-06	0	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	0	0
2003-04	0	0	0	0

Cranial Remoulding Orthosis

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children in the Province are waiting for cranial remoulding orthosis treatment. [87980]

Paul Goggins: At 24 July 2006, there were no patients waiting for treatment for cranial remoulding orthosis in Northern Ireland.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many people in the Province have undergone cranial remoulding orthosis; [88170]

(2) how many children in the Province travelled outside Northern Ireland to consult an NHS specialist for cranial remoulding orthosis in 2005-06. [87981]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not held centrally and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member with the relevant information as soon as it becomes available and place a copy in the Library.

Crime

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of reported crimes in each Westminster constituency in Northern Ireland resulted in *(a)* an arrest and *(b)* a conviction in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [86314]

Paul Goggins: As the PSNI do not collate details of the number of arrests or convictions, the information cannot be given in the format requested and could be done only at disproportionate cost. A table showing details of the number of crimes reported and cleared by each district command unit for the years requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Cycling

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to promote cycling in Northern Ireland. [87281]

David Cairns: The Department for Regional Development's Roads Service promotes cycling in Northern Ireland from two perspectives. Firstly, it continues to invest some £800,000 per annum on the cycling infrastructure to improve facilities for cyclists and to make cycling as safe as is possible. This includes the creation of further cycle lanes (both traffic free and on-road); the provision of town centre bicycle parking facilities; and the installation of toucan crossings for cyclists at key points on the network.

Secondly, through its annual Northern Ireland Travelwise initiative, Roads Service promotes a series of highly marketed cycling events during National Bike Week. This year Bike Week took place from 17-25 June 2006 when some 400 cyclists participated in events across Northern Ireland. I understand that there are plans to organise further cycling events in the years ahead.

In partnership with the NI tourist board, the Environment and Heritage Service and the Health Promotion Agency, Roads Service co-funds a project to promote all types of cycling across Northern Ireland. As a result 'Cycle Northern Ireland' was established in 2005 and currently employs a dedicated marketing team whose aim is to promote cycling for the domestic/out of state markets; to raise awareness of the product available; and to encourage cycling as a mode of transport and as a leisure pursuit.

Additionally, Roads Service in conjunction with representatives from the six councils in the Belfast metropolitan area (BMA); Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity; and Cycle NI have formed the Greater Belfast Cycle Marketing Group with the aim of co-ordinating the promotion of cycling within the BMA.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), through its Rural Development Programme 2001-06 (RDP), has allocated some £1,347,000 to assist Sustrans on a number of practical projects to extend the National Cycle Network.

The RDP has also provided approximately £113,000 of funding to the Countryside Access and Activities Network to develop cycling trails on DARD's Forest Service properties at Castle Archdale Forest, Co Fermanagh, Gosford Forest Park, Co Armagh and Castlewellan Forest Park, Co Down and a further £42,000 has been allocated to Fermanagh district council for the development of a cycling trail at Florencecourt Forest Park in Co Fermanagh. £18,000 has been allocated to Ordnance Survey NI to develop Sperrins cycling route maps.

The Forest Service also continues to work with organisations including Sustrans to facilitate the development of the National Cycling Network through the provision of cycling routes through public forests. Cycle trails now exist in, or pass through, 11 Forest Service properties, and the Service has a target this year to publish operational guidelines for cycling in forests.

The Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) through the Sports Council for Northern Ireland (SCNI) is currently working with the Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN) on the development of a series of family trails; cross-country trails; and downhill trails at a variety of sites across Northern Ireland. These will provide cyclists of all ages and abilities from within Northern Ireland and overseas with the opportunity to participate in quality off-road cycling in a planned, managed and safe environment.

The first off-road family cycling trail, the Craigavon Lakes Mountain Bike Trail, was opened by the then Minister, in September 2005. This trail is approximately 10 km long and is designed to be robust, sustainable and rideable in all weathers. The SCNI awarded funding of some 36,000 from lottery to support the development of this project

Three further off-road family cycling trails are planned for development by CAAN in the coming year and a total of 26 trails are planned for sites throughout Northern Ireland.

In the past three years SCNI has provided some £110,000 to Cycling Ulster, the governing body of cycling in Northern Ireland, to support the continuing promotion and development of the sport. SCNI, through its Athlete Support Programme, also invested almost £149,000 in 12 high performance cyclists over the last three years and recently undertook a study on feasibility of a multi-purpose cycling Velodrome in Northern Ireland at the request of Cycling Ulster.

Dentistry

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dentists are registered in NHS practices in each of the health board areas in Northern Ireland. [86557]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is detailed in the following table:

Dentists registered in NHS practices by Health Board Area as at 18 July 2006

Health Board	*Number*
Eastern	332
Northern	191
Southern	153
Western	121
NI	751

Note:
Dentists holding multiple contracts within a Health Board Area are counted only once within that Health Board Area. The sum of dentists by Health Board is not the same as the NI figure as dentists can work in different Boards under different contracts and will be counted once within each Health Board Area in which they work.
Source:
Central Services Agency

Departmental Assets (Capital Charges)

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what capital charges on assets will be paid by each Northern Ireland department out of the 2006-07 budget. [87271]

Mr. Hanson: The following table, based on the position as established in the Priorities and Budget 2006-08, sets out planned current expenditure and capital charges within each relevant Departmental expenditure limit for 2006-07:

Departmental expenditure limit: current expenditure and capital charges for 2006-07

£ million

Department	*Current expenditure*	*Of which: Capital charges*
Agriculture and Rural Development	233.3	14.8
Culture, Arts and Leisure	102.7	2.4
Education	1,632.8	-0.4
Employment and Learning	687.4	8.0
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	199.8	3.2
Finance and Personnel	211.7	11.8
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	3,591.9	39.2
Environment	126.6	1.4
Regional Development	382.3	0.1
Social Development	516.8	1.6
Office of the First and Deputy First Minister	74.8	0.3

Departmental Vehicles

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants within each Government Department in the Province used

chauffeured cars in each of the last five years; *(a)* how many times civil servants within each Government Department in the Province used such cars in each year; and *(b)* what the cost was in each year. [83689]

Mr. Hanson: Records of numbers of civil servants using chauffeured cars do not exist prior to April 2003. Estimates of the numbers of civil servants by department that have used chauffeur driven vehicles provided by the DFP centralised car pool since April 2003 to June 2006 are given in table 1. It does not include numbers from Departments that have access to their own chauffeured vehicles, as those Departments do not hold these records.

Table 1

Department	*Number of civil servants*
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)	73
Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL)	23
Department of Education	24
Department of Employment and Learning (DEL)	31
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)	17
Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)	138
Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety (DHSSPS)	142
Department of Environment (DOE)	42
Department for Regional Development (DRD)	31
Department for Social Development	47
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)	96
Northern Ireland Office (NIO)	[1]0

[1] The NIO has its own car pool and does not use the DFP centralised car pool. It does not record the number of civil servants who use the service.

A breakdown of the figures by year could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(a) Table 2 provides an estimate of the breakdown of usage per Department (in journeys) for which records exist. The figures include the DFP car pool and departmental cars but not the NIO which does not record this information.

Table 2

	Fiscal year		
Department	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
DARD	1,108	1,280	1,079
DCAL	369	427	360
DE	221	256	216
DEL	295	341	288
DETI	1,944	1,985	1,822
DFP	1,477	1,706	1,439
DHSSPS	1,234	1,441	1,276
DOE	221	256	216
DRD	369	427	360
DSD	437	1,102	792
OFMDFM	1,255	1,450	1,223
NIO	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Figures not available

(b) Estimated costs for the use of chauffeured cars are shown in table 3.

Table 3

	Costs (£)
2002-03	967,032
2003-04	1,056,463
2004-05	1,187,154
2005-06	1,226,898

Note:
These figures are not comparable to figures in tables 1 and 2 as they include the cost of the NIO service. The totals also include the costs of providing a service to visiting dignitaries and other non civil servants.

Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the latest estimate is of the average effective tax rate in Northern Ireland to be levied on domestic rates bills in respect of the *(a)* district and *(b)* regional rate in (i) Northern Ireland as a whole and (ii) each district in Northern Ireland in 2007-08. [86817]

Mr. Hanson: Individual district council projections for 2007-08 are not available. Each district council is responsible for setting its own rate and the spending plans for the 26 district councils are not yet known for 2007-08. However, the average district rate for 2007-08 is estimated to be 0.00273 or £2.73 per £1,000 of capital value. This estimate is based on the assumption of a 6 per cent. increase in the average simulated domestic capital value rates that would have applied in 2006-07.

The regional rate for 2007-08 is estimated to be 0.00360 or £3.60 per £1,000 of capital value. This estimate is also based on a 6 per cent. increase for the regional rate, which has already been announced in the draft Priorities and Budget 2006-08.

Therefore, it is estimated that the total (district and regional) average effective tax rate to be levied on households in Northern Ireland under the new discrete capital values system in April 2007 will be £6.33 for every £1,000 of capital value.

Field Studies

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many secondary school field courses were funded by each education and library board in each of the last seven years; and how many students have attended such courses. [87099]

Maria Eagle: The information on funding and students attending such courses is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Gambling

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland are receiving publicly funded assistance for a gambling addiction; and if he will make a statement. [87986]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to estimate the number of people receiving assistance through health services for a gambling addiction. There is no record of patients receiving treatment solely for a gambling addiction although those patients with a co-existent mental illness or alcohol problem may receive therapy for gambling as part of their treatment.

There is no provision in law for publicly funded assistance for gambling addiction and no support is available through the benefit system.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of further genito-urinary medicine clinics in the Province. [87983]

Paul Goggins: In April 2006 DHSSPS asked the four health and social services boards to jointly undertake a review of sexual health/GUM services in Northern Ireland. In particular the review will address:

(a) the potential to optimise the utilisation of current resources including facilities, staff and diagnostics—this will take into account an analysis by the Service Delivery Unit;

(b) the potential to develop the capacity of primary/community based services to respond to the increased demand in the population;

(c) equity of access across Northern Ireland; and

(d) working towards the achievement of targets for open access and waiting times for appointments.

The Review is expected to be completed by the end of September 2006.

Integrated Schools

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* maintained and *(b)* state controlled schools have transformed to the integrated school sector over the last five years in each education and library board area; and if he will make a statement. [87996]

Maria Eagle: Over the last five years no maintained schools have transformed to integrated status. Two controlled primary schools in the north-eastern education and library board area; one controlled primary school in the south-eastern education and library board area; and one controlled primary school in the western education and library board area have transformed to controlled integrated status.

I have also recently announced the transformation of Crumlin High School in the north eastern education and library board area to take effect from September 2007.

Language Support

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people whose country of origin is outside Northern Ireland and whose first language is other than English, are enrolled in each college of further and higher education in each education and library board area, broken down by country of origin. [86570]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Employment and Learning does not collect information on students whose first language is other than English. The following table details FE enrolments by Education and Library Board Area for students whose country of domicile was reported as outside NI in 2004-05 (latest available data).

	Region of Domicile				
Education and Library Board	*Great Britain*	*Republic of Ireland*	*European Union*[1]	*Other overseas*	*Total*
Belfast	11	14	19	31	75
North Eastern	12	10	15	93	130
South Eastern	154	43	39	134	370
Southern	112	395	32	46	585
Western	1	46	3	17	67
Unknown	19	5,456	29	50	5,554
Total	309	5,964	137	371	6,781

[1] European Union includes those countries that where members in November 2004.

Notes:

1. Data relates to enrolments over the whole academic year.
2. Current student postcode is used to determine Education and Library Board Area.

Source:

FESR.

Medical Assessments

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults travelled outside Northern Ireland in each of the last five years for NHS medical assessment. [88171]

Paul Goggins: This information is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87641]

Mr. Hain: As Secretary of State for Northern Ireland I have offices in London and Belfast. The London office received minor re-decoration in 2005. The Belfast office was re-decorated in 2004.

Ministerial Travel

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of travel to Northern Ireland by Ministers in his Department in each of the last eight years. [69668]

Mr. Hain: The cost of travel to Northern Ireland by Ministers is available for the last six years and is as follows:

	£
2000-01	643,968
2001-02	591,619
2002-03	544,489
2003-04	486,545
2004-05	465,667
2005-06	469,638

MRSA

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidences of MRSA bacteria were reported in each health board area by *(a)* doctors and nurses and *(b)* others in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; and in how many cases poor cleaning was the suspected cause. [87982]

Paul Goggins: The number of incidences of MRSA bacteria reported broken down by *(a)* doctors and nurses and *(b)* others or whether poor cleaning was the suspected cause is not available. However, the total number of MRSA bacteraemia reported within each health board, for 2004-05 and 2005-06, is available, and is detailed in the following table.

Health board[1]	*2004-05*	*Number 2005-06*[2]
Eastern	143	113
Northern	47	34
Southern	24	19
Western	28	20
NI Total	242	186

[1] Health Board of Treatment.
[2] Figures for 2005-06 only indicate the period 1 April to 31 December 2005.
Source:
Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre Northern Ireland (CDSC (NI)).

Murals

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the use of funds to encourage the removal of murals from gable walls in *(a)* Loyalist and *(b)* nationalist areas; by whom the funds will be administered; and who the representatives will be from the communities taking part in the exercise. [85049]

Maria Eagle: 'Re-imaging Communities' is a £3.3 million funding programme, administered by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, for local communities which, over the next three years, will help communities to develop mural art and public art which celebrates life and helps people to feel part of the community they live in. It will also have a focus on replacing paramilitary murals and emblems with positive community images. It aims to build on and complement existing, though ad hoc, initiatives across Northern Ireland.

The Programme will support a wide range of community-led projects, offering grants of up to £5,000 for small projects and up to £50,000 for larger scale projects.

Applications will be invited from any local community group. Ideally these applications should be consistent with the local council's good relations strategy or plan. There will be community development workers, employed by the Arts Council, available to help develop organisations in those areas which find it hard to access this type of funding. The Arts Council will look at all applications it receives, but in order to achieve high quality/good design in the new murals and public artwork, would expect an artist to be involved.

Nationality Restrictions

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what legislation has been *(a)* proposed and *(b)* implemented in relation to the recommendations of the Senior Civil Service Review Team on nationality restrictions. [87270]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

Since 2001, my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) has, on several occasions, introduced a Private Member's Bill supporting these proposals. The Government indicated its support for this Bill during debate on it in the 2003-04 Session. The hon. Member's Bill has not completed the necessary Parliamentary stages in the current session.

A provision was included in the Courts Act 2003 enabling persons of any nationality resident in the UK to apply to be appointed as a justice of the peace.

Nursing

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what bursary entitlements are available for nursing students from Northern Ireland who study in Great Britain. [87977]

Paul Goggins: Throughout the United Kingdom, the funding of student nurse training, including bursary support, is the responsibility of the Health Department in whose area the course of study is being undertaken.

The following table details the bursary support available for nursing students from Northern Ireland studying in Great Britain for the academic year 2006-07.

Student support for pre-registration nursing students for academic year 2006-07

£

	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*
Personal Bursary	[1]5,983	5,990	5,983
Over 26 Allowance	[2]682	755	[2]682
Initial Expenses	55	55	55
Dependants Allowance	Means tested	Means tested	Means tested

Student support for pre-registration nursing students for academic year 2006-07

£

	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*
Single Parent Allowance	[2]1,026 non means tested	1,210 non means tested	[2]1,026 non means tested
Child Care Allowance	[3]85 per cent. of costs (means-tested/ ceiling imposed)	Up to £1,130 (non-means tested)	[3]85 per cent. of costs (means-tested/ ceiling imposed
Pregnancy/ Childbirth Allowance	[4]Ceiling of 45 weeks bursary entitlement	Bursary entitlement continued (detail not yet available)	[4]Ceiling of 45 weeks bursary entitlement

[1] In England students undertaking the degree programme apply for a means-tested bursary with a student loan while those on the diploma course are eligible for a non-means tested bursary only.
[2] In England and Wales if students receive the over 26 allowance, they may not receive the single parent allowance also.
[3] Child care allowance paid for registered child care—ceiling £117 for one child, £174 for two or more children per week. Scotland pays a contribution to child care up to a ceiling of £1,130 per annum.
[4] England and Wales have introduced interim arrangements to continue to pay bursary support to students who are absent from their course due to pregnancy and childbirth for a period up to 45 weeks.

Parking

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what legislation applying in Northern Ireland prohibits motorists from parking their cars on pavements. [86307]

David Cairns: The Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mr. Geoff Allister, dated 25 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding what legislation applying in Northern Ireland deters motorists from parking their cars on pavements.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

At present, the principal traffic regulation order relating to waiting and loading restrictions throughout Northern Ireland is the Roads (Restriction of Waiting) Order (Northern Ireland) 1982 ("the 1982 Order"). A yellow line waiting restriction placed on the carriageway applies to all of the side of the road on which it is located, i.e. from the center of the road to the road boundary, which may include a footway or verge. A motorist parking their vehicle on a footway adjacent to a yellow line marking on the carriageway is guilty of an offence.

In addition, the Footways (Prohibition of Waiting) (No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 1981 ("the 1981 Order") prohibits the waiting by motor vehicles, at any time, on footways adjacent to clearways. Any person who contravenes the 1981 Order or the 1982 Order is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Article 88 (obstruction of roads) of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 also provides that any person who, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, in any way intentionally or negligently obstructs the free passage along a road shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £500.

Parliamentary Questions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many parliamentary *(a)* questions and *(b)* draft answers on Northern Ireland matters tabled by (i) hon. Members for Northern Ireland constituencies and (ii) hon. Members for constituencies in Great Britain have been notified to the North/South Inter-governmental Conference Secretariat in the last 12 months, broken down by hon. Member; [88339]

(2) for what purpose parliamentary *(a)* questions and *(b)* draft answers on Northern Ireland matters tabled by hon. Members are notified to the North/ South Inter-governmental Conference Secretariat. [88574]

Mr. Hain: I assume that the hon. Gentleman is referring to the British Irish Inter-Governmental Secretariat (BIIS).

Northern Ireland Office officials in the BIIS receive a daily list of all parliamentary questions tabled to my Department, as does every other division of my Department. Overall, they have drafted seven answers to parliamentary questions in the past 12 months.

This is broken down by hon. Member as follows.

	Number
The hon. Member for Upper Bann	3
The hon. Member for East Londonderry	1
The hon. Member for South Down	3

A parliamentary question is drafted by the BIIS when the subject of the question is regarding the interface between the Government and the Irish Government on Northern Ireland matters. This is the purpose of the BIIS.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* guidance he has issued to his Department and *(b)* procedures are followed with regard to the processing of parliamentary (i) questions and (ii) draft answers on Northern Ireland matters tabled by (A) hon. Members for Northern Ireland constituencies and (B) hon. Members for constituencies in Great Britain. [88575]

Mr. Hain: My parliamentary clerk and his staff have lead responsibility for advising officials dealing with parliamentary questions. Furthermore, each division within the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has a nominated parliamentary questions co-ordinator who has been fully instructed by parliamentary section in procedures relating to parliamentary questions. Guidance produced by Cabinet Office has been placed on the NIO intranet and is available to all staff.

When dealing with parliamentary questions, my officials do not differentiate between hon. Members from Northern Ireland and those from Great Britain.

Pensioners

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of pensioners in Northern Ireland live alone. [87287]

Mr. Hanson: In the 2001 Census there were 261,511 people of pension age (aged 65 or more for males, aged 60 or more for females) in Northern Ireland, of whom 80,486 (31 percent.) lived in single-person households.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pensioners in Northern Ireland were re-admitted to hospital as an emergency in each of the last five years. [87289]

Paul Goggins: Information on re-admissions is not currently available.

The reliable identification of individuals who have been re-admitted to hospital as an emergency is not currently feasible due to the lack of a unique patient identifier to facilitate data matching.

The introduction of the 'Health and Care number' which will allow each patient to be uniquely identified will greatly assist in the production of this type of information in the future.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland aged *(a)* 65 to 74 and *(b)* over 75 years participated in (i) publicly funded learning and (ii) volunteering in each of the last five years. [87291]

Mr. Hanson: The following table details the number of enrolments of those aged 65 and over on learning courses funded by the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland for the period 2000-01 to 2004-05 (latest available data).

	Aged 65-74	*Aged 75+*	*Total*
2000-01	12,901	5,653	18,554
2001-02	12,412	6,556	18,968
2002-03	12,772	6,174	18,946
2003-04	13,073	5,825	18,898
2004-05	13,606	6,027	19,633

Source:
HESA; FESR

The information is not available in the format requested but the following tables provide information on volunteers aged 60 years and over. Every five years the Department for Social Development (DSD) commissions an omnibus survey, to provide information on the nature and extent of volunteering in Northern Ireland. Figures from the 2001 survey, based on a representative sample, are provided below. The next survey will take place in September 2006.

	Formal volunteering
Survey sample size	1,312
Percentage of overall survey	35
Total estimated number of formal volunteers	448,116
Age 65 and older	
Number	62,736
Percentage	14

The following tables give information on volunteers supported through the Department for Social Development Volunteering Development Programmes.

Community Volunteering Scheme (Grant Programme)

Figures are only available for aged over 50.

	Total new volunteers	*Volunteers aged over 50*
2001-02	899	184
2002-03	1,028	134
2003-04	1,547	217
2004-05	1,356	163
2005-06	[1]	[1]

[1] Figures not yet available.

Active Communities Initiative (2001-04)

	Number/percentage
Total volunteers recruited	3,673
Volunteers aged 50 years and over	
Number	429
Percentage	11.7

Source: Evaluation of the Active Communities Initiative 2001-04 CENI 2005

Volunteer Bureaux Initiative

Due to reorganisation no figures are available from the 15 Volunteer Bureaux until 2002-03. Age of volunteers is recorded in bands. The band is for '60 years and over'.

	Volunteers	*Volunteers aged over 60 years*
2002-03	6,751	675
2003-04	8,674	694
2004-05	10,091	1,312
2005-06	[1]	[1]

[1] Not available yet

Plagiocephaly

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of children in the Province who have plagiocephaly. [88169]

Paul Goggins: The number of children in the Province with plagiocephaly is not known.

However it is possible to provide the number of children admitted to hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of plagiocephaly. Data have been provided for the last three years.

Number of admissions[1] to a hospital in Northern Ireland for children[2] with a primary or secondary diagnosis of plagiocephaly[3] for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Number
2002-03	26
2003-04	28
2004-05	34

[1] Deaths and Discharges are used as an approximation for admissions.
[2] Children have been defined as under 16.
[3] Plagiocephaly has been defined using ICD10 (International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision) code Q67.3.
Source:
Hospital Inpatients System.

Population Growth Rates

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is *(a)* of the population growth rate for Northern Ireland and *(b)* of the total population in Northern Ireland for (i) 2011, (ii) 2021 and (iii) 2031. [88254]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the 2005 estimate of the Northern Ireland resident population, and the observed average annual rate of population growth since 2001. The table also shows population projections for the years 2011, 2021, and 2031 and the projected average annual growth rate in population for each time period.

Population	*Northern Ireland population*	*Average annual growth rate in time period (Percentage)*
2005[1]	1,724,400	0.5 (2001-05)
2011[2]	1,767,500	0.4 (2005-11)
2021[2]	1,830,000	0.3 (2011-21)
2031[2]	1,860,200	0.2 (2021-31)

[1] Estimate
[2] Projection

Private Rented Accommodation

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action his Department is taking to increase the *(a)* availability and *(b)* affordability of accommodation in the private rented sector in Northern Ireland. [87284]

Mr. Hanson: The Department for Social Development and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive published their joint strategy for the private rented sector entitled "Renting Privately—A Strategic Framework" in May 2004. The overall aim of the strategy is to promote and sustain a healthy private rented sector, which offers choice and flexibility by influencing supply and securing a better quality, managed sector.

The first stage of the strategy was to introduce new legislation to address inequities in the private rented sector and target unfitness. The Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order was made on 7 June 2006 and will be operative in early 2007.

The desired outcome of the strategy is to ensure more effective alignment of the private rented sector with demand and to realise the potential for the sector to assist in meeting housing need. The action points and activities to achieve this objective, by increasing awareness of and improving access to the sector, are being carried out and monitored by the Department and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in partnership.

As private rented sector stock increases it should follow that rents will decrease as landlords keep rents affordable to attract tenants who would now have more properties to choose from.

In addition to the actions detailed in the strategy help is available with the payment of rent in the private rented sector to those on low incomes through the housing benefit system which is administered by the Housing Executive.

Pupil Statistics

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children whose country of origin is outside Northern Ireland and whose first language is other than English are enrolled in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each education and library board area, broken down by country of origin. [86563]

Maria Eagle: Information relating to children whose country of origin is outside Northern Ireland is not collected. The figures available relate to the first language of children who were born in a non-English speaking country and for whom English is not their first language.

Pupils with English as an additional language and born in a non-English speaking country at primary and post primary schools in Northern Ireland 2005-06

	Belfast	*Western*	*North Eastern*	*South Eastern*	*Southern*	*NI Total*
Primary Schools						
Cantonese	32	8	36	51	11	138
Mandarin	[1]—	[1]—	6	[1]—	[1]—	12
Vietnamese	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Hindi	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	13
Urdu	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9	16	30
Gujarati	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Bengali	9	[1]—	[1]—	14	[1]—	26
Punjabi	[1]—	[1]—	11	[1]—	5	25
Others	30	8	25	46	17	126
Total	77	29	85	130	54	375
Post Primary Schools						
Cantonese	22	[1]—	16	[2]—	13	66
Mandarin	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6
Hindi	5	[1]—	5	[1]—	[1]—	10
Urdu	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	8
Bengali	8	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	12
Punjabi	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	5
Others	29	18	15	15	43	120
Total	67	20	46	31	63	227

[1] Relates to less than 5 pupils
[2] Means figure has not been given under rules of disclosure
Notes:
1. Figures for primary schools include children in nursery, reception and Year 1—Year 7 classes.
2. Pupils whose first language is Irish are not included.
Source:
NI school census

Rates

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of householders are expected to pay *(a)* more and *(b)* less under the new rating system in Northern Ireland; and what the average (i) increase and (ii) decrease is expected to be. [87128]

Mr. Hanson: The percentage of householders which are expected to pay more under the new rating system, compared to what they would have paid under the existing system, is 45 per cent., with 55 per cent. paying less. For those expected to pay more, the average increase is estimated at £166. The average decrease in bill for those paying less is estimated at £99.

These figures have been arrived at through comparing actual rate bills under the current NAV system in 2006-07 with estimates of what rate bills would have been in 2006-07, had the new capital value based system been in place. Any change in rate bill highlighted is therefore due only to the impact of the revaluation.

None of the estimates take into account those households which may qualify for housing benefit or the new rate relief scheme. They also ignore the impact of the transitional relief scheme.

Road Safety

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions there were for speeding in Northern Ireland in each year since 2000; and what the average penalty was in each year. [85368]

Mr. Hanson: Figures have been provided for the calendar years 2000 to 2004. In each of these years the vast majority of those convicted of speeding offences were given a fine as the main disposal. Table 1, therefore, provides the total number convicted of speeding offences, the number fined and the average fine amount given in each year.

It should be noted that, while penalty points or disqualification may also often be imposed by the courts for speeding offences in conjunction with a fine, current data systems are not designed to capture this additional detail.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule, thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number of persons convicted for speeding offences[1], number fined and the average amount of fine given 2000-04

	Number convicted	*Number given fine*	*Average amount of fine[2] (£)*
2000	3,847	3,801	84
2001	3,769	3,727	84
2002	3,336	3,310	87
2003	3,191	3,166	90
2004	3,248	n/a	n/a

[1] Includes convictions for the offences of 'excess speed', 'exceeding special speed limit', "L' driver exceeding 45 mph', "R' driver exceeding 45 mph'.
[2] The amount of fine has been rounded to the nearest £.
Sentencing data for 2004 is not yet available.

Roads Service

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on Roads Service, what action will be taken to ensure that a strategic route will be provided from South Down to the Belfast/Dublin Corridor as part of the three month comprehensive review of the Regional Development Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [88818]

David Cairns: The acting Chief Executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Geoff Allister, dated 25 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding what action will be taken to ensure that a strategic route will be provided from South Down to Belfast/Dublin Corridor as part of the three month comprehensive review of the Regional Development Strategy.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

You will be aware that the strategic transport links within Northern Ireland were confirmed when the Northern Ireland Assembly endorsed the Regional Development Strategy in 2001 and the Regional Transportation Strategy in 2002. Improvements to these strategic transport links are being taken forward through the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan.

The Department's Regional Planning and Transportation Division is carrying out a focused assessment of the Regional Development Strategy which will consider the need for any in-course adjustments to the Strategy. There are, however, no proposals to re-assess the strategic network.

School Closures

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Catholic maintained and *(b)* state controlled schools have closed over the last five years in each education and library board area; and if he will make a statement. [87995]

Maria Eagle: There have been 14 controlled school closures and six maintained school closures over the past five years.

Education and library board area	*Controlled schools*	*Maintained schools*
Belfast	1	1
North Eastern	6	2
South Eastern	1	0
Southern	3	1
Western	3	2

In addition, 28 controlled schools have amalgamated into 13 new schools and 21 maintained schools have amalgamated into nine new schools over the past five years.

Education and library board area	*Controlled schools*	*Maintained schools*
Belfast	2 into 1	3 into 1
North Eastern	2 into 1	2 into 1
South Eastern	7 into 3	2 into 1
Southern	4 into 1	9 into 4
Western	13 into 6	5 into 2

Science Teaching

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils started *(a)* AS-levels and *(b)* A-levels in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; how many students chose science as an A or AS-level subject in Northern Ireland in each year; and how many undergraduate students at universities in Northern Ireland chose science or environmental studies as their main area of study in each year. [87097]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of pupils who started AS-levels is not available. The remaining data are as follows:

	School A2-level entries	School A2-level science entries	First year enrolments on undergraduate science or environmental studies courses
1997-98	9,310	3,643	1,084
1998-99	9,199	3,694	1,093
1999-2000	8,962	3,794	990
2000-01	9,172	3,879	979
2001-02	9,280	3,907	1,184
2002-03	9,726	3,883	1,330
2003-04	10,382	4,209	1,293
2004-05	10,919	4,173	1,431

Notes:
1. GCE A-level only, not equivalent qualifications such as AVCEs.
2. A-level science denotes those pupils studying Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
3. Science or environmental studies courses at HE level include HESA subject groups Biological sciences and Physical sciences.
HE Figures are based on a snapshot of enrolments at 1 December within the academic year.

Service Agreements

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate has been made of the number of service agreements and other funding arrangements between health and social services trusts and area boards and community and voluntary sector service providers; what range of services is covered in such agreements; and what assessment he has made of the implications for such agreements of the Review of Public Administration. [87335]

Paul Goggins: It is estimated that HSS Boards have 292 and HSS Trusts have 997 service agreements with the community and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland. The agreements provide for a wide range of services for older people, services for people with physically and mentally disabilities, services for children, services for Travellers and Health Promotion.

In addition, some trusts provide grant aid for such groups where circumstances do not warrant a formal service agreement.

The detailed implications of the Review of Public Administration, as they impact on the community and voluntary sector, are still being worked out. It is envisaged, however, that the new planning and commissioning arrangements will present the sector with additional opportunities for engagement in the delivery of services. In the meantime, the current arrangements for contracting services from the voluntary sector will continue until the new structural arrangements are fully in place.

Single Equality Bill

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 392W, on the Single Equality Bill, what progress has been made with the Bill. [83290]

Mr. Hanson: We are working on proposals for a Single Equality Bill and will publish these in the autumn.

Statutory Investment Board

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the remit is of the Statutory Investment Board; and which projects the board is working on; [88226]

(2) who the members are of the Strategic Investment Board; by whom they are appointed; and for how long they are appointed. [88227]

Mr. Hanson: The information is as follows.

1. The remit of the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) is:

(a) to provide advice to the Northern Ireland Executive in relation to the formulation and implementation of its programme of major investment projects;

(b) to provide advice and assistance including research, consultancy, advisory and other services to public bodies in relation to the carrying out of their investment projects;

(c) to advise on the planning and prioritisation of programmes and projects together with the funding and the general implementation of projects.

2. The SIB is currently working on a number of projects and I have placed a copy of these in the Library of the House.

3. The Minister with responsibility for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister appointed Members to the SIB. Current membership is as follows:

Tony Watson, Chairman—Chairman re-appointed from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2009

Nigel Hamilton, re-appointed from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Greg Sparks, re-appointed from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

James Stewart, re-appointed from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2009

David Dobbin, appointed 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2008

David Gavaghan, appointed 21 July 2004

Brett Hannam, appointed 11 January 2006

All the re-appointed directors had previously served from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006. David Gavaghan and Brett Hannam are executive officers of the Strategic Investment Board.

Students

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to encourage women students in Northern Ireland to undertake science and engineering studies at university. [85367]

Maria Eagle: WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) is a UK wide organisation aimed at attracting more females into SET (Science and Engineering Technology). In Northern Ireland representatives from industry, academia and government meet to plan WISE activities. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment are represented and in 2005, Invest NI provided £5,000 sponsorship for production of a WISE DVD to encourage more young females to consider careers hi SET. The DVD was successfully piloted in October 2005 and is being distributed to schools.

WISE also has a website in Northern Ireland which was partly funded by the Industrial Research and

Technology Unit (IRTU), which is now subsumed in Invest NI, and produces a series of publications aimed at encouraging girls from an early stage to develop an interest in science and engineering.

Other activities include; an initiative to encourage women who have left SET to return to employment; the Science and Engineering Ambassadors Scheme, and a Science and Engineering day for girls at W5. Of the 14 events delivering during Innovation Week, one event was aimed specifically at women called 'Women Making Innovation Work' where local and national role models were utilised to encourage women in Engineering, Science and Technology field to become more entrepreneurial.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students with a learning disability within each of Northern Ireland's hospital trust areas will *(a)* transfer at age 19 years in the current academic year from Education Service responsibility to Health and Social Service responsibility and *(b)* will be offered full adult day care provision by the Department of Health and Social Services as befits their needs; what processes exist within the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure adequate forward planning to meet the needs of those clients in transition from the education sector; and if he will make a statement on the level of provision for such clients within the health and social services sector. [81814]

Paul Goggins *[pursuant to the reply, 10 July 2006, Official Report, c. 1505]:* I am now in a position to provide the information requested.

The information required to answer parts A and B of this question is given in tabular form.

Trust	*Numbers transferring*	*Full adult day care*
Armagh Dungannon	13	9
Causeway	11	7
Craigavon Banbridge	16	7
Down Lisburn	11	3
Foyle	28	28
Homefirst	23	21
North and West Belfast	11	6
Newry and Mourne	23	4
South and East Belfast	11	8
Sperrin Lakeland	10	10
Ulster Community	6	6
Total	163	109

The Boards determine the needs of their population and allocate resources to meet these needs. Day-Care Services provided through the Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts are for those individuals who will be unable to access services provided elsewhere. Additional investment in Day-Care will continue to be made for those who do not have access to any other form of provision, such as further education, skills training or employment.

SureStart

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding has been allocated to Surestart schemes in the Foyle constituency in each of the last five years, broken down by District Electoral Area; and how much investment is planned over the next three years, broken down by District Electoral Area. [87295]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the allocation of SureStart funding to Projects in the Foyle area since 2001. The table shows the actual expenditure by the projects except for the current year when the Budget Allocation is based on each project's business plan. The information is not held at District Electoral Area.

Sure Start allocations to projects in the Foyle area for the years 2001-02 to 2006-07

	Creevagh/Springtown	*Dungiven*	*Strabane*	*Shantallow*	£ *Total*
2001-02	170,686.00	177,211.00	283,374.00	97,583.00	728,854.00
2002-03	365,835.55	372,013.50	344,349.69	263,887.00	1,346,085.74
2003-04	335,396.05	335,002.76	369,900.76	327,337.28	1,367,636.85
2004-05	282,540.00	291,059.00	375,362.00	334,466.00	1,283,427.00
2005-06	288,917.00	296,859.00	385,384.00	340,369.00	1,311,529.00
2006-07	297,585.00	306,440.00	396,949.00	352,732.00	1,353,706.00

During the next three years, this level of investment is expected to continue in relation to the Wards already covered by these projects.

Funding has been made available from the Children and Young People's Funding Package announced in March 2006 to support the expansion of SureStart into Wards in the top 20 per cent. Multiple Deprivation ranking which do not currently receive SureStart services. The Western Childcare Partnership has been provisionally allocated £1.28 million per year from 1 April 2007 for the expansion of SureStart into the 27 identified Wards in the Western Board area. Funding is available in this financial year to progress expansions, where possible, through existing projects and to begin the establishment of new projects which should become operational by 1 April 2007.

Sustainable Development

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what strategies for sustainable development the Northern Ireland Office has in place. [80977]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office is working alongside the Northern Ireland Departments in developing strategies for Sustainable Development and will have the same targets to achieve. I made a speech on this explaining my overall strategy in Belfast on 9 May, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

At present the department is making a contribution to Sustainable Development on a number of fronts, including reducing waste to landfill through recycling schemes, contributing to the government carbon offsetting fund (GCOF) to make official air travel carbon neutral, purchasing electricity from renewable sources, replacement of oil/electric heating systems with gas, use of recycled paper, development of plans for use of energy from renewable sources at Hillsborough Castle, installation of a combined heat and power system at Stormont House.

Translated Documents

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many documents have been translated by the bilingual translation services in the Departments of *(a)* Education and *(b)* Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and if he will list the languages for which translation services are provided. [81816]

Maria Eagle: The translation of any documents is provided for Northern Ireland Government Departments by the translation services unit in the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure. Translations can be provided in any language. Details of the number of documents translated for the Department of Education and Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in each of the last five years are provided in the following tables.

Production of documents in British sign language and Irish sign language is responsive to demand within the confines of budget.

Table 1: The Department of Education

	2001-02[1]	2002-03[2]	2003-04[3]	2004-05[4]	2005-06[5]
DE total	194	193	78	103	104
Of which:					
Irish	192	191	71	99	74
Ulster-Scots	0	0	1	0	0
Other	2	2	6	4	30

[1] Two x Cantonese.
[2] One each for Cantonese and Portuguese.
[3] One each for Urdu, Cantonese, Portuguese, Arabic, Bengali and French.
[4] French, German, two x Portuguese.
[5] Three x Spanish, four x French, six x Portuguese, four x Lithuanian, two x Hungarian, two x German, Ukrainian, Danish, Afrikaans, Latin, Italian, Bulgarian, Filipino and Russian.

Table 2: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05[1]	2005-06[2]
DHSSPS total	184	189	148	92	161
Of which:					
Irish	176	182	146	83	150
Ulster-Scots	2	0	0	1	1
Other	6	7	2	8	10

[1] Three x Portuguese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tatum, Urdu, Polish.
[2] Three x Cantonese, two x Polish, Lithuanian, Hindu, Russian, Mandarin, Portuguese.

An analysis of other figures for 2001-04 is not available from the Department concerned.

Table 2 does not include figures on the number of letters translated to and from the public. This information is unavailable from the Department.

Travel Assistance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what financial assistance is available to *(a)* patients who have to travel outside Northern Ireland for NHS treatment and *(b)* their relatives. [88172]

Paul Goggins: Patients who have to travel outside Northern Ireland for treatment are entitled to receive financial assistance from their local health board for all costs associated with the medical treatment, including any related travel and accommodation costs incurred during the hospital stay.

In addition, health boards will cover the cost of relevant travel and accommodation for one named adult for the duration of the patient's stay in hospital. In the event that the patient develops post-operative complications that necessitate a prolonged hospital stay, additional costs for laundry and interim return trips home may be permitted.

In exceptional circumstances, on application to the health board, limited costs for additional family members may be met, e.g. where a patient experiences serious post-operative complications or for the second parent of a paediatric patient.

Twelfth Celebrations

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Republicans and *(b)* Loyalists have been arrested and charged with street disturbances in connection with the recent Twelfth Celebrations; how many such arrests and charges there were in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2005; and if he will make a statement. [86321]

Paul Goggins: The information requested in relation to the number of Republicans and Loyalists arrested and charged during the Twelfth Celebrations would require a manual trawl of police records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In addition, it would be impossible to confirm whether each arrest made was directly connected to those celebrations.

Workplace 2010

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* decisions he has made on expanding Workplace 2010 to involve other public service and local government premises whose future use could be affected by the Review of Public Administration. [87272]

Mr. Hanson: There have been no decisions taken to expand Workplace 2010 to include the wider public sector estate. Preparatory work for the implementation of the Review of Public Administration is, however, well under way including considering the impact on central and local government assets. The Workplace 2010 programme team is involved in this work and will give due consideration to the outcome in determining the way forward.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which premises will be involved in Workplace 2010; and how many jobs in each location he estimates will transfer from the civil service to the facilities manager or landlord, broken down by category. [87273]

Mr. Hanson: It is proposed that 76 properties be included in the Workplace 2010 contract details which are outlined in the following table. It is expected that a range of property and services related functions could transfer to the private sector partner. However, final decisions will not be taken until later and the implications for the staff working in these jobs are still being considered in full consultation with trade union representatives.

Workplace 2010 Buildings

	Address
Adelaide House	39-49 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8FD
Castle Court	42 Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1DF
Causeway Exchange	1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT1 7FB
Centre House	69-85 Chichester Street and 133-159 Victoria Street, Belfast, BT1 4JE
Clare House	303 Airport Road West, Belfast, BT3 9ED
Clarence Court	10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8GB
The Design Centre	39 Corporation Street, Belfast, BT1 3BA
Ferguson/Royston House	13 Wellington Place, Belfast, BT1 6GB
Goodwood House	44-58 May Street, Belfast, BT1 4NN
Hydebank	4 Hospital Road, Belfast, BT8 8JL
Interpoint	18 York Street, Belfast, BT15 1AQ
James House	2 Cromac Avenue, Belfast, BT7 2JA
Klondyke	Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Belfast, BT7 2JA
Lesley Exchange	1 May's Meadow, Belfast, BT1 3PH
The Lighthouse	1 Cromac Place, Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2JB
Lincoln Building	27 - 45 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7SL
Millennium House	17-25 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BN
River House	48 High Street, Belfast, BT1 2AW
Waterfront Plaza	1st Floor, 8 Laganbank Road, Belfast, BT1 8LX
Windsor House	9-15 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7UE
Castle Buildings	Stormont Estate, 658 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SJ
Castle Buildings (Annexes)	Stormont Estate, 658 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SJ
Dundonald House	Stormont Estate, 672 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB
Dundonald House (Annexe A)	Stormont Estate, 672 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB
Dundonald House (Annexe B)	Stormont Estate, 672 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB
Dundonald House (Annexe C)	Stormont Estate, 672 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB
Dundonald House (Annexe D)	Stormont Estate, 672 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB
Hillview Buildings	Stormont Estate, 672 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SG
Knockview Buildings	Stormont Estate, 672 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SG
Massey House	Stormont Estate, 666 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SX
Netherleigh	1 Massey Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2JP
Rosepark House	711-715 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3NR
Rathgael House (new)	43 Balloo Road, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7PR
Rathgael House (old)	43 Balloo Road, Bangor, County Down, BT19 7PR
Ballymena County Hall	182 Galgorm Road, Ballymena, County Antrim, BT42 1QG
Carlisle House	20A Carlisle Road, Londonderry, BT48 6RE
Coleraine County Hall	7 Castlerock Road, Coleraine, County Londonderry, BT51 3HS
Marlborough House	2 Central Way, Craigavon, County Armagh, BT64 1AD
Orchard House	40 Foyle Street, Londonderry, BT48 6AT
Rathkeltair House	87 Market Street, Downpatrick, County Down, BT30 6AJ
Waterside House	75 Duke Street, Londonderry, BT47 1FP
Anderstonstown SSO	35-37 Slieveban Drive, Belfast, BTll 8HL
Bangor SSO	110 Hamilton Road, Bangor, County Down, BT20 4LJ
Corporation Street SSO	24-42 Corporation Street, Belfast, BT1 3DR
Falls Road J&BO	19 Falls Road, Belfast, BT2 4PH
Holywood Road J&BO	106-108 Holywood Road, Belfast, BT4 1JU

Workplace 2010 Buildings

	Address
Knockbreda Road J&BO	210 Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast, BT8 6SX
Newtownabbey J&BO	39 Church Road, Newtownabbey, County Antrim, BT36 7LB
Shaftesbury Square J&BO	Conor Buildings, 107-111 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7AG
Shankill J&BO	15-25 Snugville Street, Belfast, BT13 1PP
Antrim J&BO	90 Castle Street, Antrim, BT41 4JE
Armagh J&BO	10 Alexander Road, Armagh, BT61 7JL
Ballymena SSO	Twickenham House, 59-71 Mount Street, Belfast, BT43 6BT
Ballymoney J&BO	37-47 John Street, Ballymoney, County Antrim, BT53 6DT
Ballynahinch SSO	18 Crossgar Road, Ballynahinch, County Down, BT24 8XP
Banbridge J&BO	18 Castlewellan Road, Banbridge, County Down, BT32 4AZ
Carrickfergus J&BO	1 Davys Street, Carrickfergus, County Antrim, BT38 8DJ
Coleraine J&BO	8 Artillery Road, Coleraine, County Londonderry, BT52 2AA
Cookstown SSO	38-40 Fairhill Road, Cookstown, County Tyrone, BT80 8AG
Downpatrick SSO	9-11 Mount Crescent, Downpatrick, County Down, BT30 6AU
Dungannon J&BO	36 Thomas Street, Dungannon, County Tyrone, BT70 1EN
Enniskillen J&BO	14 Queen Elizabeth Road, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, BT74 7JD
Foyle J&BO	14 Asylum Road, Londonderry, BT48 7EA
Kilkeel J&BO	58 Newry Street, Kilkeel, County Down, BT34 4DR
Larne J&BO	59 Pound Street, Larne, County Antrim, BT40 1SB
Limavady J&BO	9 Connell Street, Limavady, County Londonderry, BT49 0TZ
Lisburn J&BO	69-71 Bow Street, Lisburn, County Antrim, BT28 1BB
Lisnagelvin J&BO	2 Crescent Road, Lisnagelvin, Londonderry, BT47 2NJ
Lurgan J&BO	10 Alexandra Crescent, Lurgan, County Armagh, BT66 6BD
Magherafelt J&BO	31 Station Road, Magherafelt, County Londonderry, BT45 5DJ
Newcastle SSO	2 Beverley Gardens, Valentia Place, Newcastle, County Down, BT33 0EH
Newry J&BO	40 Bridge Street, Newry, County Down, BT35 8AJ
Newtownards SSO	8 East Street, Newtownards, County Down, BT23 3EL
Omagh J&BO	19 Mountjoy Road, Omagh, County Tyrone, BT79 7BB
Portadown J&BO	84-140 Jervis Street, Portadown, County Armagh, BT62 3DA
Strabane SSO	104 Urney Road, Strabane, County Tyrone, BT82 9BX

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what flexibility is available for bidders under Workplace 2010 to provide alternative locations for civil service employment. [87274]

Mr. Hanson: The geographical location of civil service employment is not a matter for bidders and as such they will not be invited to provide alternative locations. They will, however, be required to provide flexibility within the terms of the contract to respond quickly and efficiently in the event of future decisions on the location of civil service jobs.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been made of the potential for decentralising Civil Service employment under the Government's plans for Workplace 2010. [87275]

Mr. Hanson: The potential for the decentralisation of civil service jobs has been a key consideration in the development of Workplace 2010. The programme is therefore being progressed on a phased basis. This will ensure that there is sufficient scope and flexibility to relocate civil service jobs within the terms of the contract and as part of a second phase as and when decisions are made.

Young Farmers

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the *(a)* Scottish Executive and *(b)* Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have contacted him regarding the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland's New Entrant Scheme for young farmers. [88596]

David Cairns: There have been no formal approaches from either the Scottish Executive or the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs since the New Entrant Scheme was introduced. However there is regular contact among officials in the rural affairs departments across the UK. The scheme and a wide range of other topics on rural development have been covered in these discussions.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the progress of the New Entrant Scheme for young farmers. [88597]

David Cairns: Since the launch of the scheme on Monday 6 June 2005, there has been considerable interest from potential applicants. Up to the end of June 2006, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development received 139 applications, which exceeds the first year target. Records show that over half of approved applicants accessed the maximum amount of funding allowed under the scheme. The value of individual projects ranges from £20,000 to £400,000. A total of £4.5 million has been allocated to the scheme.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government are taking to encourage and expand the number and variety of classes available to adults in non-examination and non-vocational courses in further education. [88809]

Bill Rammell: We are broadly maintaining the overall funding available to support adult learning through to 2007-08 at around £2.9 billion. As I announced last October we have clear priorities for public finding of adult learning. These are to help those without basic literacy and numeracy skills and without the platform of employability represented by a full level 2 qualification. This includes courses which genuinely lead to progression including non vocational and non examination courses. For this reason the then Secretary of State said in her Grant letter to the LSC in October 2005 that she wanted to see a good balance of learning opportunities in every area.

In addition we remain committed to supporting for its own intrinsic value. We have established a safeguard budget of £210 million per annum in each of 2006-07 and 2007-08 for learning for personal and community development. We have asked the LSC to convene local partnerships to plan and co-ordinate this provision so that i) there is a wide range of such good quality learning opportunities in every area ii) there is wider participation in this type of learning and iii) areas of deprivation do not lose out.

Assaults on School Staff

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many assaults on school staff were recorded in East Riding of Yorkshire local education authority in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [86334]

Jim Knight: The number of assaults on school staff is not collected centrally.

For the academic years 2003/04 and 2004/05, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include "physical assault against an adult". A local authority breakdown for East Riding of Yorkshire of the number of pupils who have been excluded from school (permanently or for a fixed period) for physical assault against an adult, together with total numbers of exclusions, is given in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2]. Permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult[3] and total number of exclusions (all reasons): Numbers and rates per thousand pupils 2003/04 to 2004/05

East Riding of Yorkshire	*2004/05*	*2003/04*
Permanent exclusions		
Number of pupils on roll[4]	50,036	50,618
Exclusions for physical assault against an adult	6	3
Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	0.1	0.1
Total number of exclusions (all reasons)	30	68
Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	0.6	1.3
Fixed period exclusions		
Number of pupils on roll[4]	50,036	50,618
Exclusions for physical assault against an adult	100	71
Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	2.0	1.4
Total number of exclusions (all reasons)	2,550	2,796
Total exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	51.0	55.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained special schools, excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from the Termly Exclusions survey and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by LEAs as part of the schools census checking exercise.
[4] The number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2004 and January 2005.
[5] The number of exclusions in 2003/04 and 2004/05 divided by how many thousands of pupils were on roll in January 2004 and January 2005.

Background Reading

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what publications have been provided by his civil servants as background reading for his ministerial duties since taking office; and if he will make a statement. [87592]

Mr. Dhanda: On taking up my current ministerial post I received background reading material on the policy areas of my Department. I continue to receive reading material on all policy areas as appropriate.

Building Schools for the Future

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many new *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools will (i) start construction and (ii) be completed in each of the next three financial years under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and what proportion of those schools will be (A) new build and (B) refurbished or remodelled. [89104]

Jim Knight: Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a core part of the DfES' capital strategy, providing a new approach to capital investment in secondary schools.

BSF aims to create world-class, 21st-century schools—environments which will inspire learning for decades to come and provide exceptional assets for the whole community. Subject to future public spending decisions, the intention is to achieve this aim for every secondary school pupil within 15 waves from 2005-06.

In financial year 2007/08, 13 new schools will open, of which two will be refurbished, and a further 118 will start construction.

In financial year 2008/09, 34 new schools will open, of which 24 will be refurbished, and a further 200 will start construction.

In financial year 2009/10, 52 new schools will open, of which 93 will be refurbished, and a further 164 will start construction.

The figures for 2009/10 are indicative as this includes Wave 4 projects which will not be selected until December 2006, and certain Wave 2-3 projects where authorities have not yet finalised their plans.

Primary schools are not covered under the BSF programme. A separate Primaries programme will commence in 2008.

Certificate of Financial Skills

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students have completed the Certificate of Financial Skills in each of the last five years for which records are available. [87768]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what factors were taken into account by the Learning and Skills Council in its decision not to fund the Certificate of Financial Skills. [87769]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) determines which qualifications are eligible for funding in school sixth forms. Certificates in Financial Studies have not previously been eligible for LSC funding in school sixth forms and that decision was continued for 2006-07. The LSC may determine that a qualification is ineligible if it is a subsidiary qualification to a main programme, as funding of the main programme would be expected to cover subsidiary qualifications. Funding is also not available for qualifications that are regarded as being part of a pupil's entitlement—such as Key Skills or CLAIT. The LSC provides per pupil entitlement funding for 16-19 year-olds that can be used for such courses.

The LSC reviews the eligibility of qualifications on a yearly basis and they have recently met with the Institute of Financial Studies to explain the position for 2006-07 and consider the arrangements for 2007-08.

Child Abuse

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of abuse of children in the home which is committed by *(a)* men and *(b)* women; and what assessment has been made of the extent to which such abuse involves (i) a step-parent and (ii) someone in a transient relationship with the child. [88628]

Beverley Hughes: The information required for such an estimate is not collected centrally.

Child Deaths

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what public inquiries into the deaths of children in educational establishments have taken place in the past 30 years. [86231]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills has established no public inquiries into child deaths in educational establishments in England since 1976, nor into child deaths in childcare settings in England, which became the responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills in 2002. The Department does, however, provide joint guidance for serious case reviews, which should be held, at local level, where a child has died and abuse or neglect may have been a factor in the child's death.

Children's Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how he plans to collect data on performance against national targets for *(a)* eating five portions of fruit and vegetables a day and *(b)* take-up of sporting opportunities by five to 16-year-olds. [88045]

Mr. Dhanda: The 5 A DAY Programme does not set specific targets for different population groups. The aim of the programme is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption among the population as a whole, and promote awareness of the 5 A DAY message within a range of settings including schools.

The FSA Consumer Attitudes Survey 2005 showed that 67 per cent. of people are now aware that they should eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day, up from 43 per cent. in 2000. Our new nutritional standards for school food will also encourage the consumption of fruit and vegetables by our children as these state that at lunch time, there should be at least one portion of fruit and at least one portion of vegetables per child per day, and that at other times of the day a variety of fruit and vegetables should be available in all school food outlets.

The annual school sport survey—carried out on the Department's behalf by an independent market research company—collects data on the take of physical education and school sport by 5 to 16-year-olds in school within a school sport partnership.

Citizenship Education

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what analysis he is making of the effects of the introduction of citizenship education into the National curriculum. [87326]

Jim Knight: The Department commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research in 2001 to carry out an eight year longitudinal study of the impact of citizenship education on young people. The aims of the study also include identifying, measuring and evaluating the extent to which effective practice in citizenship education develops in schools so that such practice can be promoted widely. The Foundation publishes annual reports tracking the progress of the subject. In addition, citizenship is also covered alongside other subjects in Ofsted inspections.

Classroom Temperature

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what discusssions his Department has had with the Health and Safety Executive on minimum and maximum temperatures on school buses; [88787]

(2) what discusssions his Department has had with the Health and Safety Executive in the past 12 months on minimum and maximum temperatures within *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school classrooms. [88788]

Jim Knight: Minimum temperatures for classrooms are given in the Education (School Premises) Regulations, SI No2,1999 as 18C. My Department has had no discussions with HSE but has recently issued guidance about maximum and minimum temperatures in classrooms on the popular questions website[1]. There are also Regulations applying to staff employed at the school, known as The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992. Regulation (1) states: "During working hours, the temperature in all workplaces inside buildings shall be reasonable." The guidance and Approved Code of Practice accompanying the Workplace Regulations do not specify maximum temperatures. This is because there are a range of factors which contribute to a person's thermal comfort and more vulnerable people can suffer heat stress and dehydration at much lower temperatures than others.

The Department of Health publishes the Heatwave Plan that provides guidance and advice aimed at the public and ensures those organisations involved in providing health and social care services know what actions to take in preparation for, and in the event of, a heat wave. The Met Office website publishes the latest heat wave alert and forecast threshold temperatures for days ahead. There are certain groups that are particularly at risk during a heat wave and this includes young children especially those less than four years old.

The Department is not aware of any minimum or maximum temperatures that apply to school buses and have had no discussions with HSE about that.

I would also refer the hon. Member to the responses given today to her questions to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

[1] http://www.dfes.gov.uk/popularquestions/

Collective Worship in Schools

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children have opted out of collective worship in schools in *(a)* Surrey and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [88722]

Jim Knight: We do not collect this information centrally.

Common Assessment Framework Submission

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how other practitioners will be prevented from accessing the restricted parts of the form where a parent or young person has given consent only for part at a common assessment framework submission to be shared; and how notice of a restriction will be signalled. [88047]

Beverley Hughes: A practitioner undertaking a common assessment should record on the common assessment framework (CAP) form the details of consent, or partial consent, that has been given to share information. It is the responsibility of the individual practitioner completing the common assessment to ensure that the information in it is not disclosed to those who should not see it. My Department has published standards for local IT systems to support CAP, which provide for practitioners to be prevented from accessing CAP information where consent has not been given.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what happens to the written submissions by agencies involved in children's services made under the common assessment framework. [88049]

Beverley Hughes: Where agencies contribute by written submission, the practitioner undertaking the common assessment may reflect the content of the submission in the common assessment, subject to the consent of the child, young person, parent or carer, as appropriate. The practitioner undertaking the common assessment may retain such submissions in his or her case files, subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the paperwork produced when a practitioner carries out a Common Assessment Framework assessment on a child will be submitted direct to the Integrated Children's System. [88050]

Beverley Hughes: The Integrated Children's System (ICS) and the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) have been developed for different client groups, which overlap only to a limited extent. The ICS contains a record for children known to social services. Many children who have had an assessment using the CAF will not be known to social services, and common assessment information on these children will not be submitted to the ICS. Where, following a common assessment, a child requires the support of social services, the information from the common assessment may be submitted to the ICS where it is appropriate to do so.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what procedures are followed when two or more practitioners want to share the contents of a Common Assessment Framework. [88051]

Beverley Hughes: Where a practitioner, in undertaking a common assessment, has obtained consent for the content to be shared with other practitioners, the appropriate consent will be recorded. How information will be shared may vary according to local circumstances and whether the Common Assessment Framework exists in paper form only or has been recorded on an IT system. However the information is shared, services and practitioners must ensure that information is kept securely and processed according to the provisions of the Data Protection Act. For local authorities who choose to set up local IT systems to support the Common Assessment Framework, my Department has published standards for such systems which provide for a practitioner to specify by name another practitioner who may then have access.

The Department has also issued cross-Government guidance to help practitioners across children's services understand when and how they can share information legally and professionally.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77279]

Mr. Dhanda *[pursuant to the reply, 5 July 2006, Official Report, c. 1225W]:* The number of people over the age of 55 years who have been recruited into my Department in each of the last three years is:

	Number
2004	6
2005	12
2006 to date	3

These replace the previous numbers given.

Life Expectancy

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to tackle low life expectancy in areas of deprivation. [87007]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* This Department makes a significant contribution to reducing low life expectancy through our programmes for children, young people and their families.

Every Child Matters: Change for Children requires all local authorities in England to establish children's trust arrangements with partners, including Primary Care Trusts and other health services.

This approach ensures that children get the best possible start in life and that they will have the best possible opportunities to fulfil their potential in adulthood. Adults who live fulfilled, secure and stable lives contribute more to society, live healthier lives and are less likely to suffer from the illnesses associated with poverty and social exclusion and which reduce life expectancy.

Although our aim is for all children to benefit from the universal services, we recognise that some children, including those in areas of deprivation, would risk having a lower life expectancy than they might unless there are services to meet their particular needs.

This department is responsible for, or together with other departments makes a significant contribution to, initiatives which can reduce those risks:

Support for parents and their parenting skills. Parents' life style is a key determinant of children's health, and children's centres provide support, including on health and lifestyle issues, to those parents who need it. The first 884 children's centres have been established serving many of our most disadvantaged communities;

Eradicating child poverty: Children born into poverty have a lower life expectancy. Childcare, education and training and other high quality children's services are both helping parents into work and providing the opportunities to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty;

Reducing pregnancies among under-18s: infant mortality rates are highest among babies born to young, single mothers;

Implementing nutritional standards for all food in schools to promote healthy eating;

Increasing the take up of physical education, sport and other physical activities at school, including increasing walking and cycling to and from school, to encourage healthy exercise;

Promoting improvements in mental health and emotional well-being for children and young people, so that they are resilient and less likely to take risks or suffer that some poor outcomes;

Tackling childhood obesity in the short-term, and measures to prevent overweight or obese children becoming obese adults: obesity is responsible for 9,000 premature deaths each year;

Ensuring children and young people learn about the risks to their health from unsafe sexual activity, tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse, and how they can get help if they have problems.

This Department has made health inequalities a mandatory target for local authorities in Local Area Agreements (LAAs).

Drugs Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what improvements have been made to drugs education in schools since the re-classification of cannabis. [88021]

Mr. Dhanda: Following the re-classification of cannabis in January 2004 the Department issued comprehensive guidance to schools on drugs (Drugs: Guidance for Schools) which included a clear statement about the importance of educating young people about the legal status and harmful effects of cannabis. We have continued to expand the Personal, Social and Heath Education (PSHE) continuing professional development programme, which includes standards for the teaching of drug education. Over 5,000 teachers and community nurses have benefited from this programme. The numbers of schools involved in the Healthy Schools Programme, which requires schools to have a PSHE programme including drug education, continues to rise. We are on track to reach our target of half of all schools being healthy schools by the end of 2006. In conjunction with the Home Office and Department of Health we have concluded the implementation of the Blueprint drug education research programme and are now analysing the research findings. Blueprint was set up to evaluate an evidence-based multi-component programme of drug education at Key Stage 3. From September secondary schools will have access to a new resource. 'Understanding Drugs' provides information on a range of drugs, including cannabis, for pupils aged 11-14 and suggestions for teaching and learning activities within the classroom.

Early-leaver Students

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of students left *(a)* university and *(b)* Russell group universities before completion of their course in each of the last five years for which records are available; [88590]

(2) what average percentage of students left non-Russell group universities before completion of their course in each of the last five years for which records are available. [88591]

Bill Rammell: The information is provided by Table 5 of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education in the UK, published by HESA from 2002/03 and by HEFCE before that. This shows the percentage of full-time, first degree entrants projected to gain their degree, transfer to another course and to neither obtain their degree nor transfer. The latest available figures are shown in the tables.

Full-time first degree entrants expected to neither obtain an award nor transfer

Number

Courses starting in:	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*
UK HE institutions	43,720	41,990	41,555	43,120	46,700
Russell group institutions	4,380	4,130	3,955	4,370	4,890
Non-Russell group institutions	39,340	37,860	37,600	38,750	41,810

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Performance indicators in higher education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Full-time first degree entrants expected to neither obtain an award nor transfer

Percentage

Courses starting in:	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*
UK HE institutions	15.9	15.0	14.1	14.4	14.9
Russell group institutions	7.3	6.6	6.3	6.4	7.2
Non-Russell group institutions	17.4	16.9	16.0	15.8	16.7

Note:
Percentages are rounded to the first decimal place.
Source:
Performance indicators in higher education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

According to figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate in UK universities and colleges of higher education is among the highest in the OECD countries.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total cost of *(a)* administrating and *(b)* buying allocations for all universities included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme was in its first year of operation. [82737]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Every Child Matters

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what organistional structures his Department supports in developing the proposals in Every Child Matters; and if he will make a statement. [87359]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The local delivery of Every Child Matters is driven by local authority Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members for Children's Services working closely with a range of partners through children's trust arrangements. These arrangements are underpinned by Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 which places the local authority and 'relevant partners' under a duty to cooperate to improve children's well-being in relation to the five Every Child Matters outcomes. Children and Young People's Plans set out the priorities for improvement, across all local services affecting children and young people, showing how and when they will be achieved. Support and challenge by central Government are mainly provided through the nine regional Government Offices.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how he expects that local authorities will collect data linked to the five outcomes in Every Child Matters when assessing targets and public service agreements; and on what databases that information will be stored. [88048]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities record data on their performance across the five outcomes through a number of collections that are returned to the DfES. A number of local authorities are now storing information about the five outcomes on children's service databases, and we expect this to become the norm as all local authorities adopt children's services structures. DfES accesses local authorities' children's services data via the internet.

Some of the data collected relate to performance indicators for either an outcome (such as educational attainment) or for a service (for looked after children, for example). In turn, a subset of these performance indicators relate to PSA targets. The performance indicators are used to help form the annual judgment of children's services in the annual performance assessment. The APA dataset is sent to authorities by Ofsted and CSCI, who conduct the APA.

Examinations

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 16 year olds achieved five GCSE passes in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87640]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of 15-year-old[1] pupils achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A* to G in maintained schools in each year since 1997.

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camden	1,416	1,488	1,444	1,494	1,480	1,284	1,273	1,266	1,271
Hackney	1,050	1,078	1,124	1,092	1,147	1,180	1,249	1,149	1,124
Hammersmith and Fulham	815	832	835	902	930	984	1,008	1,069	1,040
Haringey	1,263	1,406	1,416	1,491	1,472	1,524	1,624	1,799	1,780
Islington	1,054	1,085	1,139	1,075	1,073	1,088	1,108	1,197	1,169
Kensington and Chelsea	478	455	497	490	544	521	524	520	512
Lambeth	1,000	1,072	1,079	1,048	1,092	1,100	1,185	1,233	1,233
Lewisham	1,632	1,727	1,833	1,746	1,885	1,857	1,961	2,022	1,962
Newham	2,323	2,431	2,578	2,732	2,736	2,781	2,862	2,935	3,050
Southwark	1,420	1,431	1,539	1,531	1,574	1,693	1,706	1,787	1,977
Tower Hamlets	1,808	1,929	1,959	2,081	2,185	2,187	2,284	2,237	2,200
Wandsworth	1,365	1,356	1,447	1,476	1,534	1,542	1,478	1,612	1,604
Westminster	1,019	1,002	1,027	1,089	1,079	1,114	1,157	1,231	1,192
Inner London	16,643	17,292	17,917	18,247	18,731	18,855	19,419	20,057	20,114
Barking and Dagenham	1,448	1,424	1,496	1,570	1,559	1,511	1,601	1,722	1,739
Barnet	2,915	2,902	2,920	2,965	3,074	3,137	3,158	3,185	3,099
Bexley	2,304	2,295	2,359	2,443	2,574	2,581	2,755	2,841	3,032
Brent	1,884	1,950	1,977	2,062	2,095	2,375	2,374	2,419	2,392
Bromley	2,775	2,783	2,867	2,759	2,985	3,103	3,107	3,322	3,231
Croydon	2,807	2,786	2,793	2,904	3,037	3,010	3,101	3,279	3,393
Ealing	2,153	2,136	2,181	2,217	2,215	2,228	2,488	2,459	2,400
Enfield	2,763	2,728	2,878	2,938	3,076	3,014	3,035	3,082	3,166
Greenwich	1,909	1,877	1,910	1,935	1,936	1,985	2,014	2,188	2,179
Harrow	1,909	1,901	1,820	1,897	1,885	1,895	1,928	2,065	1,998
Havering	2,581	2,490	2,480	2,465	2,635	2,654	2,688	2,869	2,821
Hillingdon	2,129	2,171	2,224	2,247	2,374	2,315	2,325	2,545	2,578
Hounslow	2,215	2,178	2,202	2,211	2,310	2,316	2,371	2,374	2,418
Kingston upon Thames	1,157	1,169	1,193	1,171	1,227	1,220	1,296	1,340	1,345
Merton	1,292	1,348	1,381	1,319	1,302	1,328	1,321	1,372	1,317
Redbridge	2,383	2,443	2,571	2,763	2,647	2,747	2,854	2,862	2,834
Richmond upon Thames	1,380	1,330	1,359	1,323	1,330	1,309	1,346	1,348	1,336
Sutton	1,836	1,800	1,918	1,916	2,052	2,123	2,142	2,400	2,288
Waltham Forest	1,925	1,994	2,021	2,021	2,106	2,138	2,139	2,302	2,311
Outer London	39,765	39,705	40,550	41,126	42,419	42,989	44,043	45,974	45,877
London	56,408	56,997	58,467	59,373	61,150	61,844	63,462	66,031	65,991

The following table shows the percentage of 15-year-old[1] pupils achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A* to G in maintained schools in each year since 1997.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Percentage 2005
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camden	83.8	86.7	87.1	88.4	90.5	89.5	89.6	88.6	87.2
Hackney	78.8	78.8	79.6	77.7	83.1	82 1	89.0	89.6	87.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	80.1	84.8	86.9	87.0	88.4	90.7	89.3	90.3	90.7
Haringey	73.2	77.9	79.6	79.7	79.5	79.6	82.0	83.7	85.2
Islington	75.0	77.2	80.8	78.8	79.4	78.7	84.1	84.8	85.4
Kensington and Chelsea	86.4	82.9	84.8	82.6	92.8	90.9	89.1	89.8	89.0
Lambeth	80.9	85.6	86.2	83.4	85.2	87.2	88.3	90.0	89.3
Lewisham	81.1	84.0	87.6	84.9	85.7	86.8	87.9	88.1	88.8
Newham	86.3	88.9	90.0	91.9	91.5	93.9	93.2	93.6	94.4
Southwark	79.5	79.7	82.7	83.7	84.6	86.7	86.1	86.9	88.0
Tower Hamlets	77.5	85.6	87.4	89.0	88.2	90.7	89.3	90.6	90.2
Wandsworth	82.4	83.0	84.6	85.0	86.1	86.1	82.2	86.3	86.5
Westminster	76.8	78.0	80.7	81.8	84.8	85.1	86.9	87.9	86.6
Inner London	80.1	83.0	84.9	84.9	86.2	87.1	87.7	88.6	88.7

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Percentage 2005
Barking and Dagenham	84.6	84.5	88.1	91.1	90.6	88.8	90.5	88.0	89.6
Barnet	89.6	89.5	89.4	89.7	90.4	91.5	90.6	89.7	91.4
Bexley	91.9	92.0	92.4	92.5	91.1	92.7	92.6	92.4	93.4
Brent	87.5	89.1	89.4	88.9	88.9	90.4	89.7	91.5	91.9
Bromley	92.1	93.5	93.1	93.8	92.8	92.5	91.9	91.8	92.4
Croydon	86.0	86.3	88.2	90.6	90.9	90.4	88.8	90.6	91.2
Ealing	86.8	88.0	90.0	91.5	93.0	90.9	92.8	91.7	93.0
Enfield	87.3	88.5	91.4	91.1	91.5	90.6	90.3	89.8	89.8
Greenwich	79.0	80.5	81.3	83.7	84.1	84.2	85.7	86.7	87.3
Harrow	91.7	91.7	91.3	90.8	92.4	91.4	90.6	92.9	91.5
Havering	92.1	91.5	93.8	92.5	92.2	92.9	93.7	93.6	93.6
Hillingdon	85.4	87.9	88.3	89.7	90.2	88.8	87.0	86.8	87.9
Hounslow	85.2	87.4	87.2	86.1	88.2	89.2	89.8	89.9	92.2
Kingston upon Thames	88.0	88.1	90.0	88.2	89.0	87.8	91.3	90.5	90.3
Merton	82.9	84.8	86.3	85.2	86.4	84.5	84.2	86.0	86.0
Redbridge	91.3	92.7	93.9	95.2	94.2	95.4	94.8	94.9	95.4
Richmond upon Thames	89.2	92.6	91.9	92.2	90.0	89.0	91.1	91.3	89.6
Sutton	91.6	91.6	93.9	94.0	92.7	94.1	92.1	91.3	92.5
Waltham Forest	85.0	86.3	87.3	86.8	89.0	90.9	88.8	88.2	90.8
Outer London	87.9	88.9	90.0	90.4	90.6	90.7	90.5	90.6	91.3
London	85.5	87.0	88.4	88.6	89.2	89.6	89.6	90.0	90.5

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of students achieved five or more GCSE grade A*-C in comprehensive secondary schools of *(a)* fewer than 100 students, *(b)* 100 to 199 students, *(c)* 200 to 299 students, *(d)* 300 to 399 students, *(e)* 400 to 499 students, *(f)* 500 to 599 students, *(g)* 600 to 700 students and *(h)* over 700 students in (i) rural areas and (ii) areas not classified as rural in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [87751]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be found in the following table.

GCSE and equivalent achievement of pupils[1] at the end of Key Stage 4 by the end of 2004/05[2] in comprehensive schools[3] in rural and non-rural areas, by size of school

	Number of pupils at end of Key Stage 4		Number of pupils at end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent		Percentage of pupils at end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent	
Total number of pupils in school	(i) Rural schools	(ii) Non-rural schools	(i) Rural schools	(ii) Non-rural schools	(i) Rural schools	(ii) Non-rural schools
(a) <100	0	9	0	2	—	22.2
(b) 100-199	228	91	80	75	35.1	82.4
(c) 200-299	69	405	35	198	50.7	48.9
(d) 300-399	485	1,008	258	281	53.2	27.9
(e) 400-499	1,310	4,289	737	1,661	56.3	38.7
(f) 500-599	3,407	10,636	1,938	4,683	56.9	44.0
(g) 600-699	4,192	16,376	2,534	7,789	60.4	47.6
(h) >=700	59,085	421,294	36,281	229,369	61.4	54.4
All schools	68,776	454,108	41,863	244,058	60.9	53.7

[1] Number of pupils on roll at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2004/ 05 academic year. [2] Includes achievements by these pupils in previous academic years. [3] Including City Technology Colleges and Academies.

Exclusions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* fixed period exclusions there were broken down by reason for exclusion, in each London borough for the latest year for which figures are available; [86979]

(2) how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* fixed period exclusions were imposed for bullying in each local education authority in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [86980]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

Only two years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is

available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Exclusions data for 2004/05 academic year were published in June 2006.

GCSE/A-levels

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils achieved grade C or above in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* physics, *(d)* chemistry and *(e)* history in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [86437]

Jim Knight: The following tables show the number of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving a grade C or above at GCSE in each year since 1997, in mathematics, English, physics, chemistry, and history, broken down by region.

(a) Number of 15- year- old pupils[1] achieving a grade C or above in mathematics GCSE

Thousand

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
North East	11.7	11.7	12.3	13.0	14.0	14.4	14.0	15.0	15.1
North West	28.9	35.6	37.8	38.9	41.1	42.8	42.1	45.2	46.2
Merseyside[2]	6.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	23.2	23.2	24.1	25.3	26.4	27.4	27.5	29.7	31.0
East Midlands	21.0	20.6	21.9	22.2	23.8	24.9	24.8	26.4	27.7
West Midlands	25.5	25.8	27.8	28.5	30.2	31.7	31.2	33.2	34.9
East	30.3	30.2	30.6	31.7	33.5	34.6	34.7	36.9	38.7
London	30.6	31.5	32.7	34.0	36.3	38.2	39.2	42.4	44.0
South East	45.9	44.5	46.4	47.7	50.8	52.2	53.4	56.1	58.4
South West	26.6	26.9	27.5	28.6	30.4	31.6	31.8	33.9	35.4

(b) Number of 15–year-old pupils[1] achieving a grade C or above in English GCSE

Thousand

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
North East	14.2	13.9	14.9	15.4	15.9	16.1	16.7	17.2	17.0
North West	33.5	41.7	44.6	45.3	46.7	48.0	49.2	50.6	51.3
Merseyside[2]	8.1-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Yorkshire and Humberside	27.1	26.7	28.7	29.5	30.5	31.9	32.9	34.0	34.7
East Midlands	24.7	24.3	25.4	26.0	27.3	28.3	29.2	30.0	30.4
West Midlands	31.0	31.3	33.2	33.7	35.2	36.2	37.2	37.7	39.1
East	34.2	34.2	35.3	36.1	37.6	38.6	39.9	41.2	42.7
London	35.9	37.1	39.0	39.7	41.4	42.9	45.0	47.6	49.0
South East	52.6	51.6	53.7	54.2	56.6	57.8	60.9	62.6	64.4
South West	30.9	30.9	32.0	32.6	34.0	35.5	36.6	38.3	39.0

(c) Number of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving a grade C or above in physics GCSE

Thousand

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
North East	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0
North West	3.7	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.9	5.1	5.2
Merseyside[2]	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.0	3.2
East Midlands	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.8
West Midlands	3.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.3
East	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.4	3.5	4.0	4.1
London	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.8	5.3	5.7
South East	6.6	6.9	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.9	9.5
South West	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.8

(d) Number of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving a grade C or above in chemistry GCSE

Thousand

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
North East	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0
North West	3.9	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2
Merseyside[2]	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.1
East Midlands	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.8
West Midlands	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.4
East	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	4.0	4.2

(d) Number of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving a grade C or above in chemistry GCSE

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Thousand 2005
London	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.9	5.4	5.7
South East	6.7	7.0	7.6	7.6	8.1	8.0	8.3	8.8	9.6
South West	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.9

(e) Number of 15 year old pupils[1] achieving a grade C or above in history GCSE

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Thousand 2005
North East	5.8	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.4
North West	13.3	15.5	15.8	16.1	16.5	16.7	16.2	17.1	17.7
Merseyside[2]	3.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	11.2	9.9	10.6	10.9	11.1	11.0	11.5	11.9	12.0
East Midlands	9.3	8.5	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.9	10.2	10.7	10.9
West Midlands	12.6	11.4	12.4	12.3	12.6	12.9	13.4	14.0	14.0
East	14.2	13.6	13.9	14.3	14.4	14.6	14.9	16.3	17.0
London	14.9	14.4	14.4	14.9	15.6	15.6	16.3	18.0	18.6
South East	21.5	19.9	20.5	21.3	21.9	21.9	23.0	24.6	24.9
South West	11.7	11.7	11.6	12.3	12.4	12.8	12.9	13.8	14.3

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August. [2] Merseyside was absorbed into North West post-1997.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students failed to turn up for at least one examination in each of the past five years at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level. [86861]

Jim Knight: The information requested on students who fail to turn up for examinations is not held centrally by the Department.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of 15-year-olds achieved *(a)* five or more, *(b)* seven or more and *(c)* nine or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent in each year since 1996. [87895]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Number and percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving the following GCSEs or equivalents 5 or more A-C grades*

	5 or more A*-C grades		7 or more A*-C grades		9 or more A*-C grades	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1996	264,537	44.5	175,509	34.1	108,277	21.0
1997	264,892	45.1	177,338	34.8	110,904	21.7
1998	266,431	46.3	178,848	35.3	111,389	22.0
1999	278,560	47.9	190,776	33.5	122,098	21.4
2000	285,727	49.2	196,402	34.7	126,502	22.4
2001	301,617	50.0	245,460	39.5	170,293	27.4
2002	312,739	51.6	255,352	40.7	179,470	28.6
2003	329,382	52.9	269,471	42.9	190,494	30.3
2004	345,604	53.7	283,863	43.8	205,144	31.6
2005	358,598	56.3	296,889	46.6	219,355	34.5

[1] Aged 15 at the start of the academic year ie 31 August.

Homophobic Bullying

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures his Department takes to ensure that homophobic bullying in *(a)* boarding and *(b)* private schools is properly addressed. [88118]

Jim Knight: All independent schools in England must be registered with my Department. All registered schools have to meet the standards set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended, which cover six main areas including the quality of the education provided; the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; and the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Schools are required to draw up and implement effectively, a written policy to prevent all kinds of bullying.

In the White Paper, "Higher Standards, Better Education for All", we gave an undertaking to issue guidance on bullying motivated by prejudice, including homophobia, providing school staff with valuable support in an area they often find challenging. We are currently developing a programme to tackle this issue.

Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to inform parents of the possible risks of allowing their children to use the internet unsupervised. [88802]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has for several years, through the parents online site and later from January 2005 through the parents centre site, provided advice and guidance to parents on using the internet safely with their children. This includes advice on the potential risks of using the internet unsupervised.

The Department has also funded Childnet International—a charitable organisation—to produce safety materials, and new additional materials specifically aimed at parents and for use in the home that will be available in the autumn.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to teach children about the possible risks of using the internet. [88844]

Mr. Dhanda: ICT is compulsory for pupils aged five to 16 and covers analysis, evaluation and responsible use of electronic information, including the internet.

The Department has worked closely with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and Becta, the lead agency for ICT in schools, on developing resources and guidance for schools. Schools are encouraged to integrate e-safety messages across the curriculum and implement policies and safe practices on internet use.

The Internet Proficiency Scheme was developed by the Department, QCA and Becta. Aimed at primary schools, it helps teachers educate children on staying safe on the internet. At secondary level, the Becta publication, 'Signposts to safety' provides advice on teaching internet safety at Key Stages 3 and 4.

IT Projects

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [87177]

Phil Hope: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Education and Skills. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal and external information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Life Skills

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the introduction of life skills into the national curriculum. [87953]

Jim Knight: The national curriculum has the statutory aim of preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. In addition to this, a non statutory framework for personal, social and health education (PSHE) was introduced in 2000. PSHE presents opportunities to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. Citizenship education which covers social and moral responsibility, political literacy and community involvement, was introduced as a statutory subject in 2002.

The Ofsted inspection framework includes an assessment of how schools are addressing learners' personal development and well-being as well as assessing the quality of provision in schools. The impact of citizenship is being assessed by an eight year longitudinal study which the Department commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research in 2001 to carry out.

London Olympics

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to use the Olympics as a way of encouraging more women into the construction sector. [88205]

Phil Hope: In preparation for the Olympics, Construction Skills have set up a team 'Constructing London 2012' to identify the skills needed to deliver the Games. They are working closely with the LSC to identify training requirements and how best to attract women into the sector. In the recent White Paper "Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances", the Government announced a £20 million per annum package to tackle the barriers many women face in the labour market. This includes a London based Train to Gain pilot project focusing on training at level 3 for occupational areas where women are under-represented. It also includes testing new recruitment and career pathways in sectors where women face barriers to the labour market.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he last met his Scottish counterpart; and what subjects were discussed. [88776]

Mr. Dhanda: I have not met the Scottish Minister for Education and Young People since becoming Secretary of State for Education and Skills.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87648]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills decorated the ministerial office in the financial year 2004/05 only.

Modern Apprenticeships

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school leavers in *(a)* West Lancashire constituency, *(b)* Lancashire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England have taken up a modern apprenticeship after completion of their GCSEs in each year since 1997. [83540]

Phil Hope: The Apprenticeship programme continues to go from strength to strength with record numbers of young people participating and completion rates continuing to improve. Numbers of school leavers (i.e. 16 year olds) who have taken up an Apprenticeship in England since 2002-03 are as follows:

	Apprenticeships (at level 2)	*Advanced Apprenticeships (at level 3)*	*Total Apprenticeships (at levels 2 & 3)*
2004-05	45,125	8,912	54,037
2003-04	43,110	9,174	52,284
2002-03	41,711	10,383	52,094

The Learning Skills Council will be able to provide further data on Apprenticeship numbers broken down by region, however they can only report on data from 2001-02 onwards as work-based learning data before this is not available in the same way. The Council's Chief Executive Mark Haysom has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom , dated 25 July 2006:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked how many school leavers in.

West Lancashire Constituency,

Lancashire Local LSC area,

North West region

and England,

have taken up Modern Apprenticeship after completion of their GCSE's each year since 1997.

The information in the table shows the volumes of learners who started on Advanced Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship programmes for each year since 2002/03. This data for 16-18 year olds, is used as a proxy for school leavers in this analysis. The data is for each geographical area as requested. Consistent and comparable data for Work Based Learning is only available for analysis from 2002/03 onwards, which is the first full year of the operation of the LSC.

LSC funded 16-18 starts to Advanced Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships

	West Lancashire	*Lancashire LSC area*	*North West Region*	*England*
2002-03	288	3,810	18,867	102,643
2003-04	246	3,321	15,464	90,378
2004-05	259	3,879	18,432	102,327

Note:
Figures are based on age at the start of training. Location of a learner is linked to their home postcode.
Source:
Work Based Learning ILR, LSC July 2006

The successful continuation of Work Based Learning has been recently highlighted in the Statistical First Releases for participation and success rates for the 2004/05 academic year. Most notably, the average number in learning on Apprenticeships in 2004/05 increased by 7.6% over 2003/04 and the trend away from NVQ Training towards Apprenticeships has continued. Current success rates for complete frameworks in all types of Apprenticeships have increased by 9 percentage points to 40% in 2004/05 and are currently running at over 50% for the 2005/06 academic year.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many modern apprenticeships are being undertaken, broken down by responsible sector skills councils. [88203]

Phil Hope: There are over 180 different Apprenticeship (formerly called Foundation Modern Apprenticeship) or Advanced Apprenticeship (formerly called Advanced Modern Apprenticeship) frameworks on offer to potential learners; the responsibility for each framework lies within an appropriate Sector Skills Council's remit. Accurate data on numbers of Apprenticeships by Sector Skills Council are not held centrally at present. In lieu of the fact that accurate figures are not held, a lower level disaggregation is provided in the following table which shows 2004/05 Apprenticeships (average numbers in learning) broken down by sector framework (numbers are rounded up to the nearest 10).

Sector framework title	*Advanced Apprenticeships*	*Apprenticeships*	*Average in learning Total*
Accountancy	2,590	—	2,590
Active Leisure and Learning	1,240	—	1,240
Advice and Guidance	20	—	20
Agricultural Crops and Livestock	290	570	850
Amenity Horticulture	160	—	160
Animal Care	90	—	90
Apparel	10	—	10
Arts and Entertainment, Cultural Heritage, Information and Library Services	90	—	90
Automotive Industry	14,190	—	14,190
Aviation	20	—	20
Bakery	30	—	30
Barbering	10	—	10
Beauty Therapy	340	—	340
Building Services Engineers	160	—	160
Business Administration	4,670	14,200	18,870
Carry and Deliver Goods	210	—	210
Ceramics	30	—	30
Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Retro-Chemical Manufacturing and Refining Industries	170	40	200
Children's Care Learning and Development	6,920	8,940	15,860
Cleaning and Support Service Industry	10	—	10

Sector framework title	Advanced Apprenticeships	Apprenticeships	Average in learning Total
Coatings Development Plan	10	—	10
Coca Cola	40	—	40
Communications Technologies (Telecoms)	2,670	—	2,670
Community Justice	60	—	60
Construction	3,870	20,380	24,250
Contact Centres	220	—	220
Cultural Heritage	10	—	10
Customer Service	4,450	—	4,450
Dental Nursing	430	—	430
Design	10	—	10
Driving Goods Vehicles	440	—	440
Electrical and Electronic Servicing	100	—	100
Electricity Industry	450	—	450
Electrotechnical	12,680	2,470	15,150
Emergency Fire Service Operations	90	—	90
Engineering	17,410	10,370	27,770
Engineering Construction	620	10	630
Environmental Conservation	30	—	30
Equine Industry	510	—	510
Farriery	70	—	70
Floristry	40	—	40
Food and Drink Manufacturing Operations	30	—	30
Furniture Industry	170	—	170
Gas Industry	870	—	870
Glass Industry	230	—	230
Hairdressing	3,110	—	3,110
Health and Social Care	3,700	—	3,700
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	1,420	—	1,420
Hospitality and Catering	4,930	—	4,930
Housing	20	—	20
Industrial Applications	10	—	10
Information and Library Services	10	—	10
Insurance	290	—	290
International Trade and Services	30	—	30
IT Services and Development	1,400	—	1,400
IT User	90	—	90
Jewellery, Silversmithing and Allied Trades	10	—	10
Laboratory Technicians (Generic)	20	—	20
Land-based Service Engineering	220	—	220
Learning and Development (Direct Training and Support)	10	—	10
Management	870	—	870
Man-Made Fibres	10	—	10
Marine Industry	380	—	380
Meat and Poultry Processing	10	—	10
Metals Industry	100	60	150
Newspaper Industry	10	—	10
Occupational Health and Safety Practice	30	—	30
Oil and Gas Extraction	10	—	10
Operating Department Practice	—	—	—
Optical Advisor	30	—	30
Payroll	10	—	10
Personnel	10	—	10
Pharmacy Technicians	40	—	40
Photo Imaging	20	—	20
Plumbing	3,260	5,560	8,810
Polymer Processing and Signmaking	20	60	80
Ports Industry	10	—	10
Printing	600	—	600
Procurement	10	—	10
Production Horticulture	10	—	10

Sector framework title	Advanced Apprenticeships	Apprenticeships	Average in learning Total
Property Services	210	—	210
Providing Financial Services (Banks and Building Societies)	10	—	10
Rail Transport Engineering	180	—	180
Retail	1,190	7,530	8,720
Saddlery	10	—	10
Sales and Telesales	10	—	10
Sea Fishing	10	—	10
Security Industry	210	—	210
Sporting Excellence	530	—	530
Storage and Warehousing	10	—	10
Teaching Assistants	10	—	10
Textiles	100	—	100
Transport Engineering and Maintenance	190	—	190
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	1,680	430	2,110
Trees and Timber	10	—	10
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	10	—	10
Veterinary Nursing	110	—	110
Water Industry	10	—	10
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	70	—	70
Grand total	101,500	70,560	172,060

Source:
WBL 2004/05ILR, Learning and Skills Council July 2006

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* age profile, *(b)* sex profile and *(c)* success rate is of individuals who are undertaking modern apprenticeship schemes. [88204]

Bill Rammell: Apprenticeships are the main programme for young employed people seeking qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3.

The following table shows numbers of Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships in 2004-05 by age and gender, and the corresponding success rates.

Type of apprenticeship programme	Age	Gender	Average in learning[1]	Current framework success rate (Percentage)	Overall framework success rate (Percentage)
Advanced	16-18	Female	10,954	36	32
Advanced	16-18	Male	46,414	44	42
Advanced	19+	Female	20,238	30	26
Advanced	19+	Male	24,203	39	36
Apprenticeship	16-18	Female	45,864	43	41
Apprenticeship	16-18	Male	56,673	39	38
Apprenticeship	19+	Female	24,992	41	38
Apprenticeship	19+	Male	26,871	38	37

[1] Average in learning is defined as the average number of learners in learning in any period
Notes:
Age is based on the age of the learner at the start of the course
Source:
WBL 2004/05ILR, Learning & Skills Council

Two measures of success rate are shown in the table. Current success rates for those completing an Apprenticeship or Advanced Apprenticeship have been published for a number of years. The need for the development of an overall success rate as a broad comparator with FE for similar learning aims was outlined in the Success for All programme and figures were published for the first time this year. Both 'overall' and 'current' success rates are shown in Table 7 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'Further Education and Work-Based Learning for Young People—Learner Outcomes in England 2004-05' published by the LSC on 11 April 2006. A link to the website is at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000649/index.shtml. Page 9 of the SFR provides further details on the different definitions of the two rates.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many modern apprenticeships have been undertaken in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster in each of the last eight years. [88380]

Phil Hope: Figures for those participating in Apprenticeships (previously called Modern Apprenticeships) funded by the Learning and Skills

Council (LSC) can be derived from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). This was collated for the first time in 2001/02 (as an Interim ILR) and consistent and comparable figures are currently only available for the three following years.

The following tables show the total number of Apprentices in Barnsley and Doncaster for each year from 2002/03 to 2004/05.

	Advanced Apprenticeship	*Apprenticeship*	*Total*
Barnsley			
2002/03	740	1,500	2,240
2003/04	650	1,650	2,300
2004/05	620	1,650	2,270
Doncaster			
2002/03	1,030	2,270	3,300
2003/04	970	2,300	3,270
2004/05	960	2,380	3,340

Music A-level

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of resources allocated to the teaching of music A-level; and if he will make a statement. [88010]

Jim Knight: It is for individual schools and colleges to decide which qualifications they offer post 16 and to allocate the necessary resources to deliver those qualifications.

National Vocational Qualifications

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 392W, on National Vocational Qualifications, how many National Vocational Qualifications were awarded in food preparation and cooking in 2005-06. [88839]

Phil Hope: There were 17,200 National Vocational Qualifications in food preparation and cookery awarded in 2004-05, which is the latest year for which information is available.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what administrative functions for which his Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment he has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81548]

Mr. Dhanda: A complete answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, from the information we have available, we do not appear to have outsourced any administrative functions overseas. The Department complies with European law and the World Trade Organisation Government Procurement Agreement and has no plans to outsource administrative functions overseas. We will consider the position for individual functions whenever appropriate.

Partially Selective Schools

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many partially selective secondary schools there are within the maintained sector in England. [85975]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally as admission arrangements are set locally, after an annual consultation process.

However, we are aware of 35 schools which operate partial selection by ability or aptitude which it would not now be lawful to introduce. This is not a definitive number of such schools, and does not include those who since 1997/98 have introduced selection by aptitude of up to 10 per cent. of their intake.

Private Finance Initiative Contracts

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local education authorities are expected to conclude new private finance initiative contracts in 2006-07. [88669]

Jim Knight: The following local authorities are expected to sign private finance initiative (PFI) contracts in 2006-07 :

Peterborough—July 2006

Lewisham—July 2006

Slough—August/September 2006

Salford—September 2006

Plymouth—December 2006

Doncaster—March 2007.

Primary School Teachers

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of teachers in primary schools in England was male *(a)* in 1977 and *(b)* on the latest date for which information is available. [89146]

Jim Knight: In March 1977 23 per cent. of full-time regular qualified teachers employed in maintained primary schools were male compared to 15.7 per cent. in March 2004 (provisional). This is the latest year for which figures are available.

A time series showing the proportion of men in the teaching population between 1997 and 2004 can be found in table D4 at the following link at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DBA/OL/v000633/Additionald.xls

Pupil Exclusions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many permanent and fixed period exclusions took place in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each local education authority in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by reason for exclusion. [88568]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

Pupil Statistics

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many schools 50 per cent. or more of the pupils do not have English as their first language, broken down by region. [86435]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of schools by percentage of school population whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[2,3]—as at January 2006 (provisional)—by Government office region

Number of schools

	Percentage of school population whose first language is known or believed to be other than English is:					
	Less than 50		*50 or more*		*All schools*	
	Primary	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
England	16,424	3,189	1,080	178	17,504	3,367
North East	922	206	8	0	930	206
North West	2,462	460	119	14	2,581	474
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,780	304	111	19	1,891	323
East Midlands	1,657	292	51	7	1,708	299
West Midlands	1,725	387	129	26	1,854	413
East of England	2,038	423	27	5	2,065	428
Inner London	347	79	348	53	695	132
Outer London	888	219	248	50	1,136	269
South East	2,659	499	31	4	2,690	503
South West	1,946	320	8	0	1,954	320

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] Pupils of compulsory school age and above are classified according to their first language.
Source:
Schools Census

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the pupil-teacher ratio was in primary schools in Swindon in each year since 1997; [86634]

(2) what the pupil-teacher ratio was in secondary schools in Swindon in each year between 1997 and 2006. [86968]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the pupil-teacher ratio in maintained primary and secondary schools in Swindon local authority in each January from 1997 to 2005 (the latest year for which information is available at local authority level). Information for England from 1997 to 2006 is also given to enable comparison.

It is anticipated that local authority level information for January 2006 will be published in September.

Pupil-teacher ratios[1] in maintained primary and secondary schools in Swindon local authority and England, January 1997 to 2006

	Primary		*Secondary*	
	Swindon	*England*	*Swindon*	*England*
1997[2]	n/a	23.4	n/a	16.7
1998	25.1	23.7	17.7	16.9
1999	25.0	23.5	18.0	17.0
2000	24.2	23.3	17.8	17.2
2001	24.0	22.9	17.2	17.1
2002	23.2	22.5	17.3	16.9
2003	23.7	22.6	18.0	17.0
2004	24.1	22.7	17.7	17.0
2005	23.6	22.5	18.1	16.7
2006[3]	n/a	22.0	n/a	16.6

[1] The pupil-teacher ratio is the full-time equivalent number of pupils divided by the full-time equivalent number of qualified teachers. Dually registered pupils are excluded.
[2] Swindon local authority was created in the local government reorganisation of 1.4.97.
[3] Provisional.
Source:
Annual School Census

Recycling in Schools

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what targets he has set for school recycling; [86458]

(2) how much school waste was recycled in each of the last 10 years; and what plans he has to encourage schools to increase their recycling of waste; [86459]

(3) what discussions he has had with private companies on the promotion of school recycling initiatives and environmental awareness campaigns; [86460]

(4) how much school waste has been recycled by private companies in the last 10 years; [86461]

(5) what discussions he has had with European Governments on the recycling of school waste. [86464]

Mr. Dhanda: Central Government have not set any specific recycling targets for schools. There are targets for local authority recycling of household waste which does not include waste from schools. We do not know how much school waste has been recycled in the last 10 years.

As part of the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) proposed Sustainable Schools Strategy we encourage schools to recycle their waste. In May we launched the Sustainable Schools Consultation introducing the national framework[1]. The consultation describes eight key doorways that schools can work towards to become more Sustainable one of which is "purchasing and waste". By 2020 our aim is for all schools to be models of resource efficiency, recycling, repairing and reusing as much as possible. We are also working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who are promoting recycling in schools through funding of the Eco-Schools Award Scheme, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and various projects funded through the Environment Action Fund.

DfES has discussed school recycling and environmental awareness campaigns with waste management companies, in particular regarding projects which were supported by the former landfill tax credit scheme which operated up until 2004.

DfES has not had discussions with European Governments on the recycling of school waste.

[1] www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

Religious Schools/Studies

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure the preservation of the ethos of religious schools when the provisions in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 which replace external advisers appointed by a school's governing body with a schools improvement inspector appointed by the local authority come into force. [88598]

Jim Knight: We are introducing school improvement partners (SIPs) to support the accountability that local authorities have for the standards and levels of attainment in their schools. When local authorities appoint SIPs to schools we expect them to pay attention to the preferences, needs and characteristics, including religious characteristics, of individual schools and their governing bodies, and we expect SIPs to be responsive to the individual circumstances and characteristics of the schools they work with, including their religious characteristics. The national assessment for people seeking accreditation to be SIPs stresses this expectation. It is designed to withhold accreditation from anybody who might work with a school without taking account of the ethos and other features of the school. These expectations are set out clearly for local authorities and SIPs to support introduction of the SIP programme.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures his Department takes to ensure that private schools teach religious studies appropriately. [88117]

Jim Knight: All independent schools in England must be registered with my Department. All registered schools have to meet the standards set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended, which cover six main areas including the quality of the education provided; the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; and the welfare, health and safety of pupils. Schools are required to assist pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures in a way which promotes tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions.

Run-away Children

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the role of helplines in the provision of services for children and young people who run away; and what plans he has to extend that role. [88937]

Beverley Hughes: Helplines are one of a number of ways in which children who run away, or are thinking about running, can get help. The National Missing Person's Helpline is one, which this year has received about £900,000 central Government funding. Other helplines available to young people in crisis, such as Connexions Direct and others run by voluntary and community organisations, do an important job advising runaways and their families.

But other sources of help and support are vital too. Children who run away need someone to talk to, but they also need help with the underlying problems that make them run. This should include prevention, mediation and other support services. The availability of such services is for local authorities to determine, according to local need. Local children's services continue to provide the most effective and direct route to help runaways, and those at risk of running away. Government are driving forward improvements to all such services, for all children, through the Every Child Matters programme.

Recent projects have tested how best to provide responsive community-based services—including local helpline provision—within local authorities children's services. We will disseminate the full lessons learnt from these to local authorities later this year. Future plans will be informed by these pilots, as well as by our current discussions with key stakeholders such as Children's Society and regional and local authorities.

School Meals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in *(a)* Brent East and *(b)* Brent (i) are entitled to and (ii) claim free school meals. [87500]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Maintained Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools[1]: School Meal Arrangements[2] January 2006[3]

	Number on roll	Number of pupils taking free school meals [4]	Percentage taking free school meals	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals
Maintained Nursery and Primary					
England	4,188,996	556,057	13.3	670,612	16.0
Brent	23,387	5,523	23.6	6,338	27.1
Brent East	7,886	1,704	22.2	1,998	26.0
Maintained Secondary					
England	3,310,034	328,642	9.9	440,611	13.6
Brent	16,418	2,695	16.4	3,701	22.5
Brent East	2,826	740	26.2	966	34.2

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
[3] Provisional
[4] Number of pupils who took a free school meal on the day of the census in January.
Source:
Schools Census

School Premises

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the condition of school premises; [89116]

(2) what the cost was of outstanding repairs to school buildings identified by the 2005 Asset Management Survey; and when he will publish the full results of that survey; [89117]

(3) what the value was of outstanding repairs to school buildings in each year since 2002; and what proportion of this repair work has since been carried out. [89118]

Jim Knight: Based on data supplied to the Department over recent months by local education authorities, it is estimated that schools have repair and maintenance requirements of approximately £8.8 billion. This compares with £9.0 billion and £8.8 billion shown in data received in 2001 and 2003 respectively. Costs have been updated to current prices. In addition to backlog repair work, the figures cover work needed over a five year period from the dates of the assessments from which the data are derived, including cyclical and scheduled maintenance. The cost of urgent work has reduced by approximately 30 per cent. against the data received in 2001.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £5.5 billion in 2005-06 and will rise further to over £8 billion by 2010-11. While reducing maintenance requirements is a long term aim, the primary objectives for funding are to raise educational standards and tackle local deprivation. A substantial proportion of capital funding is targeted at transformational programmes, such as Building Schools for the Future and the primary capital programme. Over time, these programmes will significantly reduce future maintenance requirements.

The data received over recent months, referred to above, are currently being appraised and the Department is working with authorities where necessary to secure improvements in their asset management processes. Detailed national analysis will be published on completion of the appraisal.

School Testing

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of testing in schools; and if he will make a statement. [87954]

Jim Knight: The levels of testing have remained consistent for a number of years. There are three sets of national tests in the first nine years of education. This requirement for independent, objective evidence of performance is by no means excessive when set alongside the billions of pounds of public money that are invested in the education system each year.

The total number of statutory test papers taken during this time would amount to about 20.

The Key Stage 1 tests and tasks are not strictly timed and can be administered flexibly over an extended period.

The Key Stage 2 tests amount to a total of 5 hours 15 minutes spread over a week; in a key stage that covers four years, this represents about 0.14 per cent. of the available teaching time.

The Key Stage 3 tests amount to a total of 7 hours 40 minutes spread over a week; in a three-year key stage, this represents less than 0.2 per cent. of the available teaching time.

This relatively small commitment of time is vastly outweighed by the valuable information that can be provided by testing.

We believe the current level of assessment for English, maths and science is appropriate.

School Toilets

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the required toilet to *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupil ratio is in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools. [86981]

Jim Knight: To comply with the 1999 School Premises Regulations, mainstream schools should have at least one WC or urinal per 20 pupils over five years of age. Washroom facilities must be adequate, having regard to the ages, sexes, numbers of pupils and any special requirements that they may have.

Secondary Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed reform of the secondary education system on the number of jobs in the sector. [88808]

Jim Knight: Decisions about staffing levels in schools are taken by individual governing bodies, based on the delegated funding they receive. Nothing in the Education and Inspections Bill changes this—it will still be for schools to determine their own staffing levels and structures.

Selective Mutism

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to his answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1101-02W, on selective mutism, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that education experts and schools are aware of the video, DVD and accompanying book on selective mutism; [88605]

(2) what steps his Department, Executive agencies, local authorities and individual schools are required to take to *(a)* fund and *(b)* provide advice and assistance in relation to selective mutism. [88732]

Mr. Dhanda: Publicising and disseminating particular resources would be a matter for the originating party, rather than the Department. However, we do operate an inclusion website http://inclusion.nqfl.gov.uk which includes information on available materials relevant to special educational needs and disability. It is open to organisations to publicise their resources through that.

As mentioned in our previous answer, the Department has not issued any recent guidance specifically on selective mutism, although it is one of a number of communication difficulties addressed in our early support publication "Speech and language difficulties", published in 2005. This publication includes contact details for the Selective Mutism Information and Research Association (SMIRA).

It would be for individual local authorities, schools and early years settings to determine whether there was a case for developing local materials or training sessions on selective mutism.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he has issued to ensure that local authority provision for children with special educational needs is dependent on need rather than local budgetary or resource considerations; and if he will make a statement. [87961]

Mr. Dhanda: The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice, issued by the Secretary of State in 2001 is statutory guidance. It gives guidance to schools and local authorities on their duties under the Education Act 1996 to identify, assess and make provision for children with special educational needs. Most children with SEN are supported from within the resources available to their school. But local authorities have a duty, where necessary, to carry out statutory SEN assessments and make and maintain SEN statements specifying the provision that an individual child's special educational needs call for. Local authorities have to arrange the special educational provision required to meet the child's needs and make available the necessary funding for that provision.

Local authorities may fund specialist support services, such as SEN specific outreach teams, in order to help schools meet children's needs. The profile of such central services is a matter for local decision.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many special schools for children with *(a)* special educational needs and *(b)* behavioural, emotional and social difficulties there were in each local education authority area in each year since 1997. [86012]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The available information has been placed in the House Library.

The information given in the table has been taken from two different sources. Information on numbers of maintained and non maintained special schools has been taken from Schools' Census returns and a time series has been provided.

Sex Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures his Department takes to ensure that private and boarding schools teach sex education appropriately and sufficiently. [88116]

Mr. Dhanda: All independent schools in England must be registered with my Department. All registered schools have to meet the standards set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003, as amended, which cover six main areas including the quality of the education provided; the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; and the welfare, health and safety of pupils. The standards require all independent schools to provide personal, social and health education, which reflects the ethos and aims of the school.

Skills for Life

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many of the participants in the Skills for Life Strategy are *(a)* male and *(b)* female. [88244]

Phil Hope: Between 2001 and July 2005, the Skills for Life Strategy has helped 1,275,000 people improve their literacy, language or numeracy skills. Figures from

2003/04, the last year for which confirmed figures are currently available, show that 45 per cent. of Skills for Life achievements were by males and 55 per cent. were by females. The aim of the Skills for Life Strategy is to help all learners who may be at disadvantage in life and at work through poor skills to improve their literacy, language and numeracy ability so that they are better able to support their families, contribute to community life and perform successfully at work.

Smacking

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will undertake *(a)* an assessment of and *(b)* public consultation upon the merits of measures to ban the smacking of children by their parents. [87807]

Mr. Dhanda: Section 58 of the Children Act 2004, which was passed by a free vote in the House of Lords, and another free vote in the Commons, removed the defence of reasonable chastisement for offences of Actual Bodily Harm or worse against children. The Government believe that this will ensure the proper protection of children without criminalising loving parents for administering a trivial smack.

During the Commons debate on the Children Bill, the Government committed itself to review the operation of section 58 of the Children Act two years after its commencement. We will be considering this during 2006-07, including consultation with interested parties.

Student Fees

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of students in England paid *(a)* none, *(b)* part and *(c)* all of their fees in 2005/06. [83157]

Bill Rammell: The percentage of students in England in 2004/05 making a nil, partial or full contribution to their tuition fees is given in the table:

	Percentage of students
Students making no contribution to fees	43
Students making a part contribution to fees	13
Students making a full contribution to fees	44

Note:
1. Data do not include those students who decide not to apply to the SLC for any student support.
2. Data for 2005/06 will not be available until November 2006.
Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC).

In 2004/05, students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families were expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds were wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

From 2006/07, no student will need to find money up front to meet tuition fees, as they will be eligible for a tuition fee loan of up to £3,000. In addition, we expect around 30 per cent. of students to receive a maximum maintenance grant of £2,700 and an HE institution bursary of at least £300. Overall, we expect around half of all eligible students to receive at least some maintenance grant.

Student Stress

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of levels of stress experienced by students *(a)* taking written and oral exams and *(b)* undertaking coursework and continual assessment. [86714]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), which is responsible for the regulation of qualifications and examinations in England, takes the issue of the assessment burden on candidates seriously, including stress levels. When qualifications are developed, the QCA looks both at the overall manageability and the burden on students taking the qualifications. In recent years, for example, measures have been taken to reduce the length of some A level examination papers in order to reduce the total exam burden for students. The 14-19 White Paper, published last year, gave QCA a remit to address three concerns about coursework assessment, one of which related to the overall burden on students. QCA has recently submitted its advice to the Secretary of State and we will be responding in due course.

Sure Start

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the Sure Start schemes in Easington constituency; and what plans he has for the future of Sure Start in Easington. [87862]

Beverley Hughes: There are four designated Sure Start children's centres within the Easington constituency with a further four planned by the end of September 2006. The centres will reach a total of 3301 children under the age of five. Three of the children's centres are based on Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) and two are based on mini Sure Start local programmes. Each of the Sure Start local programmes carried out their own local evaluations assessing progress against a range of outcomes as part of their local level monitoring and evaluation. Findings from the local evaluations have been used to inform good practice in Sure Start children's centres. Local authorities play a key role in identifying numbers of children's centres, their location and the range of services offered. They are also responsible for putting in place effective monitoring and performance management arrangements to assess the quality of the centres.

There is some excellent practice in Easington, with Sure Start Peterlee being awarded the Partners in Excellence Award in December 2004 for its work on developing a model of intervention to measure child development. The programme was also short listed in the Achieving with Partners category in December 2005. The overall impact of Sure Start local programmes nationally is being assessed through the National Evaluation of Sure Start (NESS).

Two additional children's centres with a planned reach of 989 children under the age of five will be

established within the Easington constituency, during phase two of the children's centre development. children's centres services will then be available to all children under the age of five in Easington.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what training staff in Sure Start projects are expected to have regarding identifying people with mental health problems and dealing with them appropriately. [88020]

Beverley Hughes: The Sure Start Children's Centres Practice Guidance (published in November 2005) gives advice to local authorities on the sort of prevention and intervention services children's centres should provide in order to promote the mental health and well-being of young children and their parents. Local authorities together with key partners such as primary care trusts are responsible for ensuring services are of high quality. This includes identifying and addressing the training needs of staff working in children's centres.

Teachers

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many full-time equivalent qualified teachers were employed in primary schools in Swindon in each year since 1997; [86633]

(2) how many full-time equivalent qualified teachers were employed in secondary schools in Swindon in each year between 1997 and 2006. [86969]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of regular qualified teachers employed in maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Swindon local authority in each January from 1997 to 2005 (the latest year for which information is available at local authority level). Information for England from 1997 to 2006 is also given to enable comparison.

It is anticipated that local authority level information for January 2006 will be published in September.

Full-time equivalent qualified teachers employed in maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Swindon local authority and England, January 1997 to 2006

	Nursery/Primary		Secondary	
	Swindon	England	Swindon	England
1997[1]	n/a	190,660	n/a	187,660
1998	730	188,990	630	187,670
1999	740	189,890	660	189,730
2000	750	191,640	670	191,100
2001	680	192,620	660	193,760
2002	790	193,080	690	196,580
2003	760	191,890	690	197,940
2004	760	190,450	690	200,590
2005	760	189,920	670	204,080
2006[2]	n/a	192,100	n/a	205,600

[1] Swindon local authority was created in the local Government reorganisation of 1.4.97.
[2] Provisional.
Notes:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies. (618g)

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many newly qualified teachers obtained employment in full-time teaching positions in schools related to the subject in which they trained in 2006. [87955]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what training teachers receive on how to deal with children with *(a)* special educational needs and *(b)* communication disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [87960]

Mr. Dhanda: In order to be awarded Qualified Teacher Status, all trainee teachers must demonstrate that they understand their responsibilities under the statutory Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, know how to seek advice from specialists on less common types of SEN, can differentiate their teaching to meet the needs of pupils, including those with SEN, and within that pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties, and can identify and support pupils who experience behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

The current standards for teachers are under review. Once revised, it is proposed that they will be strengthened to include a standard which requires teachers to know and comply with current legislation on well being of children and young people, one which requires teachers to know and understand the role of others when dealing with children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, and one which requires teachers to communicate effectively with parents and carers.

Induction Standards require Newly Qualified Teachers to demonstrate that they can plan effectively to meet the needs of pupils in their classes with SEN, with or without a statement, and in consultation with the school's SEN Co-ordinator (SENCO), can contribute to the planning for individual needs.

Once qualified, all teachers are expected to discuss their own development needs in performance management reviews, and to address development priorities. This could include strengthening knowledge and understanding of communication difficulties. Where schools have identified a need to strengthen knowledge and understanding of SEN or communication difficulties, as a school improvement priority, this should be addressed through their school improvement and development plans.

All schools receive a School Development Grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. A wide variety of courses are available covering SEN, ranging from awareness-raising through to in-depth studies leading to specific qualifications. It is, however, a matter for individual teachers and their schools to determine their own particular training and development needs. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development of SEN.

The Department's published SEN Strategy, 'Removing Barriers to Achievement' recognised the important of training and committed us to work

closely with the Training and Development Agency for Schools to ensure that initial teacher training and programmes of continuing professional development provide a good grounding in core skills and knowledge of SEN. We have commissioned the IDA to carry forward a range of initiatives designed to improve and strengthen the SEN skills and confidence of trainees, newly qualified and established teachers. These initiatives will be implemented over the period 2005-08 at a cost of approximately £1.1 m.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers *(a)* retired and *(b)* retired on the grounds of ill health, broken down by type of ill health, in each year since 1997. [88441]

Jim Knight: The following tables provide: *(a)* the number of teachers who retired in each year from 1989-90 to 2004-05 broken down by the type of award, (premature, age and ill health); and *(b)* ill health retirements by diagnosis in each 12-month period from 1 October 2002, the earliest date from which data have been collected in this form.

Further information on teacher retirements has been published in the Statistics of Education School Workforce in England Volume, 2005 edition, which can be downloaded from the following URL:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000633/index.shtml.

Retirements from the maintained schools sector[1]: Type of award and sex by year of award, 1989-90 to 2004-05—England

	Premature[2]			Age		
Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women
1989-90[4]	3,220	4,840	8,060	960	2,550	3,500
1990-91[4]	3,000	4,740	7,740	890	2,610	3,500
1991-92[4]	2,470	4,070	6,530	810	2,360	3,170
1992-93[4]	2,760	4,400	7,170	750	2,560	3,310
1993-94[4]	3,180	4,860	8,030	850	2,580	3,430
1994-95[4]	2,730	4,390	7,120	780	2,740	3,520
1995-96[4]	3,360	5,240	8,600	760	2,720	3,480
1996-97[4]	3,840	6,370	10,210	700	2,600	3,300
1997-98[4]	4,350	7,030	11,380	810	2,770	3,580
1998-99[4]	950	1,430	2,380	840	2,990	3,830
1999-2000[4]	1,140	1,520	2,660	990	3,270	4,260
2000-01[4]	1,270	1,900	3,170	980	3,220	4,190
2001-02[4]	1,330	2,150	3,480	1,060	3,320	4,380
2002-03[4, 5]	1,520	2,450	3,960	1,240	3,670	4,910
2003-04[4, 5]	1,910	3,030	4,940	1,330	4,080	5,410
2004-05[4, 5]	2,400	3,660	6,060	1,540	4,660	6,200

	Ill-health[3]			Total		
Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women
1989-90[4]	1,270	2,310	3,580	5,440	9,700	15,140
1990-91[4]	1,420	2,860	4,280	5,310	10,210	15,520
1991-92[4]	1,390	2,640	4,030	4,660	9,070	13,730
1992-93[4]	1,440	2,610	4,050	4,950	9,580	14,530
1993-94[4]	1,840	2,990	4,820	5,860	10,420	16,290
1994-95[4]	1,970	3,310	5,290	5,490	10,440	15,930
1995-96[4]	1,870	3,290	5,160	5,990	11,250	17,240
1996-97[4]	1,810	3,170	4,980	6,360	12,130	18,490
1997-98[4]	1,200	2,070	3,260	6,360	11,860	18,220
1998-99[4]	850	1,440	2,290	2,640	5,850	8,490
1999-2000[4]	860	1,470	2,320	2,990	6,250	9,240
2000-01[4]	1,040	1,590	2,630	3,280	6,710	9,990
2001-02[4]	920	1,460	2,380	3,310	6,940	10,240
2002-03[4, 5]	770	1,260	2,030	3,520	7,380	10,900
2003-04[4, 5]	770	1,100	1,870	4,010	8,210	12,220
2004-05[4, 5]	610	930	1,540	4,550	9,250	13,790

[1] Excludes sixth form colleges.
[2] The effect of the change in the Teachers' Pension Scheme as from 31 August 1997 was that many more teachers took early retirement in 1997 than in previous years. Premature includes Actuarially Reduced Benefit retirements from 2000-01.
[3] Changes in the statutory regulations governing ill-health retirement came into force on 1 April 1997. To quality for ill-health retirement benefits a teacher must now be regarded as permanently unfit to teach.
[4] All years are subject to slight revision due to the addition of retrospective awards and suspension of pension benefits where teachers return to service.
[5] 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are provisional estimates.
Source:
Pensioner Statistical System (PENSTATS).

Ill-health retirements by diagnosis[1]

Diagnosis	2002-03[2]	2003-04[2]	2004-05[2]
Blood and blood forming organs	25	25	25
Chronic fatigue syndrome	65	60	60
Circulatory	160	130	135
Congenital malformations	5	5	[3]—
Digestive	30	45	35
Ear and mastoid process	70	80	80
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic	30	30	20
Eye and adnexa	35	25	30
Genitourinary	30	20	15
Infectious and parasitic diseases	[3]—	0	0
Injury, poisoning and other external causes	30	30	40
Mental and behavioural disorders	865	905	785
Musculoskeletal—back	210	195	195
Musculoskeletal—non back	130	115	115
Neoplasms	245	260	255
Nervous system	160	155	170
Perinatal period	[3]—	0	0
Respiratory	70	70	70
Skin and subcutaneous tissue	10	5	5

[1] Figures are for ill-health retirements from all education sectors in England and Wales pensionable under the Teachers' Pensions Scheme.
[2] Each year covers the period 1 October to 30 September.
[3] Less than 5.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
DfES medical advisers.

Tuition Fees

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the Government in the year of introduction of raising tuition fees by *(a)* £1,000 and *(b)* £100 where the payment of tuition fees is deferred until graduation. [81111]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* Estimates of the costs to Government of tuition fee loans for full-time undergraduates in England are based on the assumption that 9 per cent. of students are charged a fee of £2,000 and 91 per cent. of students are charged a fee of £3,000 ie the average fee for new students will be £2,910. For an average fee of £3,010.The additional costs in the 2006/07 academic year would be around £5 million,[1] and for an average fee of £3,910, the additional costs for the same academic year would be £70 million or more. In each case, we have used our existing assumptions: that a tuition fee loan is available to meet the full cost of tuition fees, that the total cost of providing tuition fee loans over their lifetime is 33 per cent. of their face value, and that 80 per cent. of eligible students take them up. These estimates are approximate as significant changes in the fee level would be likely to have an effect on assumptions.

The maximum fee cannot be raised by more than inflation until 2 January 2010

and only then with the approval of both Houses of Parliament.

[1] Cost estimates rounded to the nearest £5 million.

Vocational Training

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans the Government have to improve vocational training for young people in Houghton and Washington East. [82283]

Phil Hope: The new specialised Diplomas will provide an exciting, aspirational and stretching programme of learning for young people of all abilities and backgrounds, including the most able, who enjoy learning in a practical environment. A new statutory entitlement to study for a Diploma will be in place for all 14 to 19-year-olds from September 2013.

Apprenticeships are the main programme for young employed people seeking vocational qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3. Other opportunities are also being developed, including a pilot programme that started in April this year aimed at encouraging 16-18 year olds in jobs without training to gain a Level 2 qualification, whether academic or vocational. For those over 19 and without either basic skills or a first Level 2 qualification we have put in place the Train to Gain service to deliver high quality flexible qualifications in the workplace.

In addition, the Department has introduced a presumption that sixth form proposals from high performing specialist schools wishing to take up a vocational specialism will be approved. Such proposals will be supported by capital investment from a new 16-19 capital fund, administered by the Learning and Skills Council. The aim of the initiative is to engage successful schools in the delivery of high quality vocational learning in line with the 14-19 Implementation Plan. This will be complemented by a new Further Education presumption arrangement announced in the recent FE White Paper that will prioritise 16-19 capital investment in high performing colleges wishing to expand to deliver the new specialised Diplomas.

The local Learning and Skills Council can provide details of any local initiatives that are available in the Houghton and Washington, East area.

Weapons in Schools

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* expulsions and *(b)* temporary exclusions from schools there have been for the possession of (i) knives and (ii) firearms in each year since 1996. [86436]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available.

Only two years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Exclusions data for 2004/05 academic year were published in June 2006.

Tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by the reason for exclusion in 2003/04 and 2004/05 have been placed in the Library. There is not a specific category relating to possession of knives or firearms.

Youth Clubs

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of child personal security in youth clubs where people over 18 years may attend a youth club as a user of such clubs; and if he will make a statement. [86495]

Mr. Dhanda: In considering the standards of provision, the Department would expect local authorities to take account of the Statutory Guidance on the Duty to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004. This guidance sets out local authority responsibility for making arrangements to ensure their normal functions are discharged having regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their area. This includes all types of local authority services, including those provided by district councils.

Local authorities can also use DfES guidance issued to the education service on safer recruitment as a basis for developing procedures on checks for staff and volunteers. They should have clear policies and practices for the protection of children and young people in place and understood.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Support

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total budget was in 2005-06 for agricultural support in England; and what the administrative costs were of distributing it. [86864]

Ian Pearson: The total budget for agricultural support in England in 2005-06 was £2,045,088,000. This was administered by the Rural Payments Agency, whose administrative costs were budgeted at £228.96 million for 2005-06.

Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department *(a)* has evaluated and *(b)* plans into the contribution to future climate change emissions made by air conditioning in domestic homes. [84070]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) has undertaken some limited research to estimate the contribution of air-conditioning in domestic homes to future carbon emissions. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given him on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1979W.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has undertaken some research on the market penetration of domestic air conditioning, based on data from the USA, as part of its work to develop proposals for amending Part L of the Building Regulations, which it consulted on in July 2004.

Many "domestic" air-conditioners sold through trade supply routes are actually used in non-domestic buildings, and many sales are not captured by market survey statistics. This means there is uncertainty about their environmental impact. Although a growth in sales of domestic air-conditioners seems likely, their impact is small compared to that of air-conditioning in non-domestic buildings.

At present, the MTP does not plan any further research specifically on air-conditioning in domestic homes, and it is not aware of any current or planned research being undertaken by other programmes or organisations on the contribution to climate change.

Air Quality

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the air quality in Brent; and if he will make a statement. [87723]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local authorities have a duty, under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, to review and assess the current, and likely future, air quality in their areas. Where local authorities consider that one or more of the nationally prescribed air quality objectives for each of the seven pollutants is unlikely to be met by the relevant deadline, they must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), covering the area where the problem is expected. These local authorities must then take action, along with other agencies and organisations, to work towards meeting the air quality objectives. The Mayor has responsibility for ensuring the Local Air Quality Management regime is undertaken appropriately by London boroughs.

Following the first round of reviews and assessments, the London borough of Brent declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in respect of nitrogen dioxide and particulates (PM10) in April 2001. In fulfilment of its obligations, Brent carried out a further assessment of the existing, and likely future, air quality within the existing AQMA in the borough, and submitted a report to my Department in September 2003. The report concluded that the AQMA, as declared, was still justified. Brent has an action plan in place for their AQMA.

The second round of reviews and assessments started in 2003. London boroughs had to submit their Updating and Screening Assessments (USA) by December 2003, and were expected to submit either a detailed assessment (where further investigation was required) or a progress report by December 2004. The London borough of Brent submitted their USA to my Department in October 2004. They concluded that further investigation (detailed assessment) was needed in respect of the likely exceedences of benzene, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and PM_{10} objectives. The detailed assessment was submitted to my Department in April 2006 and the Mayor of London in March 2006. The report concluded that additional AQMAs are required for nitrogen dioxide and PM_{10}.

The third round of review and assessments has now started and local authorities were asked to submit a new USA by the end of April 2006. Brent's USA has been received and my officials are currently assessing the report. The Mayor of London has also received a copy of Brent's USA.

Area-based Initiatives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* expenditure was for administration on each area-based initiative for which his Department and its predecessors have been responsible in each year since 1997. [87525]

Ian Pearson: The Department does not maintain a separate record of expenditure for administrating geographically targeted Government interventions, it is included in the overall administration costs. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bovine TB

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the definition of sound science is by which he will determine the Government's response to its consultations on methods to control bovine tuberculosis. [87112]

Mr. Bradshaw: I will base any decision on badger culling on a sound scientific and practical foundation. By "sound science" I mean the evidence from the available science base and the outcomes from the on-going TB research programme.

British Waterways

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department will sign the long-term contract with British Waterways recommended in the quinquennial review in 2004. [87404]

Barry Gardiner: The 2004 Policy Review of British Waterways made a number of recommendations associated with increasing clarity of purpose, measurement of performance and long-term funding arrangements.

We are currently discussing with British Waterways, how these might be achieved in practice. The aims are to establish a more robust funding and performance framework to maintain waterways at a sustainable level, give clarity on expectation on income and efficiencies and certainty of funding over the medium term. The intention is for this framework to be in place for the next Comprehensive Spending Review period.

CAP/Agricultural Tariffs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had on *(a)* agricultural tariffs and *(b)* the common agricultural policy with (i) the US Department of Agriculture and (ii) EU Commissioner Boel in relation to the Doha world trade talks. [86768]

Ian Pearson: My DEFRA ministerial colleagues and I continue to meet regularly with Commissioner Fischer Boel and the European Commission's directorate-general for Agriculture and Rural Development to discuss a range of issues including reform of the common agricultural policy and the current World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations which include agricultural tariffs.

We also have contact with representatives from the US Administration and other third countries to discuss issues including agricultural policy and the current Doha talks, and will continue to do so in the future. The European Commission has responsibility for trade negotiations, which take place within a mandate set by EU member states, and has regular contact with WTO delegations.

Carbon Emissions

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to ensure that the UK Government will reduce the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent. by 2010. [87474]

Ian Pearson: The new UK climate change programme, published in March 2006, details policies and measures to cut UK emissions of carbondioxide and other/greenhouse gases. The UK's climate change programme 2006 is available on the Defra website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/pdf/ukccp06-all.pdf

On current projections we are expected to achieve a 16.2 per cent. reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010, however the climate change programme is not the final word and further contributions are likely be made by the Energy Review, the Department for Communities and Local Government Review of buildings and other Government initiatives over the coming years.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total carbon emissions of the UK were in 2005-06; and what assessment he has made of the relative performance of the UK on carbon emissions compared with other major industrial nations. [87572]

Ian Pearson: Estimates of UK greenhouse gas emissions for 2005 are not yet available. Summary statistics for 2005 will be published in January 2007 and a full national inventory report for the UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) will be published in April 2007.

Provisional data for 2005 suggest that UK emissions of carbon dioxide were some 153 million tonnes of carbon, and that total greenhouse gas emissions were about 178.9 million tonnes of carbon equivalent. These were respectively about 5.3 per cent. and about 14.6 per cent. below the Kyoto protocol base year level. Provisional estimates are uncertain, but mostly within 1 percentage point of the final figure. In 2004, the most recent year which finalised data are available, UK carbon dioxide and total greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to have been 5.6 per cent. and 14.6 per cent. respectively below Kyoto base year levels.

Of the major mature market economies, only Germany, which has undergone significant economic restructuring since reunification, has reduced its emissions by a greater amount than the UK. The US which has ratified the UNFCCC but not the Kyoto protocol, is estimated to have increased its greenhouse emissions by 16 per cent. between 1990 and 2004.

Climate Change

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the implications of climate change for rural areas; and what plans his Department has to help areas to respond to these implications. [88528]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA has recently received the final report of a study commissioned under the Cross-Regional Research Programme on climate change and its impacts on the Countryside and Rural Economy. The project also considered possible adaptation strategies that could be implemented to lessen the effects of unavoidable climate change. The report outlined the factors contributing to the vulnerability of rural areas, identified the key climate impacts likely to occur, and discussed potential adaptation strategies that could be implemented.

Rural areas will face the same challenges as the UK as a whole: higher average temperatures, more frequent and higher extreme temperatures, especially in the South East, together with warmer wetter winters and longer dry summers, and higher risk of extreme storm and drought events. Farmers and other land managers are in the front line of a changing climate and, as

identified in the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy Forward Look, tackling climate change and its impacts are a key part of DEFRA policy on agriculture. Research suggests that though climate change impacts do not appear to threaten the viability of the agriculture industry as a whole in the UK, due to the adaptability of UK systems, individual agricultural businesses and land managers will need to be aware of the need to adapt.

In order to help raise awareness of the problems and develop suitable adaptation strategies, the Rural Climate Change Forum has been established to provide a high level forum for dialogue with the Government, and authoritative advice and leadership to rural stakeholders. Last year under the UK presidency of the EU, we hosted the first ever Joint Informal Council on Environment and Agriculture on the topic of agriculture and climate change.

We have recently awarded funding under the Climate Challenge Fund to the National Farmers' Union and Forum for the Future, to communicate climate change issues to land managers. We will be working with the National Farmers' Union, the Country Land and Business Association and the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) to host a seminar on adaptation for agricultural support industries in September this year. We are already working with rural stakeholders and UKCIP on identifying and publicising adaptation strategies and encouraging land managers to see dealing with climate change as part of risk management in their business. UKCIP and regional partners have established rural climate change partnerships to identify local action needed.

The Climate Change Programme 2006 and work on the UK Adaptation Policy Framework lay out a clear framework for action, and signalled a step change in the recognition given to land managers in addressing climate change. The Government will continue to fund research to support this work on impacts and adaptation, particularly through the UK Climate Impacts Programme which is conducting ongoing work to provide scenarios to show how our climate might change and co-ordinating research on dealing with our future climate. We are also considering the scope for establishing an innovation centre for climate change and agriculture to lead and foster research partnerships with relevant UK farming and food interests, and in particular drawing on the experience and systems from regions in climate conditions the UK may face in the future.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of *(a)* the difference between UK and world prices for agricultural food products as a proxy for the cost to the UK consumer of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and *(b)* the notional UK contribution to CAP expenditure, broken down by (i) commodity and (ii) European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund spending sector. [83335]

Barry Gardiner: We can estimate the UK consumer cost of the CAP by comparing the difference between UK and world prices for agricultural products and applying that difference to the volume of UK consumption. Our latest provisional estimate, for 2004, shows a cost of the CAP to UK consumers of around £4 billion.

The UK contributes to the total EU budget and not to its individual components; however, we can calculate a notional UK contribution to the CAP. We estimate that, in 2004, this notional cost to UK taxpayers of expenditure through the CAP budget was around £3.7 billion (after a notional "agricultural" abatement).

We do not have estimates of the notional UK contribution to spending on individual agricultural commodity sectors. However, the following table provides a breakdown of CAP the level and share of expenditure by commodity and CAP Pillar.

CAP expenditure by commodity and pillar, 2004

	€ million	Share (Percentage)
Arable crops	17,297	39
Sugar	1,284	3
Olive oil	2,372	5
Fruits and vegetables	1,573	4
Wine	1,092	2
Tobacco	929	2
Other vegetable products	1,534	3
Milk	1,993	4
Beef	7,776	17
Sheep and goats	1,470	3
Pigmeat, eggs and poultry meat	173	0
Other animal products	24	0
Other	782	2
Rural development	6,462	14
Total	44,761	100

Source:
European Commission, (2005) 34th Financial Report on The Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund.

Dairy Co-operatives

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what publicly-funded incentives exist for dairy farmers to set-up supplier co-operatives. [87167]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* A number of dairy co-operatives already exist in Great Britain. The three largest supply around 40 per cent. of raw milk in the UK, process approximately 25 per cent. of the GB milk supply, and between them have over 8,000 farmer members.

Advice and practical assistance to farmers who wish to establish co-operatives or other forms of collaborative enterprises is available from English Farming and Food Partnerships (EFFP). EFFP was set up in line with a recommendation by the Policy Commission for the establishment of a body responsible for encouraging and supporting collaborative activity in England. Its activities are part funded by Government.

Co-operation and collaboration benefiting primary producers is one of the Government's stated priorities for the award of grants under the Agricultural Development Scheme.

In the consultation on the priorities for the next Rural Development Programme for England (2007-13)

we proposed that support for the promotion and encouragement of greater collaboration and co-operation between producers should be an activity that the next Programme should support. We are currently considering how to reflect the responses to the consultation in the development of the Programme.

Development (South-East)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research *(a)* has been completed and *(b)* is planned into the effect on the environment of (i) existing, (ii) extended and (iii) new developments for London and the South East in the period 2020 to 2050, with particular reference to (A) transport, (B) land use and (C) biodiversity; and if he will make a statement. [83763]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra has not carried out any research in to the environmental impacts of development in London and the South East for the period 2020 to 2050, and none is currently planned.

Defra and DCLG commissioned the consultants Entec to model the environmental impacts of the original levels of increased housing supply proposed in Kate Barker's review of housing supply. The report, entitled: "A sustainability impact study of additional housing scenarios in England" was published in December 2005- and was used to inform the comprehensive package of environmental measures that was announced as part of the Government's response to the Barker review. However, the period for this study was from 2006-31, and the findings were not location specific. This study investigated a wide range of environmental impacts including land take, but did not consider transport or biodiversity impacts. The report can be found on the DCLG website.

Domestically Produced Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of food consumed in the UK was produced in the UK in each year since 1997. [88526]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows UK self sufficiency in food as a percentage of all food and indigenous food.

Self-sufficiency is calculated as the value of production of raw food divided by the value of raw food for human consumption.

	UK self sufficiency in food as a percentage of:	
	all food	*indigenous type food*
1997	68.2	81.6
1998	67.4	81.8
1999	67.5	81.5
2000	66.6	80.1
2001	62.7	75.1
2002	62.4	75.5
2003	63.5	76.7
2004	61.9	74.6
2005	60.0	73.3

Electric Shock Collars

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if the Government will carry out an investigation into the use of electric shock collars as a training aid for dogs; and if he will use such research to assess the merits of banning their use. [87113]

Mr. Bradshaw: We recognise that future research into electric shock collars is a priority. The Department has recently circulated a new call for research, in the form of a Limited Tender Call, with the aim of taking forward any research on or after April 2007. The aim is to obtain independent scientific evidence so that a decision can be taken as to whether or not there is a need for regulation in this area.

We have also asked the Companion Animal Welfare Council, in its role as advisory body to the Government on companion animal welfare matters, to undertake an independent study of available evidence on the use of electronic training devices. The outcome of this study will help inform Defra policy and will complement any separate research that Defra commissions into these devices.

If regulation were considered necessary there would be a full public consultation before any regulations were drafted and put to Parliament. All research into these areas commissioned by the Government will be put in the public domain.

Energy Crops

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support for growers of *(a)* miscanthus and *(b)* other energy crops will be provided after 31 July 2006. [88224]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA is currently considering how best to support energy crops under the new Rural Development Programme (RDP), which will come into operation in 2007. The RDP is a national programme but is part funded by the EU, so it will need to comply with the provisions of the EU Rural Development Regulation (RDR). Therefore, DEFRA is also in discussions with the Commission on how support for Energy Crops can continue under the RDP in 2007 and beyond.

The EU's annual €45 per hectare Energy Aid payment is available to farmers for purpose-grown energy crops grown on non set-aside land. Farmers can also receive the single payment for purpose-grown energy crops on set-aside or where the EU's €45 per hectare energy aid payment is claimed for crops on non set-aside land.

Support for energy crops is also provided by Research and Development funding from DEFRA. This underpins an expansion in the commercial breeding programme. The aim is to double the output of new varieties by developing crops with maximised yield and resistance to fungal diseases and pests.

Energy Efficiency

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much energy his Department estimates would be saved if all homes that needed it were insulated. [81429]

Ian Pearson: We estimate that if all homes received all cost-effective insulation measures (such as loft and cavity wall insulation) where appropriate, the maximum energy savings would be around 240 peta joules (PJ). For comparison, current energy consumption from all UK housing is around 2,000 PJ, so the saving is around 12 per cent.

However, in practice households are likely to take some of the savings as comfort (for example, higher internal temperatures), which would reduce the savings accordingly. If comfort taking is assumed to be 30 per cent., the energy savings would be around 160 PJ.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why his Department has revised the energy savings calculations for *(a)* light bulbs and *(b)* insulation. [81430]

Ian Pearson: Revisions were made in the light of new information arising from monitoring and modelling projects. Full details were published under the energy efficiency commitment (EEC) section of the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy/eec/pdf/measuremix.pdf in February 2005.

For light bulbs, the new factors were the use of an average saving across different bulb wattages and different bulb types; recognition that most households were now likely to have at least one compact fluorescent lamp, most probably in the most heavily-used light fitting, so the annual hours of use for new installations would now be shorter than before (thereby reducing the annual savings); and allowance for the heat replacement effect.

For insulation, monitoring projects had indicated that actual energy savings were rather lower than expected from models. Additionally, in practice, the extent of the fillable cavity was somewhat smaller than the external wall area. Pending the outcome of further monitoring, the energy (and carbon) savings were slightly reduced. DEFRA has a continuing programme of monitoring and research to keep the savings from different measures as up to date as possible.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an assessment of the rate of return to energy efficiency schemes supported by the Department including social benefits; and if he will make an assessment of the private rate of return and payback period for private individuals who benefit from such schemes. [81786]

Ian Pearson: For the first phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC1), the estimated Internal Rate of Return (IRR) for the scheme as a whole was around 30 per cent. excluding the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) and the value of air quality improvements. It was over 35 per cent. if these were included. The returns for the current phase are expected to be slightly lower, since the "quick wins" have now been acted on.

The corresponding IRR for a private individual benefiting from EEC will depend on the measure installed, and the particular incentive offered by the energy supplier. The Energy Saving Trust has information on typical benefits and costs charged to consumers under the scheme, and we have used this information for the following two examples.

For cavity wall insulation, using today's prices, the IRR is 45-50 per cent. and the payback period just over two years. The corresponding figures for a pack of four low energy lamps, using the savings assumptions for EEC2 (see www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy/eec/pdf/measuremix.pdf) are 80-90 per cent. and 14 months.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total cost was of the warm front and energy efficiency schemes in each year since 2000; and how much was spent on *(a)* grants, *(b)* promotion and advertising and *(c)* administration in each year. [88891]

Ian Pearson: A full response to this question could be made only at disproportionate cost.

Environment Agency

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) by what percentage the Environment Agency has been asked to reduce its spending from the original level allocated for 2006-07; [87628]

(2) pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Reading West (Martin Salter) Oral Answer of 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 445, on the Environment Agency (grant in aid), by what amount the Environment Agency has been asked to reduce its budget in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [88920]

(3) whether the budget for flood defences is to be changed; and if he will make a statement. [88921]

Ian Pearson: As part of the Spending Review 04 settlement, the Environment Agency was given an increased indicative grant in aid budget for 2006-07 of £573 million. However, following the initial budget setting exercise for 2006-07 this figure was reduced by 0.77 per cent. This amounts to a £4.4 million reduction.

A budget review exercise is under way which is examining expenditure across the whole of DEFRA. No final decisions have yet been taken. Meanwhile, consultation is taking place with Environment Agency to evaluate the budget review proposals and options.

Environmental Budget Lines

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes have been requested in the budget allocations for environmental budget lines in his Department. [89033]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA is committed to living within its overall budget for 2006-07 as voted by Parliament. At present there is a budget review exercise under way which is examining expenditure across the whole of

DEFRA. No final decisions have yet been taken and these are expected to be made by early August. Meanwhile consultation is taking place between the Department's Environment Directorate General and its delivery partners, including the Environment Agency, to evaluate the budget review proposals and options.

Environmental Noise

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the responses to the consultation on proposals for transposition and implementation of Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. [88317]

Mr. Bradshaw: Copies of the responses will be made publicly available during the summer, through the Defra Information Resource Centre, Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR. I also will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

EU Directives

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department was of implementing and administering EU directives, regulations and policies in 2005-06. [86757]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department, but by the management units responsible for the policy areas concerned. Disaggregated costs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EU Legislation

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department issues *(a)* advice and *(b)* instructions to the Scottish Executive on the implementation of EU legislation in Scotland. [86513]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* Implementation of EU legislation is a matter for the Scottish Executive, in those areas which are devolved, by the Scotland Act 1998. The Department offers advice on implementation, when asked to do so by the Executive.

Farm Incomes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the trend in the level of farm incomes over the last five years. [87086]

Barry Gardiner: Farm incomes for England in the past five years are given in the table as follows.

Net farm income by farm type [1], England 2000-01 to 2004-05

	2000-01	[2]2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Nominal Terms Cereals	7,500	5,900	13,200	36,400	15,600
General Cropping	18,600	17,500	15,600	56,800	32,200
Horticulture	21,600	35,400	34,600	40,600	28,400
Dairy	14,000	30,900	16,400	23,600	26,400
Grazing livestock (Lowland)	-400	-100	6,400	7,100	5,400
Grazing livestock (Less Favoured Area)	5,900	7,400	17,700	15,000	13,400
Pigs	42,100	21,600	25,300	34,400	25,100
Poultry	30,300	26,700	97,100	53,200	89,700
Mixed	7,600	4,500	11,400	24,400	16,400
All types	10,600	14,900	16,600	29,500	21,200

[1] Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business.
[2] Excluding farms subjected to compulsory foot and mouth disease cull.
Source:
Farm Business Survey (FBS)

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average annual income was of *(a)* farms and *(b)* hill farms in (i) England and Wales, (ii) Cumbria, and (iii) Westmorland and Lonsdale in each year since 1997. [88527]

Ian Pearson: Farm incomes for England since 1997 are given in the table as follows. Grazing livestock (less favoured area) is equivalent to hill farms

Net farm income[1] by farm type, England 1997-08 to 2004-05

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	[2]2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Nominal Terms								
Cereals	18,400	8,400	15,300	7,500	5,900	13,200	36,400	15,600
General Cropping	20,000	35,800	7,400	18,600	17,500	15,600	56,800	32,200
Horticulture	22,000	22,500	20,100	21,600	35,400	34,600	40,600	28,400
Dairy	19,700	11,600	9,200	14,000	30,900	16,400	23,600	26,400
Grazing Livestock (Less Favoured Area)	12,700	6,200	5,600	5,900	7,400	17,700	15,000	13,400

Net farm income[1] by farm type, England 1997-98 to 2004-05

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	[2]2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Grazing Livestock (Lowland)	2,200	1,700	500	-400	-100	6,400	7,100	5,400
Pigs	14,400	-40,000	-10,900	42,100	21,600	25,300	34,400	25,100
Poultry	24,200	22,800	5,000	30,300	26,700	97,100	53,200	89,700
Mixed	6,400	4,100	7,200	7,600	4,500	11,400	24,400	16,400
All types	15,200	11,500	8,700	10,600	14,900	16,600	29,500	21,200

[1] Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business.
[2] Excluding farms subjected to compulsory foot and mouth disease cull.
Source:
Farm Business Survey (FBS)

Farm incomes for Cumbria since 2002-03 are given in the following table. Data are not available for Westmorland and Lonsdale.

Net farm income by farm type, Cumbria 2002-03 to 2004-05

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Nominal terms		..	
Cereals	[1]	[1]	[1]
General Cropping	[1]	[1]	[1]
Horticulture	[1]	[1]	[1]
Dairy	5,000	20,000	22,000
Grazing Livestock (Less Favoured Area)	20,000	17,000	20,000
Grazing Livestock (Lowland)	[1]	[1]	[1]
Mixed	[1]	[1]	[1]
All types	16,600	29,500	21,200

[1] Too few observations in the sample to give reliable estimates
Welsh data is a matter for the devolved administration
Source:
Farm Business Survey (FBS)

Welsh data are a matter for the devolved administration.

Farm Payments

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of farms had not had their single farm payments validated on the latest date for which figures are available. [80703]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* As of 20 July 2006, 22,385 applications, representing 19.2 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population for the Single Payment Scheme 2005 had not been fully validated. Of that number some 14,640 claimants had received a partial payment.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what additional costs have been incurred due to the delays in making the single farm payment; whether the additional funds will be met from the Department's budget; and if he will make a statement. [86367]

Barry Gardiner: Additional costs, in the form of reduced EU funding, may arise in relation to payments under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) which are made after the end of the regulatory payment window on 30 June 2006.

However, it is too early to say whether such costs will arise in practice as that depends on the outcome of on-going discussions with the European Commission and the amount and timing of outstanding SPS payments across the UK.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 163W, on single farm payments, how much additional funding has been made available; which key rural organisations have received the funding; for what specific purposes it will be used; how much extra money has been made available to organisations which primarily support Cumbrian farmers; and if he will make a statement. [78445]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The additional funding amounted to £115,000, which has been made available to the Rural Stress Information Network, Farm Crisis Network, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, ARC-Addington and The Samaritans in order to boost their capacity, e.g. in terms of staff and IT, to help farmers facing cash-flow problems. The Department does not hold figures on the regional breakdown of this expenditure

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims under the Single Payment Scheme were submitted by 15 June; what the value is; and what proportion this represents of claims for entitlements made in 2005. [86865]

Barry Gardiner: By close of business on 15 June 2006 110,176 applications for the Single Payment Scheme had been received by the Rural Payments Agency.

Until all of these claims have been entered onto our computer system we will not be able to establish the value of such claims, or the proportion this represents of entitlements established in 2005.

Farming

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed in *(a)* dairy farming, *(b)* beef farming, *(c)* sheep farming, *(d)* arable farming, *(e)* mixed farming and *(f)* other forms of farming in Cornwall in (i) 1980, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) 2005. [87520]

Ian Pearson: The number of full and part time employees (including salaried managers and casual

workers) on holdings by farm type (based on predominant activity) in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are as follows:

Farm type	1990	2000	2005
Cereals	116	156	160
General Cropping	609	722	538
Horticulture	744	1,589	957
Pigs and Poultry	247	103	99
Dairy	1,676	1,010	855
Cattle and Sheep (Less Favoured Areas)	306	173	n/a
Grazing Livestock (Less Favoured Areas)	n/a	n/a	186
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	832	635	n/a
Grazing Livestock (Lowland)	n/a	n/a	538
Mixed	669	447	379
Other Types	244	169	212
All types	5,443	5,004	3,924

The number of full and part-time farmers, partners, directors and spouses (if working) on holdings by farm type in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are as follows:

Farm type	1990	2000	2005
Cereals	229	467	473
General Cropping	458	326	389
Horticulture	715	783	841
Pigs and Poultry	210	304	538
Dairy	2,931	2,073	1,748
Cattle and Sheep (Less favoured Areas)	963	725	n/a
Grazing Livestock (Less favoured Areas)	n/a	n/a	797
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	2,700	3,094	n/a
Grazing Livestock (Lowland)	n/a	n/a	3,069
Mixed	989	1,008	1,188
Other Types	866	1,830	1,372
All types	10,061	10,610	10,415

Notes:
1. Data for 1980 are not available
2. 1990 data are for main holdings only, 2000 onwards contains main and minor holdings. A minor holding needs to conform to all of the following: (a) the total area is less than 6 hectares (b) there is no regular whole-time farmer or worker (c) the estimated annual labour requirement is less than 100 days (of 8 hours productive work by an adult worker under average conditions) (d) the glasshouse area is less than 100 square metres (e) the occupier does not farm another building.
3. Changes in farm type classifications mean figures for the cattle and sheep and grazing livestock categories are not directly comparable across the years.

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Flood Risk

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review flood defences in Robertsbridge, East Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [89122]

Ian Pearson: Flood defences in Robertsbridge will be reviewed within the River Rother and Romney Marsh Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP). This plan will set policy and inform future flood risk management investment in the Robertsbridge area for the next 100 years. The CFMP is currently being produced and will be completed by September 2007.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in the number of homes at risk from flooding as a result of *(a)* new homes built in 2006 and *(b)* building developments already identified and underway; and if he will make a statement. [86452]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) leads on development planning policy. DCLG has publicly consulted on strengthening this policy in a new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 which will help manage future flood risks in a sustainable way. DCLG is aiming to publish revised guidance and related changes to the planning system in autumn 2006. The Environment Agency is funded by DEFRA to advise planning authorities on development proposals to ensure flood risk is properly taken into account.

Figures on the number of homes constructed in 2006 or currently under construction are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fly-tipping

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the Answers of 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 418-25W and 16 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 552W, on fly-tipping, if he will provide the information for the most recent year for which figures are available; [87416]

(2) pursuant to the Answer of 31 October 2005, *Official Report*, columns 680-5W, on fly-tipping, if he will provide the most recent information he has in the same format; and if he will make a statement. [88826]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data from Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, for 2005-06 are currently being analysed and will be published on 31 July 2006. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fly-tipping incidents there were in *(a)* South East Cambridgeshire and *(b)* Cambridgeshire in each year since 2000, broken down by the nature of that waste. [88926]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA has worked with the Environment Agency to establish Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, which has been operational since April 2004. No national data were previously available on illegal waste disposal or fly-tipping.

Flycapture collects summary data at local authority level only. The data requested for the relevant local authorities are provided in the following tables:

	Cambridge		East Cambridgeshire		Fenland	
	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
Animal Carcass	—	—	29	30	7	1
Green	16	26	95	119	89	113
Vehicle Parts	45	61	15	11	145	153
White Goods	173	216	67	64	58	74
Other Electrical	11	38	47	34	72	71
Tyres	1	4	71	39	168	204
Asbestos	—	—	3	4	1	11
Clinical	1	55	—	—	4	—
Construction, Demolition, Excavation	26	21	15	8	147	214
Black Bags Commercial	24	67	1	1	4	7
Black Bags Household	46	148	171	186	134	283
Chemical Drums, Oil, Fuel	2	2	4	1	66	64
Other Household Waste	584	594	147	147	321	474
Other Commercial Waste	19	18	2	7	46	107
Other unidentified	49	71	—	—	75	32
Total	997	1,321	667	651	1,337	1,808

	Huntingdonshire		South Cambridgeshire		Total	
	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
Animal Carcass	25	16	35	34	96	81
Green	117	59	72	38	389	355
Vehicle Parts	29	16	38	18	272	259
White Goods	83	71	51	34	432	459
Other Electrical	33	31	22	21	185	195
Tyres	85	64	61	31	386	342
Asbestos	4	2	5	7	13	24
Clinical	6	1	2	6	13	62
Construction, Demolition, Excavation	96	64	45	46	329	353
Black Bags Commercial	3	5	37	28	69	108
Black Bags Household	197	124	174	126	722	867
Chemical Drums, Oil, Fuel	13	10	23	33	108	110
Other Household Waste	139	98	76	43	1,267	1,356
Other Commercial Waste	22	25	4	8	93	165
Other unidentified	—	2	24	12	148	117
Total	852	588	669	485	4,522	4,853

Genetic Use Restriction Technologies

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will *(a)* publish and *(b)* place in the Library the emerging research on the impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies that was considered at the Convention on Biological Diversity in March. [88417]

Ian Pearson: All the documents considered by the eighth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are available on the website of the Convention at:

http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting. asp?lg=0&mtg=cop-08.

The Conference also considered several documents emanating from the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which met from 23-27 January 2006, in Granada, Spain. The documents which relate to this earlier meeting are available at:

http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=WG8J-04.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research the Government are *(a)* funding and *(b)* undertaking into the (i) ecological, (ii) economic, (iii) social and (iv) cultural impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies. [88420]

Ian Pearson: On 22 June 2006, DEFRA published a review that considered possible methods for containing the spread of novel genes in Genetically Modified (GM) crop plants. This issue is of potential relevance to the risk assessment of new types of GM crop. The review is available on the DEFRA website at:

www2.defra.gov.uk/research/project_data/More.asp?I= CB02036&M=KWS& V=CB02036&SUBMIT1= Search&SCOPE=0.

DEFRA is also part-funding an EU project called "COEXTRA (GM and non-GM supply chains—their coexistence and traceability)". This aims to study bio containment technologies and will, among other things, examine their legal, social and ethical dimensions. The project is due to report in 2008.

Greyhounds

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his Cabinet colleagues about the introduction of statutory regulations concerning animal welfare for the greyhound industry. [86536]

Mr. Bradshaw: The outline of our proposals for secondary legislation, including the regulation of greyhound welfare, has been considered at Cabinet level.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what health risks are associated with the burial of dead greyhounds; and if he will make a statement. [87514]

Mr. Bradshaw: The landfilling of previously healthy dead greyhounds would not be expected to result in an increase in risks to health. Where greyhounds are buried (other than as private pets) the landfilling operation should be subject to regulation under a Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) permit, issued by the Environment Agency, which meets the environmental and health objectives of the Waste Framework Directive and the technical requirements of the Landfill Directive.

Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the transfer of Sites of Special Scientific Interest Wildlife Enhancement Scheme agreements into the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme. [87073]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* The Rural Development Service and English Nature are jointly managing a project to ensure the smooth transfer of sites from the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme into new management agreements with the aim of meeting the PSA target for 95 per cent. of SSSIs by area to be in 'favourable or recovering condition' by 2010. This has included identifying all sites where a transfer into the Higher Level of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme will be the appropriate land management agreement and setting a timetable for those transfers.

In 2005-06 the interim target of 70 per cent. of SSSIs in 'favourable or recovering condition' was achieved. The project to manage transfer referred to above will continue to support progress towards the longer term target. Currently 25 per cent. of HLS agreements include land within a SSSI.

Ironbridge Power Station

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Environment Agency has imposed additional emission controls on Ironbridge Power Station since it commenced generating electricity from co-incineration. [88671]

Ian Pearson: The Ironbridge Power Station is regulated under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) authorisation has been issued by the Environment Agency to regulate emissions.

In 2003, a variation to the authorisation was issued which imposed a number of conditions specifying the acceptable biomass raw materials to be co-fired with the main fuel, coal. The existing emission controls remained unchanged.

The station is not regulated as a co-incineration plant as it does not burn waste materials to generate energy.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1285W, on judicial review, where the information is held; and how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public may have access to that information. [85172]

Barry Gardiner: Since 1 January 2006 the litigation team in DEFRA has maintained a database on which details of all judicial reviews against DEFRA are recorded. Prior to that date no central record was kept of the number or of the outcome of judicial reviews and therefore the information requested could only be obtained by recalling and examining all litigation files from the file store. If an hon. Member or member of the public wishes to pursue the outcome of any particular judicial review then a request can be made under the Freedom of Information Act and will be dealt with accordingly.

Judicial review proceedings are commenced in the High Court. The proceedings are public proceedings. The High Court may maintain a record of the outcome all judicial review proceedings issued. The title of the proceedings will enable an inquirer to determine the identity of the defendant and a request made to see the final order or judgment. Many judicial review judgments are available on the Courts Service website or on http://www.bailii.org/databases.

Landfill

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste has been sent to landfill in the last 10 years. [86466]

Mr. Bradshaw: From 1997 to 2005, we landfilled an estimated total of 100.8 million tonnes of biodegradable municipal waste. From 2001-02, which is the first year for which we have reliable figures, to 2004-05, we reduced the amount of that waste sent to landfill from 15.7 million tonnes to 13.9 million tonnes, thanks to the considerable efforts of the Government, local authorities and the public to recycle more waste.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to limit the amount of waste that goes to landfill. [88903]

Mr. Bradshaw: Action to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill is driven by regional and local strategies and supported by nationally funded programmes.

Less of most kinds of waste is being landfilled; the proportion of municipal waste being disposed of in landfill has continued to decrease from 72 per cent. in 2003-04, to 67 per cent. in 2004-05. The actual tonnage of municipal waste disposed of in landfill also decreased again from 20.9 million tonnes in 2003-04 to 19.9 million tonnes in 2004-05. In addition, England is on course to meet its 2005 targets of reducing the amount of commercial and industrial waste landfilled by 15 per cent. against the 1998 figures. However, we have more to do to meet our obligations under the landfill directive to reduce the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste.

We are working towards challenging targets, but we are beginning to make progress towards them through higher recycling and composting rates for household waste, greater reuse of waste materials, plus work to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first instance.

The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, which we established in 2005, is the main measure to help us meet our obligations under the landfill directive to divert the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill.

The continued increase in the rate of landfill tax (rising to £3 per tonne per year from 2005-06, until it reaches £35 per tonne in the medium to long term) is another important instrument in reducing our reliance on landfill and moving to more sustainable waste management options.

Revenue from the additional landfill tax is, in turn, being fed into the Business Resource, Efficiency and Waste programme, which is returning £284 million to businesses over three years through resource efficiency and waste minimisation programmes. The programme ensures that while increased landfill tax incentivise businesses to reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill, the advice and assistance is available to them to develop ways to achieve this effectively.

The revised Waste Strategy for England, which we will publish later this year, will outline what steps are being taken, and what more needs to be done, to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. The public, businesses and Government all have roles to play in following more sustainable waste management practices.

Lyme Bay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of static gear fisheries, sea angling and diving on the local economy of communities around Lyme Bay; and if he will make a statement. [86058]

Mr. Bradshaw: Such an assessment has not yet been made. The South West Inshore Scallopers Association is commissioning a report from the Marine Institute at the University of Plymouth on "Options for the Spatial Management of Scallop Dredging Impacts on Hard Substrates in Lyme Bay". Part of the study will address these important issues.

Navigation Charges

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Environment Agency has made of the effect of its proposed increases in charges to boaters on their use of its navigations. [87030]

Barry Gardiner: Navigation supports Government objectives for health, recreation and social inclusion and plays an important role in flood relief. However, for waterways to remain sustainable in the future, boaters need to pay a fair and reasonable rate. The Environment Agency is currently in discussion with industry over what that rate might be.

Noise-related Complaints

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many noise abatement notices were served in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87276]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not hold the information requested. Data held relating to noise abatement notices are compiled from voluntary returns from local authorities to the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). They are recorded by year, but not location.

The relevant data for 2004-05 for England and Wales are available from the CIEH's website at the following address:

http://www.cieh.org/library/Knowledge/Environmental_protection/CIEH_annual_noise_complaint_statistics.pdf.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many noise-related complaints have been lodged in each London borough in each of the last five years; and how many of these resulted in further action. [87304]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not hold the information requested. Data held relating to noise-related complaints are compiled from voluntary returns from local authorities to the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). They are recorded by year, but not location.

The relevant data for 2004-05 for England and Wales are available from the CIEH's website at http://www.cieh.org/library/Knowledge/Environmental_protection/CIEH_annual_noise_complaint_statistics.pdf.

Nuclear Waste

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to ensure the safe disposal of nuclear waste. [88335]

Ian Pearson: The UK Government and devolved Administrations are committed to finding a solution to the problem of nuclear waste. Most radioactive waste is currently stored safely on major sites under licence from the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, and is subject to strict

regulatory control. The environment agencies of the respective Administrations regulate any disposal of waste from nuclear sites.

For higher and intermediate activity radioactive waste, future policy, and arrangements for implementing this, will be decided by the Government in light of the independent Committee for Radioactive Waste Management's (CoRWM's) final recommendations. CoRWM's report is due to be delivered to the Government at the end of this month and copies will be made available in the Libraries of the House. The Government will make a formal response to CoRWM's report after the summer recess, when the UK Parliament and devolved Administrations are sitting.

Earlier this year, the Government held a public consultation on the long-term UK strategy for dealing with solid, low level radioactive waste. The results of this consultation are being considered and a statement will be made in the autumn.

One Planet Farming Concept

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to elaborate on his one planet farming concept; and how this concept will inform his attempts to renegotiate the Common Agricultural Policy. [87224]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for DEFRA, made clear in his speech at the Royal Show on 3 July that he wants to encourage a wide ranging debate about the vital role which farming plays in this country and the contribution it can make to one planet living. Working in partnership with key stakeholders, we expect thinking on this issue to develop in the coming months.

An important starting point is the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy: Forward Look, available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/pdf/sffs-fwd-060718.pdf

The Forward Look sets out key areas that need to be taken forward to help achieve one planet farming, building on the excellent work that has already been put in place under the Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy at a national and regional level. It has five priority themes: succeeding in the market; improving the environmental performance of farming; Sustainable consumption and production; climate change and agriculture and animal health and welfare.

Reducing the environmental footprint of farming was one of the important aims of the last major reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 2003. The reforms reduced the environmental impact of agriculture by decoupling subsidies from production, thereby removing an incentive to intensify production, and also by requiring cross compliance with environmental standards.

The review of agri-environment schemes carried out in the light of the 2003 reforms has enabled us to build on the way we support farmers to change their farming methods to conserve biodiversity through the development of the Environmental Stewardship schemes.

The Government's Vision for the CAP is consistent with, and complimentary to, the Secretary of State's goal of 'one planet farming'. The Vision considered agriculture from an environmental perspective (among others) setting out proposals for sustainable farming. In particular the Vision calls for more emphasis on Pillar 2 funding and the total phasing out of coupled payments. Both of these aims will help ensure the CAP secures further environmental benefits.

Organic Production

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many certification bodies are approved by his Department to inspect organic production and processing in the UK; and what checks are being made by his Department on these bodies to ensure that organic producers are complying with relevant UK and EU regulations. [88603]

Ian Pearson: There are 10 Certification Bodies approved to inspect organic production and processing in the UK.

An Approved Certification Body must demonstrate that they satisfy the general requirements for the bodies operating product certification systems (EN45011). They are therefore subject to an annual inspection by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

Reports from these inspections are then passed on to the Advisory Committee on Organic Standards (ACOS). Through ACOS, checks are made on a selection of Certification Body inspections to ensure that they are complying with the relevant UK and EU Regulations.

Pollution (Beaches)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to encourage local authorities to deal with pollution on beaches. [88334]

Ian Pearson: Under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, local authorities must keep amenity beaches for which they are responsible generally clear of all types of litter and refuse between 1 May and 30 September inclusive. This duty extends to the place at which the tide flows at mean high water springs.

The recently revised code recommends, as good practice, that duty bodies also carry out a regular monitoring programme of other beaches in their area and develop an appropriate cleansing regime. Under the current and revised European bathing water directive, there is a provision to monitor the presence of litter and other pollutants in identified bathing waters and to manage these accordingly.

Beyond these requirements, local authorities are encouraged to keep beaches clean through the international Blue Flag Award administered in the UK by ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns), and of the UK-wide ENCAMS Seaside Award scheme recognising clean, safe and well-managed beaches. Each year, local authorities can apply for a Blue Flag or Seaside Award, or both, for any of their beaches.

Each application is independently assessed and must satisfy rigorous criteria covering a broad range of factors pertaining to the management of the beach. In 2006, 77 beaches in England were awarded the blue flag, and 229 beaches gained the seaside award.

A new Quality Coast Award scheme is being introduced for applications from this year, to replace the Seaside Awards. This has been developed by ENCAMS with support from Defra, and will further assist and encourage local authorities in dealing with pollution on beaches through a holistic approach to the management of beach areas, recognising the diversity of beach environments and their different uses.

Post Office Network Services

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the Post Office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79200]

Barry Gardiner: From information held centrally, the core Department has no contracts with the Post Office.

DEFRA does utilise the Post Office to issue Rod Licences and Game Licences. Rod licences are available from all Post Office outlets in England and Wales and, more recently, have been available in selected outlets on the Scottish border. Overall, the number of available outlets has decreased from 17,500 to 13,000 currently. Approximately 1.3 million rod licences are sold annually and the Post Office process just over 1 million annually. In 2005-06, the Post Office issued 1,067,663 rod licences at a total value of £16,338,105.75. Under the 1975 Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, the Environment Agency provides remuneration to the Post Office for the issuance of such licences.

Under section 134 of the Post Office Act 1969, the Post Office issues licences to take game and an excise licence is required to sell game on behalf of local authorities. Under section 135 of the 1969 Act, DEFRA provides remuneration to the Post Office for the issuance of such licences which are available through all branches of the Post Office. The total number of licences issued for the years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 were 42,310; 48,385; 66,975; 77,361 and 72,385 respectively. The figures cover licences issued in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Produce Prices

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average *(a)* farm gate and *(b)* retail price was of (i) one kilogram of (A) ham, (B) tomatoes, (C) strawberries, (D) apples, (E) grapes, (F) cheese, (G) chicken, (H) potatoes, (I) carrots, (J) lettuce, (K) spring onions and (L) beetroot, (ii) one pint of (A) milk, (B) cream and (C) yoghurt, (iii) one dozen eggs and (iv) one litre of English wine in each year since 1997, broken down by (1) organic and (2) conventionally produced foodstuffs. [87437]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* Soil Association guide prices for organic produce in 2005 are shown in table 1. The prices are taken from a range of direct, wholesale and contracted markets. Farm-gate and retail prices are shown in tables 2 and 3. It is not possible to separately identify organically and conventionally produced foodstuffs.

Table 1: Guide prices for organic produce in 2005

Produce		
Pork[1]	Per kilo deadweight	220-265
Tomatoes	n/a	—
Strawberries[2]	Per tonne	3000
Apples[2]	Per tonne	1000-1300
Grapes	n/a	—
Cheese	n/a	—
Chicken Contract[1]	Per bird	130
Chicken retail[1]	Per kilo	500+
Potatoes[2]	Per tonne	210-320
Carrots[2]	Per tonne	290-550
Lettuce[1]	Per head	34-55
Spring onions	n/a	—
Beetroot	n/a	—
Milk	n/a	—
Cream	n/a	—
Yoghurt	n/a	—
Eggs contract[1]	Per dozen	116-145
Eggs retail[1]	Per dozen	250-300
English wine	n/a	—

n/a = Not available
[1] In pence (p)
[2] In pounds (£)
[3] Estimated farm-gate price
Source:
Soil Association "Organic Market Report 2006"

Table 2: Farm-gate prices

Produce	Pence (p)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Pigs	Per kilo	111	81	79	94	98	93	103	103	103
Tomatoes[1]	Per kilo	55	60	58	75	72	79	104	75	87
Strawberries	Per kilo	209	214	210	225	220	244	244	208	199
Apples	Per kilo	53	48	44	36	35	39	46	36	35
Grapes	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheese	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken[2]	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	86	93	96
Potatoes (all)	Per kilo	7	12	12	8	11	8	10	12	10
Carrots	Per kilo	11	14	14	10	21	20	21	19	23
Lettuce	Per kilo	66	55	59	53	69	68	74	58	60
Spring onions	Per kilo	126	120	113	113	136	129	127	125	124

Table 2: Farm-gate prices

Produce	*Pence (p)*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Beetroot	Per kilo	14	16	16	15	19	26	30	30	29
Milk	Per litre	22	19	18	17	19	17	18	18	18
Cream	Per litre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yogurt	Per litre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eggs	Per dozen	39	36	34	39	41	42	46	49	45
English wine	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

n/a = Not available
[1] Round, vine, plum and cherry
[2] Prior to 2003
Source:
DEFRA

Table 3: Retail prices

Produce	*Pence (p)*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Ham	Per kilo	805	770	770	770	841	796	799	793	1000
Tomatoes	Per kilo	117	123	124	150	125	140	149	129	142
Strawberries	n/a									
Apples (dessert)	Per kilo	112	106	103	108	116	121	127	125	118
Grapes	Per kilo	289	306	291	289	312	302	303	294	281
Cheese (cheddar type)	Per kilo	525	500	484	505	510	524	548	567	550
Chicken (Fresh or Chilled)	Per kilo	236	226	220	223	227	224	228	232	230
Potatoes (new)	Per kilo	55	77	71	70	87	87	89	96	84
Carrots	Per kilo	49	53	49	45	61	55	55	57	64
Lettuce iceberg)	Each	63	56	66	55	67	64	73	60	72
Spring onions	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beetroot	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milk (whole pasteurised)[1]	Per litre[2]	62	60	60	60	65	63	65	62	61
Cream	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yoghurt	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eggs (size 4)	Per dozen	138	131	138	138	152	152	154	155	155
English wine	n/a	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

n/a = Not available
[1] Average for 1 litre of shop bought and 1 litre of delivered milk
Source:
Office for National Statistics—average retail prices

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83182]

Barry Gardiner: The number of Ministerial appointees on each of Defra's NDPBs and public corporations and the remuneration and other emoluments they receive (as at 31 March 2006) are as follows.

Body	*Type of appointee*	*Remuneration (£)*	*Other emoluments (£)*
Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances	Chair	205 per day	0
	11 members	153 per day	0
Advisory Committee on Organic Standards	Chair	209 per meeting	0
	12 members	165 per meeting	0
Advisory Committee on Packaging	Chair	Unpaid	0
	8 members	Unpaid	0
Advisory Committee on Pesticides	Chair	204 per meeting	0
	Member	161 per meeting	0
Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment	Chair	203 per meeting	0
	10 members	157 per meeting	0

Body	Type of appointee	Remuneration (£)	Other emoluments (£)
Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees	15 chairs	121 per meeting	0
Agricultural Land Tribunals	7 Chairs	331 per day	0
	10 Deputy Chairs	331 per day	0
	154 members	Unpaid	Financial Loss Allowance—56.96 full day
Agricultural Wages Board	Chair	254 per day	64 Reading allowance
	4 Members	158 per day	40 Reading allowance
Agricultural Wages Committees	7 Chairs	121 per day	0
	3 Deputy Chairs	96 per day	0
	14 members	96 per day	0
Air Quality Expert Group	Chair	199 per day	0
	13 Members	154 per day	0
Animal Health and Welfare Strategy England Implementation Group	Chair	500 per day	250 preparation allowance
	12 members	300 per day	150 preparation allowance
British Potato Council	Chair	61,784 per annum	0
	14 Members	102 per meeting	0
British Waterways	Chair	51,000 per annum	Pensionable Post
	Deputy Chair	14,440 per annum	0
	7 members	10,948 per annum	0
Committee on Radioactive Waste Management	Chair	450 per day	0
	Deputy	300 per day	0
	11 members	300 per day	0
Commons Commissioners	Chairs	435 per day	0
	1 'member'	337 per day	0
Consumer Council for Water	Chair	45,000 per annum	
	4 members	7,000 per annum	0
	4 members	21, 529 per annum	0
	2 members	32,292 per annum	0
Countryside Agency	Chair	66,254 per annum	Pensionable Posts
	9 members	12,495 per annum	0
	6 members	14,280 per annum	0
	1 member	46,408 per annum	0
Covent Garden Market Authority	Chair	45,802 per annum	0
	7 members	8,921 per annum	0
Darwin Advisory Committee	Chair	Unpaid	0
	10 members	Unpaid	0
English Nature–	Chair	53,044 per annum	Pensionable post
	11 members	8,925 per annum	0
	1 member	10,710 per annum	0

Body	Type of appointee	Remuneration (£)	Other emoluments (£)
Environment Agency	Chair	91, 456 per annum	0
	Deputy Chair	30,940 per annum	0
	2 members	15,245 per annum	0
	3 members	19,057 per annum	0
	4 members	22,868 per annum	0
	2 members	26,679 per annum	0
Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards	Chair	194 per day	0
	10 members	149 per day	0
Farm Animal Welfare Council	Chair	209 per meeting	0
	23 Members	129 per meeting	0
Food From Britain	Chair	50,730 per annum	0
	12 members	1,800 per annum	Board members also receive 225 per day for chairing subcommittees or representing the board. Total of 8 days shared between 3 members in 2005-06
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	Chair	300 per day	0
	14 members	57 per day	0
Home Grown Cereals Authority	Chair	25,833 per annum	0
	Deputy Chair	8,934 per annum	0
	14 members	1,446 per annum	0
Horticulture Development Council	Chair	35,358 per annum	0
	14 members	102 per meeting	0
Independent Agricultural Appeals Panel	44 members	162 per day	0
Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB	Chair	190 per day	0
	Deputy Chair	157 per day	0
	5 members	157 per day	0
Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council	Chair	203 per day	0
	Deputy Chair	Unpaid	0
	12 Members	Unpaid	0
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Chair	36,347 per annum	Pensionable post
	3 members	8,925 per annum	0
Meat and Livestock Commission	Chair	81,417 per annum	0
	Deputy Chair	20,961 per annum	0
	5 Members	10,481 per annum	0
	1 member	17,820 per annum	0
	1 member	10,481 per annum	6,000 for chairing MLC Board of Pension Trustees
	1 member	10,481 per annum	45,000 for chairing the English Beef and Lamb Executive
	1 member	10,481 per annum	12,000 for chairing the British Pig Executive
Milk Development Council	Chair	33,999 per annum	0
	10 members	150 per day	0

Body	Type of appointee	Remuneration (£)	Other emoluments (£)
National Forest Company	Chair	15,694 per annum	0
	7 members	2,807 per annum	0
Nirex CLG Ltd.	Chair	450 per day	0
Pesticide Residues Committee	Chair	163 per meeting	0
	8 members	125 per meeting	0
Plant Variety and Seeds Tribunal	10 members	162 per day	0
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Chair	Unpaid	0
	10 members	Unpaid	0
Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution	Chair	237 per day	0
	13 members	209 per day	0
Science Advisory Council	Chair	308 per meeting	150 preparation fee
	Deputy Chair	200 per meeting	100 preparation fee
	10 Members	200 per meeting	100 preparation fee
Sea Fish Industry Authority	Chair	27,475 per annum	0
	Deputy Chair	19,083 per annum	0
	10 members	8,703 per annum	0
Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee	Chair	163 per day	0
	12 members	129 per day	0
Sustainable Development Commission	Chair	15,000 per annum	0
	5 members	3,570 per annum	0
	8 members	2,675 per annum	0
Veterinary Products Committee	Chair	167 per meeting	0
	27 members	133 per meeting	0
Veterinary Residues Committee	Chair	204 per meeting	0
	12 Members	167 per meeting	0
Wine Standards Board	Chair	4,576 per annum	0
	3 members	1,124 per annum	0
Zoos Forum	Chair	Unpaid	0
	Deputy Chair	Unpaid	0
	8 members	Unpaid	0

Defra is also responsible for an additional six public bodies that are currently dormant and do not, therefore have any appointees.

Details of the value of pensions and any contributions made by the public bodies are available in their respective annual report and accounts.

Defra was established in 2001 and therefore there is no equivalent information for 1996, 1986 or 1976.

Recycling

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 20 local councils recycled the greatest quantity of one or more recyclable materials in 2005-06. [88904]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on local authority recycling and composting performances in 2005-06 are not currently available. Figures will be published when we have completed the validation and auditing procedures. Best value performance indicator data for 2004-05 are available from the Defra website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/perf_mgmt.htm.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Middlesbrough and *(c)* the borough of Redcar and Cleveland have been (i) issued with a fixed penalty notice under section 47ZA and (ii) prosecuted under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for failing to meet their local authority's recycling requirements. [87965]

Mr. Bradshaw: Section 47ZA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), as inserted by section 48 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, allows authorised officers to issue a £100 fixed penalty notice (FPN) to any householder not complying with a notice issued under section 46-47 of the EPA.

Local authorities can also prosecute householders for breaches of section 46 of the EPA. This offence carries a maximum fine of £1,000.

The powers exist to help ensure publicised collection arrangements are followed and waste is not left out on the wrong day, at the wrong time or in the wrong receptacle—including those designated for recyclables.

The FPN powers have been in force since 6 April 2006. Data for the number of people issued with an FPN, under the amended EPA are not yet available. Data on prosecutions taken since the amendments, under section 46, will be available in 2007.

Rural Payments Agency

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the overruns in the budget allocation for farming, food and rural affairs in 2006-07 following the problems at the Rural Payments Agency. [88917]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA is committed to living within its overall budget for 2006-07 as voted by Parliament. As a fundamental action in managing the annual budget the Department periodically reviews its internal allocations to ensure that priorities and pressures receive adequate budgetary cover.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Secretary of State has suggested to the Treasury that overruns resulting from problems at the Rural Payments Agency should be met from the Government's overall contingency reserve. [88919]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA is committed to staying within its budget for 2006-07. It is not anticipated that we need to approach HM Treasury for help with our ability to manage the annual budget.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department in each year since February 2004. [88556]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows passes lost and stolen from core DEFRA and its agencies since 2004. Figures for 2006 are from 1 January to date.

	Lost	*Stolen*
DEFRA Core Department		
2004	152	18
2005	147	11
2006	83	8
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science		
2004	20	1
2005	20	2
2006	3	0
Central Science Laboratory		
2004	15	0
2005	8	2
2006	5	1
Veterinary Laboratories Agency		
2004	7	0
2005	28	4
2006	11	0
Rural Payments Agency		
2004	19	2
2005	9	0
2006	40	4
Veterinary Medicines Directorate		
2004	6	0
2005	10	0
2006	5	0

Ship Breaking

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what targets he has set for the number of authorised ship-breaking facilities to be established in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [88624]

Ian Pearson: On 30 March, Defra launched a consultation to enable interested individuals and organisations to provide views on the Government's draft UK Ship Recycling Strategy. The deadline for responses was 22 June.

The draft strategy does not set a target for the number of ship breaking facilities in the UK, as the establishment of such facilities is a matter for commercial decision. Nevertheless, the Government's strategy proposes a number of areas of action at the domestic level to assist in the expansion of ship recycling capacity, primarily through the provision of guidance. Further information is available on the Defra website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/ship.htm.

Smog

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the major causes of smog in London; and what plans the Government have to reduce them; [88177]

(2) what Government targets his Department has set for smog levels in *(a)* London and *(b)* England. [88179]

Mr. Bradshaw: Hot, sunny weather, together with contributions from continental Europe carrying the substances which form ground-level ozone, can produce summer smog in London. Ground-level ozone is formed when sunlight acts on nitrogen dioxide and other atmospheric substances close to the ground. The pollutants that cause ground-level ozone come from a range of sources, including petrol and other fuels.

Ozone is a transboundary pollutant (around 50 per cent. of ozone-forming chemicals in the UK originate from continental Europe). It can only be reduced through national and international measures to reduce emissions from the source pollutants. Through international co-operation, the peak levels of ozone have been reduced due to control measures taken in the UK and its European partners. While still a feature of hot sunny weather, the peak levels seen in 2003 were typically less than half those seen in 1976.

New measures announced in recent years will improve this further by cutting ozone-forming chemicals in solvents and decorative paint across the whole of Europe. We are also pushing for greater EU controls on cars.

We have consulted on measures for Petrol Vapour Recovery stage II (PVR II) which will also help by reducing emissions of ozone-forming chemicals. The proposal is that PVR II would, by 1 January 2010, be required to be installed at: (i) all existing service stations with an annual petrol throughput of greater than 3500m^3, and; (ii) all new service stations with an annual petrol throughput greater than 500m^3.

The Air Quality Strategy for England was recently reviewed to find potential new measures to generate health benefits, and the consultation responses are now being considered. The possible package of measures would reduce the average exposure to air pollutants for everyone, and, if implemented, could see an increase in life-expectancy of three months by 2020.

There are a number of targets for ozone which apply to the whole of the UK, including London. The EU Air Quality Daughter Directive on ozone (2002/3/EC) set a number of target values and long-term objectives for ozone; these are set out in the following tables. In addition, the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC) set limits on the emissions of the ozone precursors, nitrogen oxides and non methane volatile organic compounds, at 1167 kilotonnes and 1200 kilotonnes respectively by 2010.

	Parameter	*Target value for 2010*
Target value for the protection of human health	maximum daily 8 hour mean	120 micrograms per metre cubed not to be exceeded more than 25 days three years
Target value for the protection of vegetation	AOT40[1], calculated 1 hour values from May to July	18,000 micrograms per metre cubed hours averaged over five years

	Parameter	*Long-term objective*
Long-term objective for the protection of human health	Maximum daily 8 hour mean	120 micrograms per metre cubed
Long-term objective for the protection of vegetation	AOT40[1], calculated from 1 hour values from May to July	6,000 micrograms per metre cubed hours averaged over five years

[1] AOT40 = the sum of the difference between hourly concentrations greater than 80 micrograms per metre cubed and 80 micrograms per metre cubed over a given period using only the one hour values measured between 08:00 and 20:00.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85186]

Barry Gardiner: Since the beginning of October 2005, 14 DEFRA statutory instruments have been reported for defective drafting by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported.

Supermarket Code of Practice

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the impact on farmers of the Supermarket Code of Practice. [87515]

Ian Pearson: The Supermarket Code of Practice concerns supermarkets' trading relationships with their immediate suppliers, relatively few of whom are farmers. Responsibility for the code rests with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

The OFT carried out an extensive review of the operation of the code, including an audit on supermarkets' compliance with it, and consultations with suppliers and other interested parties. The conclusions of that review can be found in two reports published by the OFT in March and August 2005

respectively—"Supermarkets: the code of practice and other competition issues" and "Supermarkets: the code of practice and other competition issues, Conclusions". Copies of these reports can be found on the OFT website.

The Competition Commission has said that it plans to consider what impact the code has on relations between grocery retailers and their suppliers as part of its current investigation into the grocery market.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions on the Supermarket Code of Practice he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, *(b)* farming organisations, *(c)* supermarkets, *(d)* retailer representatives and *(e)* other relevant bodies. [87516]

Ian Pearson: Responsibility for the supermarket Code of Practice rests with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

In recent months, this Department has not been involved in any substantive discussions on the code with the Department of Trade and Industry or any of the other bodies referred to in the question, although the subject may have arisen in the course of our normal contacts with them.

On 2 June, Lord Rooker wrote to the Competition Commission suggesting, among other things, that it look at the effectiveness of the code as part of its investigation into the grocery market. A copy of the letter is available in the Library of this House.

Trout Farming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on viral haemorrhagic scepticaemia in trout farms in North Yorkshire. [86079]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has received a wide range of representations on viral haemorrhagic scepticaemia in trout farms in North Yorkshire, from hon. Members and the industry. The representations have taken the form of letters, emails and parliamentary questions. We continue to work closely with interested parties on this issue. I have visited part of the affected area to hear the concerns of Fish farmers at first hand.

Waste Disposal Prosecutions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* private citizens and *(b)* businesses in (i) England and (ii) each region have been prosecuted for causing pollution from (A) septic tanks and (B) heating oil tanks in each of the last three years; and what the total amount paid out in fines in each category was in each year. [88150]

Mr. Bradshaw: Based on information from the Environment Agency's National Enforcement Database, there has been one prosecution for causing pollution from septic tanks and four prosecutions for causing pollution from heating oil in the last three years. Details are set out in the following table:

Date	*Region*	*Individual/ company*	*Fine (£)*
Septic tanks			
21 January 2003	Anglian	Individual defendant	4,000
Heating oil			
11 November 2004	Thames	Other legal entity (district council)	18,000
5 January 2005	South West	Individual defendant	2,000
17 February 2005	Wales	Company	2,000
10 May 2005	Southern	Company	1,500

Waste Volumes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total volume of *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* other waste was in the Peterborough city council area in each year since 1997; what this represents per head of population; and what proportion was (i) sent to landfill, (ii) incinerated and (iii) disposed of by other means in each case. [88196]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount of municipal waste, collected by Peterborough city council in each year since 1998, is shown in the following table. No figures are available for 1997-98, as the council did not complete a return for the Municipal Waste Management Survey in this year.

	Total municipal waste (tonnes)	*Arisings per head (tonnes)*	*Percentage landfill*	*Percentage recycled, composted*
1998-99	73,371	0.47	82	18
1999-2000	84,537	0.54	80	20
2000-01	84,546	0.54	78	22
2001-02	88,095	0.56	78	22
2002-03	92,299	0.59	76	24
2003-04	91,970	0.58	72	28
2004-05	100,263	0.63	72	28

Source:
Defra Municipal Waste Management Survey, 1998-99 to 2003-04. 2004-05 figures are provisional estimates from WasteDataFlow

Municipal waste is that which comes under the control of the local authority and includes both domestic waste and waste collected by the authority from non-household sources. Figures on the amounts of commercial, industrial and other wastes are not available for individual local authority areas.

Water Quality

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the water quality of the *(a)* River Brent and *(b)* Welsh Harp reservoir in Brent. [87785]

Ian Pearson: Water quality data for River Brent is available on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm. Recent figures for 2005 are scheduled for publication in August.

Biological and chemical assessment is based on a three-year rolling period. Therefore, 2004 includes samples taken in 2002-04 inclusive, summarised in the following table:

2002-04

Percentage

Total assessed River Brent length which is of:	*Biological quality*	*Chemical quality*
Good quality	—	—
Fair quality	37	81.5
Poor quality	63	—
Bad quality	—	18.5

The General Quality Assessment (GQA) is a grade D (moderate biological water quality). This equates to 37 per cent. (biological score) and 81.5 per cent. (chemical score) of the River Brent.

The stretch from Wembley to Wyke Stream (13km) has a GQA grade E (poor water quality equates to 63 per cent. of the River Brent. Assuming that grade F is bad quality, this stretch relates to the River Brent into the Welsh Harp. There have been no significant changes to the water quality of the river in recent years. No chemical or biological sampling has yet been undertaken in the Welsh Harp Reservoir.

Whales

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methods are being used by the International Whaling Commission to monitor the behaviour of the Western Pacific Gray Whale; and whether changes in the whales' behaviour have been documented. [87579]

Mr. Bradshaw: A report on the Western North Pacific Gray Whales was presented during this year's annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and at a seismic pre-meeting of the IWC Scientific Committee.

A variety of surveys, shore-based, aerial and vessel-based, are being undertaken as part of a Russian research programme. In addition, a photo-identification catalogue has been compiled under a joint research programme (between Russia and the USA) to provide an individual numbering scheme and standardised images of Western Gray Whales that can be used for comparison by other research groups and organisations. Research indicates that the overall distribution of Gray Whales in the north-eastern Sakhalin waters was similar to that in 2004.

Genetic samples have now been collected from 124 individuals. The total of known reproductively active females remains at only 23 individuals. 14 (15.2 per cent.) of the 92 whales identified in 2005 were recorded as 'skinny', considerably more than the three and five recorded in 2003 and 2004, respectively. An updated population assessment, based upon these surveys, is more optimistic than last year, mainly due to reduced calving intervals observed in recent years, implying a higher reproductive rate.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Access to Work Scheme

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82232]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not keep central records of disabled staff receiving adaptations, equipment or other support through the Access to Work scheme. Details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Animals (Inhumane Killings)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his Department has done to ensure that people who put down animals without a licence dispose of the dead animals appropriately; and if he will make a statement. [87511]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Dead animals must be disposed of in accordance with the EU Animal By-Products Regulation 1774/2002. In addition, environmental controls are imposed on the operators of the installations used for their disposal, through an appropriate environmental permit issued to the operator by the relevant local authority or the Environment Agency. Producers and others handling waste are also subject to a statutory duty of care which requires them to take all reasonable measures in the circumstances to ensure, among other things, that the waste is recovered or disposed of properly.

Area Assistance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects the Government will submit its final UK Assisted Areas map to the European Commission following the closure of the consultation on 7 August. [87357]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The European Commission require two months to consider our proposed map and we will need to ensure that there is sufficient time for the new Assisted Areas map to be considered by Parliament through the secondary legislation proceeding. Stage two of the consultation on the draft Assisted Areas map will close on 7 August. The Government will then consider all responses received. The Government are working to ensure a new map is in place when the present map expires on 31 December 2006.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people declared themselves bankrupt in *(a)* South East Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* the Eastern Region in each of the last five years. [88736]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Regional insolvency statistics are only available on the basis of the locations of Official Receivers offices, each of which cover a group of county courts where the cases are heard and the courts having jurisdiction over these. It is not possible to provide bankruptcy statistics by constituency, county or Government Office Region. The following table provides the bankruptcy order statistics considered to be closest to those of interest, but they should not be treated as reliable estimates for the administrative geographies requested.

	Cambridge County Court	*Cambridge OR's Office*[1]	*Anglia Region (OR-based)*
2001-02	165	408	3,486
2002-03	167	419	3,614
2003-04	240	562	4,478
2004-05	331	682	5,457
2005-06	484	1,306	8,050

[1] Cambridge OR's Office covers the following county courts: Cambridge, Hertford, Huntingdon and Peterborough

Broadband

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of how many *(a)* people and *(b)* households in (i) England, (ii) Sunderland City Council area and (iii) Houghton and Washington East constituency are unable to gain access to broadband in their homes. [87223]

Margaret Hodge: Government do not hold this information but BT has supplied the following:

Broadband availability is estimated by telephone line not by individual or household. The ability to provide broadband is based on a number of factors such as the quality of the telephone line and distance from the exchange although conclusive proof comes by actual use and experience of the service.

Information on the number of lines unable to carry broadband is by ward or city is not collected, but the national average for lines unable to carry broadband is estimated at 0.4 per cent. of all telephone lines. There are other technologies such as cable, wireless, satellite, mobile, which can enable households to access broadband in those few places where BT does not have a suitable infrastructure.

BT's best estimates, within the Houghton and Washington East constituency, are that there are 39,551 lines, and of these Openreach[1] estimates that approximately 150-200 lines will be unsuitable because of loss of signal due to distance from the exchange or interference from electrical noise, and a further 150 because of incompatible technologies. These figures represent approximately 0.5 per cent. and 0.4 per cent. of the available lines.

Within the Sunderland District Unitary Authority area there are 119,431 lines, and of these Openreach[1] estimate that approximately 300-450 lines will be unsuitable for broadband because of loss of signal due to distance from the exchange, and a further 300 because of incompatible technologies. This represents approximately 0.4 per cent. and 0.25 per cent. of the available lines.

[1] Openreach—is a new multi-billion pound business that is responsible for ensuring all telecoms service providers have transparent and equal access to the local BT network, i.e. equivalence. Openreach's activities are overseen by an "equality of access board", which has a supervisory role. It reports to Ofcom and BT's main board.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of telephone exchanges that are still not *(a)* unbundled with respect to the local loop and *(b)* enabled for broadband in (i) England, (ii) Sunderland City Council area and (iii) Houghton and Washington East constituency. [87230]

Margaret Hodge: Government do not hold this information but BT have supplied the following:

Local Loop Unbundled products can be requested from BT by telecommunication companies at any of the (over 5,500) BT exchanges in the UK. Already over 1,000 exchanges have been unbundled. An exchange could have multiple unbundlers. Over 600,000 lines have been unbundled across the UK and numbers are rising rapidly, we expect to have over 1 million lines unbundled by the end of this year.

BT estimate that 99.9 per cent. of households and businesses are currently served by a broadband enabled exchange. Of the 5,500 BT exchange only 49 are not enabled for broadband and 39 of these are currently being enabled.

All 181 exchanges in the One North East RDA, which includes the Sunderland city council area and the Houghton and Washington East constituency, are enabled for broadband.

Business Continuity Planning

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures he is taking to ensure individual plc directors are aware of their obligations to their shareholders in respect of business continuity planning; and if he will make a statement. [87905]

Mr. McCartney: Company directors, including plc directors, have no specific statutory obligations in relation to business continuity planning. They do owe general duties to the company, such as the duty to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence.

All employers, however, have an interest in ensuring effective business continuity planning. The Government are therefore working closely with the business community to encourage and support robust, flexible business continuity planning. In addition to sector-specific forums on business continuity in areas such as the financial and energy sectors, the Government have set up a new Business Advisory Group on Civil Protection through which effective dialogue between business and government on civil protection issues will be pursued, and through which the Government are seeking to provide guidance and support to the business community to assist them in implementing business continuity management. The group is attended by a wide range of business representative organisations.

In addition, the Government have published a wide range of guidance for businesses to assist them with business continuity planning. For example, the Preparing for Emergencies website (www.pfe.gov.uk)

was re-launched in March, and is delivering a single portal for advice to business on emergencies and business continuity.

At a local level, local civil protection practitioners work closely with businesses to assist in emergency preparedness and planning, and in the event of emergencies occurring. The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) places a duty on local authorities to provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations in relation to business continuity planning. This came into force on 15 May 2006.

Business Continuity Planning

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures he is taking to reduce the number of business failures that occur as a result of a major physical disaster; and if he will make a statement. [87903]

Margaret Hodge: All employers should recognise the risk of business failure resulting from a major physical disaster and a wide range of other potentially disruptive incidents such as terrorist activity, pandemic flu and industrial action. The Government are, therefore, working closely with the business community to encourage and support robust, flexible business continuity planning.

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Capital Maintenance Regulations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what multilateral agreements have been reached with other EU member states to simplify the regulations for capital maintenance to allow public limited liability companies to make faster and simpler changes in their capital structure. [88578]

Mr. McCartney: Amendments to the Second Company Law Directive (77/91/EEC) were proposed by the European Commission in October 2004. The Second Company Law Directive co-ordinates national provisions on the formation of public limited liability companies, minimum share capital requirements, distributions to shareholders and increases and reductions in capital.

The proposed amendments have been modified during consideration by the European Parliament and Council and are expected to be formally adopted in the near future. The amendments relate to matters such as acquisition of shares by a company through contributions in kind, acquisition by a company of its own shares and the financial assistance that a company can give for the acquisition of its shares by a third party.

The proposed amendments arise, in part, from recommendations of the Simpler Legislation for the Internal Market (SLIM) Group in 1999 and those made by a High Level Group of Company Law Experts in 2002. Further details about the proposed amending Directive are available on the Commission's website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/company/capital/index_en.htm

Once formally adopted, the amending Directive must be implemented by member states within 18 months of its coming into force.

Miners' Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1485W, on compensation, if he will make client files available to miners who have been refused access by their representatives. [89027]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department would make files available to miners on receipt of a court order requiring it.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will arrange for a Minister in his Department to reply to the letter of 2 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Muhammad Islam. [79416]

Mr. Darling: I responded to my right hon. Friend on 22 June.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 881W, on sickness absence, how many staff in his Department have had more than two periods of sickness of less than five days in two or more of the years for which he has provided figures. [84047]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI's records show:

More than two periods (spells) of absence of less than five days for staff in DTI HQ, including SBS and UKTI

	Number
2003-04	638
2004-05	531
2005-06	480

Electrical Waste

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) pursuant to EU directive 2002/96/EC, Article 4, what measures have been taken to encourage the design and production of electrical and electronic equipment which take into account and facilitate dismantling and recovery with particular reference to the reuse and recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment, their components and materials; [88582]

(2) pursuant to EU directive 2002/96/EC, Article 5, what measures have been adopted in order *(a)* to minimise the disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment as unsorted municipal waste and *(b)* to achieve a high level of separate collection of electrical and electronic equipment; and what systems have been set up to allow the final holders of waste electrical and electronic equipment to return it free of charge. [88583]

Malcolm Wicks: I will be making an announcement in the very near future regarding proposals for implementing EU Directive 2002/96/EC—the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive.

Electricity Transmission

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on energy losses arising through the transmission and distribution of electricity in the UK. [87564]

Mr. Darling: Approximately 2 per cent. of electricity conveyed over the transmission network is lost and a further 6 per cent. over the distribution network. Electricity is lost through a combination of heat, noise and theft. Network businesses are incentivised to reduce these losses.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of the electricity transmission grid. [87611]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* Statistics from National Grid show that transmission (high voltage) network reliability has improved from 99.9989 per cent. between 1995-2000 to 99.9992 percent from 2000-05. On average, electricity transmission companies have reduced their controllable costs by around 50 per cent. since privatisation.

Energy Review

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to page 179 of annex A of the Energy Review, Cm 6887, what estimate he has made of the cost of the treatment of the reprocessed uranium and enrichment tails in preparation for recycling in fresh fuel; and whether he has asked the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to provide him with an analysis of the economic feasibility of treating reprocessed uranium and enrichment tails. [86952]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has not made an estimate of the cost of the treatment of the reprocessed uranium and enrichment tails in preparation for recycling in fresh nuclear fuel. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) published its strategy on 30 March 2006. The strategy noted that the NDA is examining the disposition of options for a number of nuclear materials and will be preparing advice to the Department in due course. This advice will include a full lifecycle macro-economic analysis of the potential re-use or disposal options for reprocessed uranium and enrichment tails.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 286, on the Energy Review, what the *(a)* length and *(b)* value was of the contract agreed with AEA Technology Environment. [88681]

Malcolm Wicks: AEA Technology Environment was appointed in March 2006 and completed their work in June 2006.

Contract payments are commercially confidential.

EU Directives

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he expects the implementation of the Cross Border Mergers Directive of 2005 will be achieved by December 2007. [88851]

Mr. McCartney: It is intended to publicly consult on implementing options in respect of the Cross Border Mergers Directive (2005/56/EC) in due course. In accordance with the requirements of the directive, it is expected that the necessary implementing provisions will be in place by the directive's deadline of 15 December 2007.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what stage implementation of the 8th Company Law Directive has reached. [88852]

Mr. McCartney: The 8th Company Law Directive (2006/43/EC) on the statutory audit of annual and consolidated accounts came into force on 29 June 2006. The directive provides for a two year implementation period. The Companies Bill, currently before Parliament, is implementing some of the directive's requirements (for example, defining "statutory audit"; making provisions for auditors of foreign companies listed on the UK's regulated market) for which primary legislation is required.

The Department will be consulting on these areas, as well as on the implementation of other requirements within the directive.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made on multilateral agreements with other EU member states on helping facilitate the exercise of basic shareholders' rights and the cross-border exercise of such rights. [88854]

Mr. McCartney: A new proposal for a directive on the exercise of voting rights by shareholders in the EU was published on 5 January this year. It included amendments to the transparency directive (2004/109/EC).

The proposal is under discussion by the European Parliament and Council.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on foreign travel by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in 2005-06. [67451]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry has recorded expenditure of £3,264,443 on foreign travel in 2005-06. This figure covers travel by DTI and UKTI ministers and officials. All travel by Ministers and officials is undertaken in line with the Ministerial and Civil Service Codes of Conduct.

The following table shows the breakdown on foreign travel by *(a)* Ministers office and *(b)* DTI and UKTI officials.

Figures for *(a)* include costs for Ministers and their Private Office (e.g. Private Secretary travel costs) as figures cannot be broken down further.

	Expenditure (£000,000)
MPST Office	195,652
DTI and UKTI Officials	3,068,791

Greenhouses Gases

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with the operators of steel production plants on the installation of extraction technologies to remove emissions of greenhouse gases; and what assessment his Department has made of the impact on the competitiveness of the UK steel industry of the installation of such technology. [88154]

Malcolm Wicks: Government have been involved in many discussions at both ministerial and official level on a range of issues related to the UK steel industry's response to climate change. These have encompassed a range of possible responses by the steel industry to the Government's policies aimed at lowering carbon emissions. The essence of the Government's approach is to use market instruments to provide incentives to firms to reduce carbon emissions. Government policy is not prescriptive in terms of which carbon abating technologies firms should use. Nevertheless, discussions have on occasion made reference to best available technologies for controlling the emission of greenhouse gases, and have been informed by much research on the ability of the steel industry to abate emissions while still remaining competitive.

Hydro-electricity

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1446W, on hydro-electricity, if his Department will commission a study to determine the potential energy generation from the River Severn *(a)* from incorporating hydro-electric generating equipment at the five existing weirs between Stourport and Gloucester and *(b)* from building five variable height weirs with hydro-electric generating equipment between Bridgnorth and Stourport. [85738]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* Tidal impoundment schemes—such as barrages and lagoons—and tidal current technologies have the potential to make a significant contribution to carbon reductions. In common with other power generation projects they could bring with then a number of external benefits, but generally are not competitive with other forms of low carbon generation. During the course of the recent Energy Review consultation we received a range of views on tidal generation, in particular on the plans for a Severn Barrage, which could provide around 5 per cent. of current UK electricity demand by 2020. This could cost in the region of £14 billion. It is clear that while attractive in terms of energy generation and associated benefits, plans for a Severn Barrage would raise strong environmental concerns in view of the designations that apply to the Severn Estuary.

We are however, interested in improving our understanding of how to make best use of the potential tidal resource in UK waters. Together with the Welsh Assembly Government, we will therefore work with the Sustainable Development Commission, the South West Regional Development Agency and other key interested parties to explore the issue arising on the tidal resource in the UK, including the Severn Estuary, including potential costs and benefits of development using the range of tidal technologies and their public acceptability.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for Ministers of State in his Department on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [68999]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure on overnight accommodation for Ministers in the Department of Trade and Industry for financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 is shown in the table. The year 2005-06 includes travel costs for the six-month period when the UK held the Presidency of the EU. Details of expenditure prior to 2004 is not available at this level of detail.

These figures include the costs of both the Minister and any accompanying private secretaries. All travel by Ministers and officials is undertaken in line with the Ministerial and Civil Services Codes of Conduct.

Expenditure on overnight accommodation by Ministers Office

Financial year	£
2004-05	19,918
2005-06	32,026

Multilateral Agreements

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what multilateral agreements have been reached with other EU member states on corporate governance in relation to the collective responsibility of board members for financial statements and key non-financial information. [88579]

Mr. McCartney: Amendments to the Fourth Company Law Directive (78/660/EEC) on the annual accounts of certain types of company and the Seventh Company Law Directive (83/349/EEC) on consolidated accounts were adopted on 14 June 2006 by the European Parliament and Council.

Among other matters, the amending directive provides that board members of companies must be collectively responsible for the drawing up and publication of the annual accounts, the annual (i.e. directors') report and any separate corporate governance statement. The requirement for a corporate governance statement (either as part of the directors' report or as a separate statement) is a new disclosure requirement which applies to companies whose securities are traded on a regulated market.

The amending directive will shortly be published in the Official Journal of the EU containing in full the collective responsibility provisions, the requirements as to the content of the corporate governance statement and the types of companies to which it applies. The amending directive must be implemented by member states within two years of its coming into force. The Department of Trade and Industry will be consulting on its implementation.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what multilateral agreements have been reached with other EU member states on new disclosure requirements regarding off-balance sheet arrangements and related party transactions. [88580]

Mr. McCartney: Amendments to the Fourth Company Law Directive (78/660/EEC) on the annual accounts of certain types of company and the Seventh Company Law Directive (83/349/EEC) on consolidated accounts were adopted on 14 June 2006 by the European Parliament and Council.

Among other matters, the amending Directive extends to companies in the EU disclosure requirements in the notes to accounts as regards:

a. Off-balance sheet transactions - companies will be required to disclose the nature and business purpose of certain company arrangements that are not included in the balance sheet and the financial impact of those arrangements; and

b. Related party transactions- information about certain transactions which have been entered into by the company with related parties must be disclosed.

The amending Directive will shortly be published in the Official Journal setting out the new disclosure provisions in full, their scope and member state options to grant exemptions from them. The amending Directive must be implemented by Member States within two years of its coming into force. The Department of Trade and Industry will be consulting on its implementation.

National Nuclear Laboratory

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* British Energy, *(b)* BNFL, *(c)* the NDA and *(d)* NIREX regarding the creating of a National Nuclear Laboratory. [87612]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* In assessing the need for a National Nuclear Laboratory, my officials have had discussions with a broad range of purchasers and providers of nuclear Research and Development.

Nuclear Decommissioning Agency

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he made of the extent to which there was a potential conflict of interest when a director of the Environment Agency was appointed to the Board of the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency; and if he will make a statement. [87383]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 135W.

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on plans to merge the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority with Nirex. [87563]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Future policy, and arrangements for implementing this, will be decided by the Government in light of the Committee for Radioactive Waste Management's (CoRWM's) final recommendations. CoRWM's report is due to be delivered to the Government at the end of this month and copies will be made available in the Libraries of the House. The Government will make a formal response to their report after the parliamentary summer recess.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85196]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Current data shows that the department has 25 questions remaining unanswered as of 10 July 2006. Four are unanswered between two and three weeks of tabling and 21 unanswered in over three weeks.

Delays in answering questions occur for a number of reasons including the need to obtain information from external agencies and other bodies, and problems related to the transfer of questions between Government Departments.

The Department aims to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day and to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of them being tabled. This is not always possible but the department makes every effort to achieve this.

Petrol Stations

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many petrol stations there were in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Cumbria, *(c)* Westmorland and Lonsdale, *(d)* urban areas and *(e)* rural areas in each year since 1997. [88642]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of petrol station in England and Wales and in Cumbria is as follows:

Year end	*England and Wales*	*Cumbria*
1998	11,720	185
1999	11,513	184
2000	11,185	182
2001	10,437	170
2002	9,873	156
2003	9,139	151
2004	8,778	144
2005	8,226	129

The data were provided by Catalist Ltd. and was first collected in 1998. Data on numbers of rural and urban petrol stations, and in Westmorland and Lonsdale, are not available.

Planning (Romney Marsh)

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish the correspondence between his Department and English Nature in respect of the application for permission for a wind farm at Little Cheyne Court, Romney Marsh. [87426]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* No. The correspondence between the Department and English Nature during the consideration of the application was placed on the planning register and is therefore already in the public domain.

Post Office

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consultation was undertaken with *(a)* Postwatch and *(b)* Postwatch East prior to the recent decision of his Department not to renew the Post Office Card Account contract. [45461]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

DWP officials have met Postwatch a number of times in the past to discuss the direct payment of benefits and pensions. Government funding for the Post Office card account will continue until March 2010 as always planned. This was provided for in the Post Office card account contract agreed by DWP and Post Office Limited in March 2002. An abridged version of the contract has been placed in the Library. The details of the contract were not discussed with Postwatch.

My officials met with officials from the national Postwatch organisation on 27 January 2006 and had a constructive discussion about our future strategy for paying benefits and pensions, including our small-scale pilots. A summary report of the pilot findings has now been placed in the Library. My officials have been in regular contact with Postwatch since that meeting, including attending meetings at Postwatch's Counters Advisory Group.

Postal Services

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received regarding the awarding of Post Office franchises to WH Smith stores; and what discussions he has had with the Post Office on this matter. [88677]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have received representations from the hon. Member for Swansea, East (Mrs. James).

I have also had a discussion with Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd., on this in an initial meeting held on 22 June, following the decision.

Decision on individuals Post Offices branches are operational matters for which the management of Post Office Ltd. (POL) have direct responsibility.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) which companies bid for the Post Office franchises in addition to WH Smith; [88678]

(2) whether franchises for postal services awarded to WH Smith include a requirement for re-investment in postal services by that company. [88679]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Decisions on individual Post Office branches are operational matters for which the management of Post Office Ltd. (POL) have direct responsibility. I have, therefore, asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member on the issues he has raised concerning the franchising of services.

Public Payphones

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many public payphones have been removed in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997; what steps the Government have taken to improve access to public payphones in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [86076]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what publicly *(a)* funded and *(b)* administered support schemes for renewable energy research, development and generation have been

available since 1995; and how much was allocated to each programme in each year. [85233]

Malcolm Wicks: It has not been possible to collate all public expenditure and other Government support since 1995 for energy technologies in the time available at proportionate cost.

Aside from the Renewables Obligation, which is the Governments main mechanism for delivering renewables generation, the Government are investing around £500 million, between 2002 and 2008, in capital grants and research and development to support Low Carbon Technologies. Money that has already been allocated includes £50 million for the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund, £60 million for bio-energy, £41 million (this includes £10 million for PV Field Trials) for photovoltaics, £12.5 million for community renewables and £117 million for offshore wind.

The Chancellor also recently announced in the Budget a further £50 million, on top of the £30 million that the Minister for Energy had previously announced, for the Low Carbon Building Programme, which encourages micro generation and energy efficiency in buildings.

In addition to this both DEFRA and the Scottish Executive provide funding to the Carbon Trust which conducts research into low carbon energy activities among other activities. DEFRA also funds research into combined heat and power, which is also detailed in the following tables.

The Government's support for clean, low carbon road vehicle and fuel technologies, including support for research, development and demonstration projects, was summarised in the 2002 Powering Future Vehicles Strategy, a copy of which is available via the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_roads/documents/page/dft_roads_506885.hcsp

The following tables show the Governments direct spend per technology for 1995 to 2005.

DTI New and Renewable Energy Programme—External Spend for each technology area by financial year from 1990-91

Spend (rounded to nearest thousand)

Programme Area	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*
Bio Wastes	1,235,000	1,097,000	593,000	75,000	48,000	25,000
Biomass	2,350,000	2,313,000	1,937,000	1,317,000	1,076,000	1,585,000
Embedded Generation	908,000	835,000	647,000	586,000	530,000	596,000
Fuel Cells	915,000	1,172,000	914,000	900,000	1,197,000	1,168,000
Geothermal - Aquifers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geothermal - Hot Dry Rocks	245,000	0	0	0	0	0
Hydro	148,000	79,000	142,000	57,000	80,000	138,000
Solar	2,067,000	1,878,000	1,874,000	1,660,000	983,000	1,278,000
Tidal	220,000	165,000	0	0	0	0
Wave	106,000	42,000	50,000	0	91,000	11,000
Wind	2,729,000	3,370,000	2,365,000	1,240,000	950,000	801,000

Programme Area	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Bio Wastes	56,000	13,000	42,000	259,000	[1]974,222
Biomass	1,267,000	1,333,000	1,595,000	1,346,000	[1]—
Embedded Generation	589,000	776,000	1,424,000	725,000	1,105,640
Fuel Cells	1,410,000	1,249,000	1,200,000	1,701,000	4,907,430
Geothermal - Aquifers	0	0	0	0	0
Geothermal - Hot Dry Rocks	0	0	0	0	0
Hydro	60,000	130,000	200,000	85,000	0
Solar	1,264,000	1,522,000	4,485,000	3,131,000	1,970,340
Tidal	27,000	305,000	1,996,000	2,914,000	[2]1,268,530
Wave	331,000	662,000	748,000	2,104,000	[2]—
Wind	913,000	1,248,000	1,428,000	1,395,000	1,459,600

[1] A combined spend for the two areas.

DTI Capital Grant Programmes

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Biomass (DTI and Lottery spend)	—	10,000	1,913,000
Offshore Wind Capital Grants	—	0	15,000,000
Clear Skies Community Renewables	200,000	1,387,000	2,413,000
Major PV Demo Programme	960,000	2,880,000	6,450,000

DEFRA CHP Programme

	£
1994-95	500,000
1995-96	500,000
1996-97	700,000

DEFRA CHP Programme

	£
1997-98	1,000,000
1998-99	1,300,000
1999-2000	1,900,000

DEFRA CHP Programme

	£
2000-01	2,500,000
2001-02	2,800,000
2002-03	1,600,000
2003-04	2,500,000
2004-05	2,000,000

Note:
Several indirect measures of state support for CHP were introduced in 2001-02. Of those that can be enumerated, climate change levy exemption on fuel inputs to Good Quality CHP

Research Councils Energy R&D Expenditure

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*£000 2004-05*
Biofuel	0	0	0	22	52	144	135	92
Biomass	447	871	736	601	701	783	1,043	1,158
CHP	4	36	63	77	267	357	226	71
CO_2 sequestration	0	0	0	23	42	78	30	966
Fuel cells	888	1,012	703	899	1,145	1,468	1,193	917
Hydrogen and other Vectors	30	136	59	83	319	517	1,494	1,477
Solar	1,440	1,286	1,076	1,134	1,130	1,157	1,453	1,503
Photovoltaic	2,255	3,002	2,760	2,992	3,536	2,770	2,381	2,676
Wave and tidal	0	157	175	301	606	617	830	995
Wind	200	226	178	261	330	490	482	243
Waste	66	10	40	40	96	125	169	154
Geothermal	0	0	0	40	65	64	73	79
Storage	326	650	670	838	889	810	730	467
Networks	1,348	1,168	1,081	919	1,115	1,388	1,805	2,390
Other renewable	0	49	49	128	28	28	28	30

Rural Post Office Network

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Government plan to consult on its proposals for the rural post office network; and if he will make a statement. [88626]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are at present carefully considering options for the network beyond 2008, though we are not working to a fixed timetable. There has already been extensive informal consultation with key stakeholders and we expect to consult more widely in due course.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Government expect to decide whether to extend the Social Network Payment to support rural post offices beyond 2008. [88627]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are committed to supporting the rural post office network with annual Social Network Payments of £150 million for the next two years. We are at present carefully considering options for the network beyond 2008 and will take decisions only after proper consideration of all the issues.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department in each year since February 2004. [88558]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of DTI identity passes which have been lost or stolen on a year-by-year basis, March to April, since February 2004 are as follows:

	Passes lost/stolen
March 2004 to February 2005	101
March 2005 to February 2006	67
March to July 2006	32

The Department's records do not differentiate between passes reported as lost or stolen. There is nothing on the pass to identify the pass holder as a member of DTI's staff nor to which buildings it enables access.

Severn Barrage

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the expected timetable is for the proposed study into a Severn Barrage for the production of tidal power. [85562]

Malcolm Wicks: During the course of the energy review consultation we have received a range of views on tidal generation, in particular on the plans for a Severn Barrage, which could provide around 5 per cent. of current UK electricity demand by 2002. This could cost in the region of £14 billion. It is clear that, while attractive in terms of energy generation and associated benefits, plans for a Severn Barrage would raise strong environmental concerns in view of the designations that apply to the Severn Estuary.

We are however interested in improving our understanding of how to make best use of the potential tidal resource in UK waters. Together with the Welsh Assembly Government, we will therefore work with the Sustainable Development Commission, the South West Regional Development Agency and other key interested parties to explore the issues arising on the tidal resource in the UK, including the Severn Estuary.

including potential costs and benefits of developments using the range of tidal technologies and their public acceptability.

Sir Alistair Graham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his answer of 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 301W, on Sir Alistair Graham, how many days work per week were expected of Sir Alistair Graham as Chairman of the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of the Telephone Information Services. [88611]

Margaret Hodge: Sir Alistair Graham is contracted to ICSTIS for an average of two days per week.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85178]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry has had five Statutory Instruments reported for defective drafting by JCSI since October 2005. They are as follows:

Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006

S.I. 2006/246)—Twenty-second report of JCSI: Published 28 March.

Ceramic Articles in Contact with Food (England) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1179)—Twenty-eighth report of JCSI: Published 13 June.

Measuring Instruments (Automatic Catchweighers) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1257)—Thirtieth Report of JCSI: Published 27 June.

Measuring Instruments (Cold-water Meters) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1268)—Thirty-First Report of JCSI: Published 4 July.

Measuring Instruments (Non-Prescribed Instruments) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1270)—Thirty-First Report of JCSI: Published 4 July.

In each case the Department responded with a Memorandum.

Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research his Department has commissioned to fill the data gap identified by Strategic Environmental Assessment 6. [88866]

Malcolm Wicks: For the purpose of this answer I assume that the data gap referred to is on the impact of underwater noise on marine mammals.

In the Post Consultation Report to SEA 6 it was stated:

"While the SEA process can result in the recommendation and promotion of work on marine mammals and underwater noise, the scope and design of such studies is seen as a collaborative exercise involving a range of stakeholders."

An extremely large study on noise and its impacts on marine mammals has recently been commissioned by a consortium of oil companies under the management of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP) and data gaps identified in SEA 6 may be filled through that process.

On marine mammal calving/nursery grounds—the DTI is awaiting the results of the SCANS II (Small Cetaceans in the European Atlantic and North Sea) survey conducted in summer 2005 and in the light of these may commission through the SEA process a review of the science base of breeding biology of selected marine mammals in British waters. The scope of this review would be discussed with our statutory advisers and a number of interested stakeholders.

SEA 6 post consultation report is available on the following website:

http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/consultations/SEA_6/SEA_6_Post_Consultation_Report_Rev1.pdf

Sustainable Energy Policy Advisory Board

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many meetings he has had with each of the members of the Sustainable Energy Policy Advisory Board in each of the last five years. [87560]

Mr. Darling: The Sustainable Energy Policy Advisory Board (SEPAB) was established in December 2003. Ministers in this department and other government departments have met members of SEPAB a number of times since 2003.

Timber/Coal Mining

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to support the *(a)* timber and *(b)* coal mining industries in the UK. [88600]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is as follows:

(a) DTI provides a range of business support services for industry and has provided funding to the timber sector through Selective Finance for Industry for the development of a computer operated timber frame production system. We liaise closely with the key timber trade associations and raise the industry's issues and concerns across Government. In addition we support the industry's "wood for good" campaign which aims to boost wood's market share in the UK. In addition the Forestry Commission provides business support to the forestry and timber industries through the England Forest Industries Partnerships (EFIP) and Scottish Forestry Cluster. The Department for the Environment, Food and Regional Affairs has set up the Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) to help public sector bodies and their suppliers source legally harvested timber from well-managed forests. This is a free advice service which helps to support the timber industry's response to Government demands for legal and sustainable timber.

(b) The Government have provided over £220 million of state aid to the coal industry since 2000; £163 million of this was UK Coal Operating Aid paid during 2000-02, £58.3 million was Coal Investment Aid, which has been paid since 2003 and is still being drawn down.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries are participating in the training of *(a)* the Afghan National Army and *(b)* the Afghan police force; and what responsibilities each has been tasked to undertake. [84154]

Des Browne: As outlined in the 2001 Bonn Agreement, and reaffirmed under the recent Afghanistan Compact, the United States and Germany are the lead partner nations for the development of the Afghan National Army and Afghan national police respectively.

Task Force Phoenix is the organisation within Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan which is responsible for the provision of embedded training teams and training courses for the Afghan National Army. Task Force Phoenix is led by the US and comprises personnel from UK, France, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Romania, Lithuania and Mongolia. A number of other nations also provide specific training courses to Afghan National Army personnel inside and outside Afghanistan.

Africa

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the armed forces are making to supporting peace and security in Africa. [87210]

Mr. Ingram: UK armed forces personnel are playing an important role in helping build African peace support capacity and teaching the principles of good governance and the democratic accountability of armed forces. British military personnel are providing training and technical assistance to the African Union, to African regional organisations and peace support centres, and bilaterally to key partner countries, in order to help build long-term conflict prevention and peacekeeping capacity. For example, in Sierra Leone, we are helping rebuild the armed forces to ensure future stability, while in Sudan we are directly supporting the African Union Mission in Darfur and providing pre-deployment training of African peacekeeping troops being sent there. UK personnel are also supporting UN missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Defence Analytical Services Agency Website

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1878W, on the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA), for what reasons TPS 6 remains unavailable on the DASA website. [86491]

Mr. Watson: TSP6 has been published on the DASA website since publication was resumed on 12 September 2005 with the production of statistics relating to 1 April 2005. The latest edition, relating to 1 April 2006 was published on 15 June 2006 and can be found at the following URL: http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp6/tsp6_apr06.pdf and copies are available in the Library of the House. There are two links to this document on the front page of the DASA website: one in the Publications section and the other in the What's new section. Links to earlier editions are listed at the following URL: http//www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/pubsindex.html. TSP6 is not listed with DASA's National Statistics publications because TSP6's National Statistics status is suspended as a result of doubts over the continuity and timeliness of the supply of information from the relevant data sources.

Defence Food Supply Contract

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 210W, on the defence food supply contract, what percentage of the meat supplied to British troops under the contract is from British farms. [88610]

Mr. Ingram: During the last financial year, under the current food supply contract, 42 per cent. of the beef, 100 per cent. of the pork and 5 per cent. of the lamb supplied to the UK based armed forces was of British origin.

Departmental Estate

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estate sales his Department has made in each year since 1997; what the value of these sales was in each year; what the current value of the departmental estate is; and what sites he plans to sell. [86995]

Mr. Watson: The disposal receipts for each year are:

	£ million
1998-99	59
1999-2000	293
2000-01	225
2001-02	185
2002-03	279
2003-04	207
2004-05	212
2005-06	258

These are published in the Defence Estates Annual Report and Accounts. A list of the sites in the present programme and those earmarked for future disposal is available as a regularly updated list provided to the House of Commons Library. The next revised list will be available by the end of August 2006. The value of the defence estate worldwide as at 31 March 2005 exceeds £18 billion on an existing use basis.

Departmental Remuneration Strategy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to Releasing the resources to meet the challenge ahead, Cm 6889, what reviews he has made of his Department's work force remuneration strategy. [86915]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence has concluded a thorough review of its civilian remuneration strategy which has formed the basis of its negotiating remit for the 2006 pay deal, on which discussions continue with HMT. The MOD also produces an annual civilian work force plan which identifies work force issues relevant to business delivery.

A strategic review of remuneration for the armed forces is currently being conducted.

Forces Pay (Computers)

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the computer system responsible for paying the salaries of members of the British armed forces. [87004]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 711W and 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2120W, respectively to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper). I am now also able to update the figures for overpayments and underpayments in the June Pay run provided in my answer of 14 July. These are as follows: 485 incorrect payments of which: 227 (47 per cent.) overpayments, 258 (53 per cent.) underpayments.

Helicopters

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* medium and *(b)* heavy lift helicopters are able to deploy to Afghanistan with immediate effect. [85794]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 74-76WS. The helicopter support deployed to Afghanistan meets the operational commander's current requirements.

Iraq

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what publicly advertised *(a)* financial and *(b)* other inducements are funded by the Government to residents of Iraq to encourage the supply of information on the operation of insurgents to (i) the armed forces and (ii) British officials in Iraq. [82510]

Des Browne: There are no publicly advertised financial or other inducements for the supply of information to UK armed forces or officials in Iraq. There are, however, two initiatives set up to encourage Iraqis in MND(SE) to telephone in confidence to report criminal activities (including acts of insurgency and terrorism). These do not advertise the likelihood of any financial reward.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress in the training of the Iraqi *(a)* navy and *(b)* air force. [84560]

Des Browne: The Iraqi navy plays an important role in protecting the oil facilities vital to Iraq's economic well-being. Recognising this, the UK continues to play a lead role in providing training and support. Specifically, the UK provides a Naval Assistance and Training Team at Umm Qasr Naval Base, officer training at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, and seaborne support to the Iraqi navy and marines during maritime security operations in the northern Arabian Gulf. Royal Navy warships and Royal Fleet Auxiliary support vessels will regularly form part of the coalition Task Force overseeing the security of the oil platforms until the Iraqi navy are ready to fully assume this task. In February 2006, the Iraqi marines took the lead in protecting the Al Basrah Oil Terminal, which itself accounted for the vast majority of Iraqi crude oil exports in 2005.

In the longer term, a capable air force will form an important element of Iraq's armed forces. The UK contributes to the training of the Iraqi air force under a US lead by providing a number of key staff officers to advise senior Iraqi air force commanders. Additionally, a small number of UK personnel are involved in training tasks in Iraq.

Joint Personnel Administration

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 710-11W, on joint personnel administration, what definition he uses of the term formal grievance. [87005]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* Where an individual remains dissatisfied with the response provided under the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency's internal complaints system they are able to invoke a formal grievance under the RAF Redress To Complaint procedure, section 180 of the Air Force Act 1955/Queens Regulations for the RAF 1000.

Lebanon

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the extent to which the Royal Navy has a sufficient presence in the Mediterranean Sea to evacuate British citizens from Lebanon. [88828]

Mr. Ingram: The success of the Royal Navy's evacuation operation of UK nationals and others from Lebanon since the recent hostilities began has demonstrated that its personnel and vessels were more than equal to the task.

Military Equipment (Complaints Procedure)

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there is a facility in the Army for soldiers to *(a)* record and *(b)* anonymously record their concerns about the capability and adequacy of their equipment. [82566]

Mr. Ingram: There are a number of ways available for soldiers to raise issues, faults and suggestions for improvement to equipment, including through the Chain of Command. At present there are no specific methods available to do so anonymously.

Military Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 913W, on military vehicles, how many of the vehicles are *(a)* available to be deployed immediately, *(b)* undergoing repair, *(c)* undergoing Bowman conversion, *(d)* in storage and *(e)* being used for training purposes. [84660]

Mr. Ingram: A breakdown of the armoured vehicle fleet as at 21 April 2006 is shown in the following tables:

		Operationally Deployable				
Equipment	*Fleet size*	*Immediately deployable/currently deployed*	*In 1st or 2nd line maintenance*	*Undergoing Bowman conversion*	*Storage*	*Used for training purposes*
Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank	385	120	70	70	[1]46	67
Saxon[2]	622	206	15	—	358	—
Warrior Infantry Fighting (all variants)	794	368	234	17	8	108
Spartan	478	251	146	8	2	45
Scimitar	328	172	102	4	2	23
Striker	48	19	25	0	3	0
Samson	50	30	16	1	0	1
Samaritan	50	31	8	3	3	1
Sultan	205	133	54	5	2	2

Equipment	*Total operationally deployable*	*In 4th line maintenance*	*With design authority*
Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank	327	10	2
Saxon[2]	579	38	5
Warrior Infantry Fighting (all variants)	735	50	9
Spartan	452	23	3
Scimitar	303	19	6
Striker	47	0	1
Samson	48	1	1
Samaritan	46	3	1
Sultan	196	6	3

[1] Salvaged or impaired tanks, and those on loan - not counted as operationally deployable

[2] Saxon General War Role (GWR) is currently being withdrawn from Mechanised Infantry Battalions.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many OMC/Alvis Mamba/RG-31 mine-protected vehicles were purchased for Army use; on what date they were purchased; what the total purchase price was; *(a)* by which formations, *(b)* for what purposes and *(c)* when the vehicles were used; and if he will make a statement; [80568]

(2) what modifications were made to the OMC/Alvis Mamba/RG-31 mine-protected vehicles in order to enhance mine protection and the TMRP-6 threat; how many vehicles were modified; what the total cost was of those modifications while on the Army inventory; and if he will make a statement: [80569]

(3) what *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* other difficulties were experienced by Army formations in their use of the OMC/Alvis Mamba/RG-31 mine-protected vehicles while on their charge; what steps were taken to resolve those difficulties; what outcomes resulted from those steps; and if he will make a statement; [80570]

(4) when and to whom the inventory of OMC/Alvis Mamba/RG-31 mine-protected vehicles was disposed of; how much was received; what the end destination of the vehicles was; and if he will make a statement; [80571]

(5) if he will assess *(a)* ease of maintenance and *(b)* reliability of the (i) OMC/Alvis Mamba and (ii) current version of the RG-31M. [80573]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for replacing the Mamba vehicle with the mine-protected vehicle; and what the estimated cost is. [81608]

Mr. Ingram: The Mamba mine-protected vehicle was based on an earlier version of the RG-31. In response to an operational requirement for a vehicle protected against blast and explosively formed projectile attack from below and small arms, fragmentation and some blast from the side 14 second-hand Mamba vehicles were bought in three batches through the Urgent Operational Requirements process between 1996-99. Six were bought in 1996 for the NATO implementation force mission in Bosnia; three were procured in 1999 for operations in Macedonia; and a further five were bought later in 1999 for operations in Kosovo. The approval cost of the first six was around £1.2 million and the second and third batches cost £1 million and

£2.3 million respectively. They were used by specialist teams for explosive ordnance disposal tasks such as reconnaissance, rescue and recovery and route proving and were deployed in the Balkans until 2003.

The Mamba vehicle was delivered to the Ministry of Defence following modification of the base vehicle by the contractor, Alvis with the addition of appliqué belly armour to withstand attack by shaped-charge mines. This modification was included in the purchase cost. The extra weight of the appliqué armour was found to overload the Mambas and caused reliability and safety problems. The high level of maintenance required to keep the vehicles operational was exacerbated by a lack of commonality between the individual vehicles and poor availability of spares. In May 2001, due to road safety issues, their use was restricted to operational situations where there was a significant threat of minestrikes. Since the current version of the RG-31 is not in service with the UK armed forces we cannot comment on its ease of maintenance or reliability.

The MOD considered modifying and refurbishing the vehicles but replacement with a new vehicle was identified as the better option. As a result the vehicles were disposed of in 2004 for a total of £44,000. Nine were sold to Estonia, four to a US company and one to a company based in Singapore.

Munitions

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on developing partnering arrangements with non-BAE suppliers on general munitions. [86657]

Mr. Ingram: Partnering agreements are already in place with three key non-BAES (Land Systems Munitions) suppliers: PW Defence (part of the Chemring Group), Rheinmetall Waffe Munition GmbH and Wallop Defence Systems. Subject to satisfactory completion of negotiations, we hope to agree partnering arrangements with Chemring Counter Measures and Nobel Enterprises over the next two years.

Parliamentary Questions

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he will reply to question 16696 on fatalities in Iraq, tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 7 October 2005; and what the reason is for the delay in replying; [86520]

(2) how many fatalities to UK service personnel in Iraq have been caused, wholly or in part, by *(a)* infrared bomb technology and *(b)* armour piercing bombs; and if he will make a statement. [16696]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answers 10 October 2005 and 19 July 2006]:* I regret the delay in providing an answer to my hon. Friend's question of 7 October 2005. This was due to an administrative error, which new procedures for recording and tracking parliamentary questions will prevent in the future.

As at 17 July 2006, a total of 114 British armed forces personnel have died while serving on Operation TELIC since the start of the campaign in March 2003. Of these, 85 are classed as killed in action, including 25 as a result of Improvised Explosive Devices. Information on fatalities in Iraq is available on the MOD website at www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsInIraq and in the Libraries of the House. The release of further information relating to the circumstances of successful attacks on UK forces could compromise operational security thereby placing our servicemen and women in additional unnecessary danger or potential harm.

Peacekeeping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the capacity of the Army to undertake its peacekeeping roles effectively. [88806]

Mr. Ingram: While we recognise that the Army is busy I am confident that it is able to meet all its current peacekeeping commitments.

Piracy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to counter the threat posed by piracy in international waters. [87705]

Mr. Ingram: United Kingdom Government policy for counter-piracy primarily rests with the Transport Security and Contingencies Directorate of the Department for Transport and also the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. They have a coordinated counter-piracy strategy and action plan designed to protect seafarers and ships from piracy attack. This work has been presented to the International Maritime Organization and other international organisations and States to encourage a more coordinated effort to combat the problem.

Royal Navy ships, while not specifically committed to counter-piracy duties, will, whenever they are on hand to do so, take all appropriate measures to respond to incidents of piracy on the high seas in accordance with international law. Furthermore, the Royal Navy works closely with the Department for Transport on shipping protection issues and maintains a worldwide Maritime Trade Operations policy which enables it to offer a number of options to support merchant shipping. These range from provision of routine advice and guidance, through to active protection of merchant vessels.

Private Military Companies

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to establish *(a)* operating standards and *(b)* licensing controls for the regulation of private military companies. [88108]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my reply (UIN 87939) on the current Government position regarding regulation of private military and security companies. The review of options for regulation covers both of the issues raised by the hon. Member.

Project MASS

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on project MASS (Munitions Acquisition the Supply Solution). [86656]

Mr. Ingram: Project MASS is currently in its Assessment Phase which seeks to identify the best options to provide us with the operational capability our armed forces need combined with the best long term value for money.

Service Personnel (Dismissal)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been sacked from the armed forces on the grounds of their sexuality since the first year for which figures are available; how many have been compensated; what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* average amount of compensation is; how many whose cases have not yet been determined remain to be compensated; how many have had compensation refused; how many were denied compensation on a Limitation Act 1980 based defence; and if he will make a statement. [87790]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The Ministry of Defence does not hold centralised records of those personnel who left or were dismissed on grounds of their sexual orientation. However, 38 personnel have received compensation. The highest compensation award was £147,875, with the average award being £35,598. 62 claims remain to be settled. 57 had compensation refused. The Ministry of Defence has not relied upon the Limitation Act 1980 in defence of any of these claims.

Spare Parts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the spare parts availability shortfall rate is for *(a)* Typhoon and *(b)* Hercules C-130 aircraft. [87036]

Mr. Ingram: For the Typhoon aircraft I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1236W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

For the Hercules fleet, spares demands satisfied from MOD stocks average 90 per cent. for the C-130K, and 75 per cent. for the C-130J. Spare parts availability for the Hercules fleet as a whole has been sufficient to meet its operational commitments.

Submarine Flotilla

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on the development of a programme level partnering agreement with a single industrial entity for the full life cycle of the submarine flotilla; and if he will make a statement. [86664]

Mr. Ingram: We remain convinced of the need for consolidation in the submarine industrial base and detailed discussions with industry on the scope of a possible programme level partnering agreement are continuing. Improved supply chain management must also take place to safeguard capability and to incentivise better performance; working level negotiations continue with the key elements of industry on this basis. Given the number of industrial players in the submarine domain, consolidation to one entity may not be possible; other solutions such as an alliance or a joint venture are also being examined. MOD is considering a number of possible options with industry; none of these have yet resulted in an acceptable way ahead, but negotiation is under way.

Systems (Core Load)

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress his Department has made in arriving at a common understanding of the core load required to sustain high-end design, systems engineering and combat systems integration skills; and if he will make a statement; [86660]

(2) when he expects to produce a sustainability strategy for key maritime industrial capabilities; and if he will make a statement. [86662]

Mr. Ingram: We are making progress on assessing the Core Work Load required to sustain the maritime Key Industrial Capabilities, though we have not achieved the target of completing this within six months of publication of the Defence Industrial Strategy. This work is complex and it is important to ensure the links and coherency between the surface ship, submarine and support programmes are right. Industry has been, and will continue to be, involved. As the sustainability strategy for key maritime equipment industrial capabilities is intimately linked to this work, this has also been delayed. We will ensure that this work is completed efficiently and effectively and as quickly as possible.

Tour Intervals

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* longest tour interval was for the (i) RAF Field Regiment, (ii) RAF Rapier, (iii) RAF Biological Detection and (iv) Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment squadrons. [87021]

Mr. Ingram: All Royal Air Force personnel are liable to be deployed overseas to support operations. The following table gives the details of tour intervals between operational deployments of formed units during the three year period from July 2003 to June 2006.

Months

	Average tour interval	*Short tour interval*	*Longest tour interval*
RAF Regiment Field Squadrons	13	12	16
RAF Rapier Squadrons	12	5	18
RAF Biological Detection Squadron[1]	—	—	—
Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment Squadrons[1]	—	—	—

[1] Neither the RAF biological detection squadron (embedded within the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Regiment) nor any of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment squadrons have deployed as a formed unit during the period.

US Missile Defence Agency

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many UK personnel are attached to the US Missile Defence Agency; [86666]

(2) how many US personnel are attached to the UK Missile Defence Centre. [86667]

Des Browne: The US and UK have been exchanging personnel under the terms of the Strategic Defence Initiative Memoranda of Understanding since the 1980's. Four US personnel are currently seconded to the UK, two in the Missile Defence Centre, and two in Missile Defence Centre sponsored posts in the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory. Four Ministry of Defence personnel are currently seconded to the US Missile Defence Agency.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87069]

Ms Harman: The Department for Constitutional Affairs was created on 12 June 2003. My Department has conducted two advertising campaigns from then to 30 June 2004:

a regional poster campaign on buses to promote recruitment to the lay magistracy

a week-long campaign of radio and press adverts to target court fine defaulters (under the title Operation Payback).

Project	*(a) Date*	*(b) Cost (£)*
Magistrate recruitment	November 2003 to June 2004	444,000
Operation Payback	March 2004	230,000

Benefit Claims (Appeals)

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many successful appeals against decisions to grant *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance as a result of (i) mistakes in interpreting medical evidence and (ii) unusable medical assessment forms there were in the last period for which figures are available. [87248]

Bridget Prentice: The information asked for is not available in the format requested as data is recorded by outcome rather than the grounds for the tribunal's decision.

The following table gives details of the total number of disability living allowance and attendance allowance appeals received, the number cleared at a hearing and those appeals that were decided in the appellant's favour.

AA and DLA appeals, April 2005 to March 2006: Total received, cleared and cleared in favour of appellant

Benefit	*Received*	*Cleared at hearing*	*Cleared in favour*
AA	7,220	5,605	2,300
DLA	82,330	71,125	35,495

Notes:
1. All figures are subject to change as more up to date data becomes available
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum due to rounding
3. 'Cleared in favour' is an abbreviation of 'Cleared in favour of the appellant'

Source:
100 per cent. download from the Generic Appeals Processing System (17-07-2006)

Community Justice Centre (North Liverpool)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of defendants attending the Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool since May 2005 have *(a)* re-offended and *(b)* complied with their sentence. [88501]

Ms Harman: At this stage it is too early to give statistics on re-offending and compliance with sentences. The standard measure for re-offending rates is measured over two years from the date of sentence.

However, the Community Justice Centre is undergoing a comprehensive evaluation which is due to report in January 2007. This evaluation will provide an early anecdotal position on both re-offending and sentence compliance which will be compared to the same measures at a comparator court. This includes offenders being asked in telephone survey interviews and in the in-depth face to face interviews about any changes in their offending behaviour and their compliance with sentencing.

Crown Court Convictions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the reasons why the percentage of convictions in Crown courts which were successfully appealed against between 2000 and 2005 has increased. [88497]

Ms Harman: My Department has not made any assessment of this.

Family Court Sentences

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many people were sentenced to a term in prison by the family courts in each of the last five years, broken down by sex; [88035]

(2) how many people were remanded in custody by the family courts in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* reason. [88036]

Ms Harman: Information on how many people have been sentenced to a term in prison by the family courts in each of the last five years is not recorded.

The following table shows the number of people remanded into custody upon breach of an order made under the Family Law Act 1996. The table also shows the number of people remanded on bail or for medical reports. It is not possible to break them down by gender nor reason.

Financial year	Bail	Custody	Medical reports	Total
2001-02	158	352	9	519
2002-03	203	504	16	723
2003-04	217	616	8	841
2004-05	225	565	10	800
2005-06	253	576	2	831

The above figures relate to the county courts and High Court only. Figures for family proceedings courts are not held centrally and could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Freedom of Information Act

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the reasons for the differing levels of compliance with the 20-day deadline under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by central Government Departments during the last three months of 2005. [88292]

Ms Harman: Divergence is due to the number of information requests that Departments receive particularly where they relate to complex policy issues. Departments are allowed to extend the deadline to consider the public interest and it is appropriate that they take the time necessary to reach the correct decision. That is to protect information that is legitimately exempt and to ensure the release of information where the balance of the public interest lies in its disclosure.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1732W, on Freedom of Information, how many complaints *(a)* are outstanding and *(b)* have been outstanding for more than (i) three months, (ii) six months and (iii) over six months. [88293]

Ms Harman: The information requested has been provided by the Information Commissioner.

(a) On 30 June 2006 1,204 FOI complaints were outstanding.

(b) The Information Commissioner's Office measures processing times in terms of calendar dates rather than months.

(i) Of the 1,204 complaints outstanding on 30 June 2006 946 had been outstanding for more than 90 days.

(ii) Of the 1,204 complaints outstanding on 30 June 2006 688 had been outstanding for more than 180 days.

(iii) The answer to (iii) is the same as the answer to (ii).

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to improve compliance with the 20-day response deadline under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [88295]

Ms Harman: The Department for Constitutional Affairs has established a regime to monitor central government performance under the legislation. Throughout the first year of implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, my Department refined this monitoring regime to ensure that a robust system was in place to collect data.

My Department continues to provide advice and assistance to help Departments improve their performance.

Central Government performance improved significantly during 2005. Across monitored bodies in the first quarter of this year 90 per cent. of requests were answered within the 20-day response deadline.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average cost has been of answering *(a)* a Freedom of Information request and *(b)* a request under the Environmental Information Regulations. [88296]

Ms Harman: Over 100,000 public authorities are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) and the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR). We do not have the average cost of answering FOI or EIR requests across all these authorities.

Immigration Solicitors

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many solicitors in the London borough of Southwark provide publicly-funded immigration work; and how many provided such work in *(a)* 1996, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* 2005; [88954]

(2) what assessment she had made of the impact of the change in the number of solicitors in the London Borough of Southwark who provide publicly-funded immigration work on those seeking specialist immigration advice; [88955]

(3) in which *(a)* (i) London and (ii) Metropolitan borough, *(b)* county and *(c)* unitary authority there has been a (A) reduction and (B) increase in the number of solicitors who provide publicly-funded immigration work since (1) 1997 and (2) 2001. [88956]

Vera Baird: The number of solicitors providing publicly-funded immigration work in Southwark for each year was as follows:

	Solicitors	Total number of immigration service providers in Southwark including not-for-profit organisations
2000-01	18	21
2003-04	20	25
2004-05	20	25
2006-07	5	10

It is not possible to show earlier figures as before 2000 the Legal Services Commission (LSC) did not have contract arrangements with legal aid service providers.

There has been a significant reduction nationally, as well as in Southwark, in the number of firms of solicitors carrying out publicly funded immigration

advice over the last two years. There are a number of reasons for this including firms withdrawing from the work as a result of a significant reduction in the number of people requiring advice and the LSC terminating contracts because of concerns about the quality and/or cost of the work being carried out. However the LSC remains convinced that there is sufficient provision to meet the demand for services and that the main reason that people are unable to access legal aid is because they do not satisfy the statutory means and merits criteria.

Changes in the number of solicitors providing publicly funded immigration work since 2001 by LSC bid zone is shown in the table below. It is not possible to show earlier figures as before 2000 the LSC did not have contract arrangements with legal aid service providers.

Table 1

Bidzone	*2001*	*2006*	*Change*
Birmingham	21	12	reduction
Coventry	4	3	reduction
Dudley	1	1	no change
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1	0	reduction
Sandwell	2	1	reduction
Stoke Central	1	1	no change
Walsall	4	1	reduction
Wolverhampton	1	2	increase
Brighton and Hove	1	1	no change
Canterbury	1	0	reduction
Crawley	1	0	reduction
Dover	1	1	no change
Eastbourne	1	0	reduction
Gravesham	1	0	reduction
Hastings	1	0	reduction
Maidstone	0	1	increase
Medway Towns	1	0	reduction
Shepway	1	0	reduction
Thanet	1	0	reduction
Woking	1	0	reduction
Worthing	2	0	reduction
Bath	1	0	reduction
Bournemouth	1	0	reduction
Bristol Central	4	3	reduction
Exeter	4	1	reduction
Gloucester	0	0	no change
Kingswood	2	0	reduction
Plymouth	2	1	reduction
St Austell	1	0	reduction
Swindon	0	0	no change
Bedford	2	1	reduction
Cambridge	2	0	reduction
Colchester	1	0	reduction
Fenland	0	1	increase
Hertsmere	1	1	no change
Ipswich	2	0	reduction
Luton	3	2	reduction
North Hertfordshire	0	1	increase
Norwich	2	0	reduction
Peterborough	2	0	reduction
Southend-on-Sea	1	0	reduction
St. Edmundsbury	1	0	reduction
Uttlesford	1	0	reduction
Cardiff	5	4	reduction

Table 1

Bidzone	*2001*	*2006*	*Change*
Newport	2	2	no change
Swansea City	1	0	reduction
Wrexham	0	1	increase
Bradford	6	3	reduction
Calderdale	1	0	reduction
Doncaster	1	1	no change
Greater Hull	2	0	reduction
Huddersfield District	1	0	reduction
Leeds	5	4	reduction
North East Lincolnshire	2	0	reduction
North Kirklees	4	0	reduction
North Lincolnshire	1	0	reduction
Rotherham	1	1	no change
Sheffield	3	1	reduction
Wakefield District	2	1	reduction
Birkenhead	0	0	no change
City Centre	1	3	increase
Liverpool South Inner	1	0	reduction
Barking and Dagenham	2	3	increase
Barnet	4	2	reduction
Bexley	2	0	reduction
Brent	27	11	reduction
Bromley	2	0	reduction
Camden	21	15	reduction
Croydon	5	3	reduction
Ealing	21	11	reduction
Enfield	2	2	no change
Greenwich	2	0	reduction
Hackney	13	8	reduction
Hammersmith and Fulham	8	5	reduction
Haringey	27	12	reduction
Harrow	11	5	reduction
Havering	1	1	no change
Hillingdon	3	0	reduction
Hounslow	7	3	reduction
Islington	22	7	reduction
Kensington and Chelsea	5	1	reduction
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	no change
Lambeth	14	6	reduction
Lewisham	4	3	reduction
London City	4	1	reduction
Merton	4	1	reduction
Newham	25	11	reduction
Redbridge	7	5	reduction
Richmond upon Thames	2	1	reduction
Southwark	18	5	reduction
Tower Hamlets	13	5	reduction
Waltham Forest	12	2	reduction
Wandsworth	13	6	reduction
Westminster	16	9	reduction
Blackburn with Darwen	2	2	no change
Bolton	1	0	reduction
Burnley	1	1	no change
Bury	1	0	reduction

Table 1

Bidzone	2001	2006	Change
Manchester Central	3	1	reduction
Manchester North	3	1	reduction
Manchester South	2	2	no change
Oldham	2	0	reduction
Pendle	2	1	reduction
Preston	2	1	reduction
Rochdale	1	1	no change
Rossendale	1	0	reduction
Salford	1	0	reduction
Stockport	0	0	no change
Tameside	0	2	increase
Trafford North	0	0	no change
Gateshead	1	1	no change
Hartlepool	1	0	reduction
Middlesbrough	3	1	reduction
Newcastle	3	3	no change
Redcar and Cleveland	1	1	no change
Stockton	1	0	reduction
Sunderland	1	1	no change
Boston	1	0	reduction
Charnwood	2	0	reduction
Chesterfield	0	0	no change
Derby	3	0	reduction
Leicester	9	3	reduction
Lincoln	1	0	reduction
Northampton	1	0	reduction
Nottingham	4	3	reduction
South Derbyshire	0	0	no change
South Kesteven	1	0	reduction

Table 1

Bidzone	2001	2006	Change
Aylesbury Vale	1	1	no change
Chiltern	1	0	reduction
Eastleigh	0	1	increase
Greater Reading	3	1	reduction
Havant	1	0	reduction
Milton Keynes	0	0	no change
Oxford	3	1	reduction
Portsmouth	1	1	no change
Rushmoor	1	1	no change
Slough	3	0	reduction
Southampton	3	4	increase
Wycombe	0	1	increase

Legal Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many applications there have been for legal aid in housing cases in each London borough in each of the last five years. [87244]

Vera Baird: The number of cases started by providing advice and assistance in the housing category of law is provided in table 1.

The number of applications for a certificate in the housing category of law, which also includes representation in legal proceedings, is included in table 2.

It is likely that some of the matters started in table 1 proceeded to full certificated work and therefore they could also be included in table 2.

Table 1: Legal Help matters started in housing cases

Number of matters started

Greater London Borough	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	503	494	446	392	488
Barnet	333	375	321	375	415
Bexley	45	74	74	90	124
Brent	1,325	1,394	1253	1,151	1513
Bromley	283	308	326	227	403
Camden	2,290	2,249	2,026	1,598	1,719
Croydon	395	462	354	295	393
Ealing	1,523	1,583	1,284	1,405	1,551
Enfield	450	368	323	267	280
Greenwich	625	461	555	667	665
Hackney	2,541	2,722	2,669	2,743	2,632
Hammersmith and Fulham	1189	1,178	1,070	1040	1,101
Haringey	1,877	1,694	1,463	1,457	1,616
Harrow	342	354	386	378	355
Havering	27	53	76	138	250
Hillingdon	243	290	90	41	190
Hounslow	300	196	231	275	446
Islington	1,912	1,583	1,399	1,635	2,045
Kensington and Chelsea	664	753	861	685	807
Kingston upon Thames	62	45	22	13	151
Lambeth	2,257	1,940	1,819	2,084	2,397
Lewisham	521	674	584	527	556
London City	157	148	135	128	185
Merton	0	0	0	42	52
Newham	2,715	2,622	2,239	2,085	2,914

Table 1: Legal Help matters started in housing cases

Greater London Borough	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
					Number of matters started
Redbridge	695	310	239	202	181
Richmond upon Thames	111	30	49	2	2
Southwark	1,929	1,795	1,759	1,909	2,083
Sutton	69	55	27	8	95
Tower Hamlets	1,268	1,113	981	1,577	1,455
Waltham Forest	396	290	259	432	483
Wandsworth	1,638	1,550	1,315	1,264	1,340
Westminster	1,974	1,731	1,418	1,547	1,527
Total matters started	30,659	28,894	26,053	26,679	30,414

Table 2: Applications for civil representation in housing matters

Greater London Borough	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
					Number of matters started
Barking and Dagenham	114	91	90	110	135
Barnet	82	119	97	117	145
Bexley	9	16	25	29	28
Brent	254	206	209	163	211
Bromley	109	86	75	60	49
Camden	753	826	816	644	694
Croydon	120	154	172	155	171
Ealing	310	290	243	290	288
Enfield	98	88	90	97	71
Greenwich	156	159	126	114	108
Hackney	626	609	591	667	648
Hammersmith and Fulham	189	201	211	171	223
Haringey	488	475	460	383	332
Harrow	160	107	126	103	96
Havering	15	18	22	31	35
Hillingdon	78	81	77	69	94
Hounslow	177	193	129	132	182
Islington	811	842	674	675	638
Kensington and Chelsea	207	266	392	306	256
Kingston upon Thames	7	2	5	2	26
Lambeth	850	848	828	787	810
Lewisham	202	226	205	214	255
London City	48	49	53	86	73
Merton	4	30	—	4	16
Newham	633	644	591	595	468
Redbridge	168	3	69	73	104
Richmond upon Thames	34	9	36	24	1
Southwark	812	908	853	938	980
Sutton	19	16	10	2	3
Tower Hamlets	298	271	179	227	266
Waltham Forest	102	97	163	145	153
Wandsworth	425	392	355	424	398
Westminster	426	445	416	425	469
Total Applications	8,784	8,820	8,388	8,262	8,426

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her Department's expenditure was on legal aid for asylum and immigration cases in each year since 1997; and what the *(a)* budget allocation and *(b)* expenditure was on administration for such cases in 2005-06. [88712]

Vera Baird: The departmental cash expenditure on legal aid in immigration and asylum cases in England and Wales for each year since 1996-97 was as follows;

	£ million
1996-97	[1]29.1
1997-98	[1]38.2
1998-99	[1]53.3
1999-2000	61.4
2000-01	81.1
2001-02	129.4
2002-03	176.2
2003-04	200.5

	£ million
2004-05	177.2
2005-06	107.3

[1] The cost of civil representation has been estimated for these years.

The figure for 2005-06 includes £5.7 million for administration. Administration expenditure is the proportion of the Commission's running costs that are directly or indirectly attributed to immigration and asylum. This expenditure was in line with the forecast for the year.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total cost was of legal aid provision for under 18-year-olds who have sought to challenge antisocial behaviour orders in each year since their introduction. [88713]

Vera Baird: The information requested is not available.

Legal Aid Budget

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make it her policy to ensure that overspending in the Legal Aid budget is not financed by reductions in the budget for HM Courts Services. [87482]

Ms Harman: The Department must manage its total spending on legal aid, courts and other services within the limits set by the Treasury. The proposals in the report of Lord Carter, published on 13 July, set a basis for ensuring that in future the cost of the legal aid scheme within the spending of the Department as a whole is better managed and controlled.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many times her ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87655]

Ms Harman: Since becoming the Minister of State for the Department for Constitutional Affairs in May 2005, my ministerial office has not been decorated. It was an existing office space that I inherited from the previous responsible Minister and was not decorated prior to my arrival. The office was not decorated during the tenure of the previous incumbent which dates back to 2003. To produce any costs for the years preceding this would incur a disproportionate cost as the Department for Constitutional Affairs was only created in June 2003.

Northern Ireland Coroners

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many coroners have been appointed in Northern Ireland in the past two years; and what *(a)* experience in private practice as a lawyer and *(b)* other professional experience each of the appointees had. [88905]

Bridget Prentice: There have been three new coroners appointed in Northern Ireland in the past two years. One of the appointees is a High Court Judge who was appointed to the office of coroner in May 2006 to be the Presiding Judge for the Coroners Service.

Of the two other appointees, one is a solicitor of 19 years standing of which one year was served in private practice and 18 years in public service, and the other is a barrister of 13 years standing of which six years were served in private practice and seven years in public service.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people applied to become coroners in Northern Ireland in each of the last two years; and what experience as a private lawyer each had. [88906]

Bridget Prentice: I am informed by the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission that 31 applications were received for the post of Coroner which was advertised earlier this year. The applicants' experience in private practice ranged from none to 31 years.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many parliamentary questions tabled to her Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85200]

Vera Baird: 98 parliamentary questions tabled to my Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006. 13 of these were overdue with *(a)* three awaiting a reply longer than two weeks and *(b)* six awaiting a reply longer than three weeks. The remaining four were awaiting a reply for less than two weeks.

The reason for the delay in replying to the overdue questions is that in many cases the information requested was not readily available and in one case the information had been archived. While my ministerial colleagues and I fully understand the importance of meeting deadlines for parliamentary questions, we are also keen to ensure that the answers we give are as accurate as possible.

Rape

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on progress with providing legal advice for rape victims. [84589]

Ms Harman: At present we are piloting the Victims' Advocate scheme, which offers legal advice to the families of murder and manslaughter victims. Decisions about the future of the Victims' Advocates scheme will be taken when we have assessed the success of the pilots.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in her Department in each year since February 2004. [88553]

Bridget Prentice: In 2004, 395 security passes were reported lost and 22 reported stolen by staff within the Department for Constitutional Affairs. In 2005, 170 were reported lost and 24 stolen. In 2006, to date, 148 have been reported lost, and 6 stolen.

When a security pass is reported lost or stolen, appropriate steps are taken to reduce the risk of unauthorised access into any of the Department's buildings.

Sir Alistair Graham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, *Official Report*, column 1830W, on Sir Alistair Graham, for how many days Sir Alistair Graham claimed as a member of the Employment Appeals Tribunal in each year of his membership; and what his total remuneration was in each such year. [85985]

Vera Baird: The number of days Sir Alistair Graham claimed for as a member of the Employment Appeals Tribunal in each year of his membership, and what his total remuneration was in each such year is a matter for his personal disclosure.

US Department of Justice

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had with representatives of the United States' Department of Justice in the last 12 months. [86488]

Ms Harman: I have not met with any representative of the United States' Department of Justice. In January 2006 my officials organised an international conference on the codification of criminal procedures. The Deputy Director of the Office of Policy and Legislation in the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice attended the conference during the course of which he spoke on an informal basis with my officials. No other meetings between DCA and US Department of Justice officials have taken place in the last 12 months.

Victims' Advocates Scheme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what criteria were used in selecting Crown courts for the pilot victims' advocates scheme; and if she will make a statement. [88682]

Ms Harman: The following criteria were used in selecting the courts for the Victims' Advocates pilot: (a) a mix of courts with wide geographical spread, (b) the pilot should cover courts in both urban and rural areas, (c) the courts should have large enough numbers of murder and manslaughter trials for effective evaluation, (d) the level of local interest and enthusiasm for the scheme and (e) not overburdening courts with pilot schemes and other initiatives. The selection of the pilot courts was made in consultation with the President of the Queen's Bench Division. The President then wrote to the courts concerned asking them to take part in the pilot.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court cases were included in the pilot for the victims' advocates scheme for the bereaved relatives of murder and manslaughter in each of the pilot Crown courts. [88683]

Ms Harman: The pilot scheme applies to cases of murder and manslaughter in the pilot areas charged on or after 24 April 2006. As of mid-July, we are aware of 52 cases eligible for the scheme in the five pilot areas (three for the Birmingham pilot site, five in Cardiff pilot site, 36 in London pilot site, five in Manchester pilot site and three in Winchester pilot site). None of the cases has yet come to trial or resulted in a conviction.

Young Offenders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average time was for dealing with persistent young offenders from arrest to sentence in each of the last five years. [88662]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the average number of days from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders in England and Wales in each of the last five years. The table also shows the number persistent young offenders in England and Wales in each of the years, as is the convention with the statistic.

Period	*Days*	*Number of cases*
2001	76	25,393
2002	68	26,116
2003	66	26,083
2004	69	26,363
2005	68	27,037

The figures in the table cover cases heard in both magistrates and Crown courts.

The statistic is reported on in a bulletin available on the Department for Constitutional Affairs website each month: http://www.dca.gov.uk/statistics/crjust.htm#part3.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what baseline transfers have been made from the Department of Work and Pensions to other central Government departments to reflect changes in funding responsibilities for Access to Work for their disabled employees since October 2006. [86037]

Mrs. McGuire: No baseline transfers have been made from the DWP to other central Government Departments.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Access to Work scheme. [88888]

Mrs. McGuire: The most recent independent assessment the Department for Work and Pensions has made of the effectiveness of the Access to Work programme was a study published in September 2002[1]. The study involved case studies with participants and employers to assess the difference the programme makes in enabling users to take up and stay in work. The interviews with users and employers were carried out between September and December 2001.

Additionally, between July and October 2005, Access to Work Business Centres sent out 4,000 questionnaires to Access to Work customers, seeking their views on the service they had received. Of the customers who responded, 91 per cent. indicated that they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the overall service they had received from Access to Work.

[1] Evaluating the Impact of Access to Work. A Case Study Approach. Patricia Thornton and Anne Corden. Social Policy Research Unit, University of York. Report number WAE 138, September 2002.

Asbestos

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures will be put in place to monitor and prevent the fly-tipping of textured coatings containing asbestos under the draft Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006. [86620]

Mrs. McGuire: The draft Control of Asbestos Regulations set out controls on work with asbestos and do not deal with the illegal disposal of waste materials containing asbestos. Controls on the fly-tipping of waste asbestos is covered under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which makes the illegal disposal of waste an offence. Government have worked with the Environment Agency to set up "Flycapture" the national fly-tipping database which records the numbers of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by local authorities and the Environment Agency. The database was set up in April 2004 and records summary data on fly-tips by waste type, for example asbestos. Government are committed to helping the enforcement authorities tackle this problem and has developed a range of proposals as part of its fly-tipping strategy.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* policy and *(b)* drafting of Article 3 Paragraph 3 of Directive 2003/18/EC on control of asbestos. [86621]

Mrs. McGuire: This issue is currently with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which is responsible for drawing up draft Regulations to implement Directive 2003/18/EC. The Regulations will only be submitted to Ministers once the Health and Safety Commission is content with them. HSE's assessment is that the derogation contained in Article 3, paragraph 3 of Directive 2003/18/EC provided a sufficient basis for implementing clear measures in domestic regulations and guidance. The key point is that the derogation will only apply where the results of a risk assessment clearly show that the proposed lower, single control limit will not be exceeded. HSE also considered important the provision in Article 3(3)(bis) which directs member states to lay down practical guidelines on the derogation.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account he took of Cabinet Office guidelines on the transposition of European legislation in drawing up the draft Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 to implement Directive 2003/18/EC. [86622]

Mrs. McGuire: This issue is currently with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which is responsible for drawing up draft Regulations to implement Directive 2003/18/EC. The Regulations will only be submitted to Ministers once the Health and Safety Commission is content with them. HSE takes full account of the Cabinet Office guidelines on transposing European Regulations.

Those guidelines recommend that there should be a presumption to copy out the provisions of a Directive except where there is a clear justification for doing otherwise. In the case of the draft Control of Asbestos Regulations, most of the provisions of Directive 2003/18/EC have been copied out. Where this has not been done, it has been for clear and justifiable reasons, such as ensuring a good fit with the way in which health and safety law is framed in Great Britain. This is particularly important in areas where we go beyond the requirements of the Directive, such as licensing.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the omission of the words 'without deterioration of non-degraded' from Regulation 3(2)ii of the draft Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006, which transposes Article 3 Paragraph 3 of directive 2003/18/EC, on *(a)* the scope of the directive and *(b)* worker protection. [86623]

Mrs. McGuire: This issue is currently with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which is responsible for drawing up draft regulations to implement Directive 2003/18/EC. The regulations will only be submitted to Ministers once the Health and Safety Commission is content with them. HSE's assessment is that the omission of the words "without deterioration of non-degraded" materials from the draft Control of Asbestos Regulations provides greater clarity in the way the directive has been transposed and will in fact contribute to overall increased levels of protection beyond that provided for in the directive for those working with materials containing asbestos.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has sought guidance from the European Commission on the UK's proposed wording of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 to implement directive 2003/18/EC. [86624]

Mrs. McGuire: This issue is currently with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which is responsible for drawing up draft regulations to implement directive 2003/18/EC. The regulations will only be submitted to Ministers once the Health and Safety Commission is content with them. HSE has not sought guidance as it considers the directive provides a sufficient basis for putting in place clear measures that fully implemented it. Once the regulations are in place, the way in which we have implemented the directive will be considered by the European Commission.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what response his Department has made to the correspondence from the European Commission regarding the draft Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 to transpose directive 2003/18/EC. [86625]

Mrs. McGuire: The UK has received three letters from the European Commission regarding the transposition of directive 2003/18/EC. The first, in April, requested information about the measures the UK had taken to implement the Directive. The UK replied in May, explaining that it had not yet been possible to fully implement the directive, but that it had consulted on proposals. In June, a further letter was received notifying the UK that the Commission considered that it had failed to fulfil its obligations to transpose the directive into national law and inviting observations. On 20 June 2006 the UK received a further letter referring to concerns raised by the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association about the way in the Health and Safety Executive proposes implementing Article 3(3) of directive 2003/18/EC. We will reply to both these letters soon.

Benefit Fraud Hotline

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were made to the Benefit Fraud Hotline in each year since 1997; and what proportion of such calls led to *(a)* investigation and *(b)* conviction of the individuals named. [73252]

Mr. Plaskitt: The National Benefit Fraud Hotline is very cost effective—last year it cost nearly £1 million to run but identified £21.4 million in recoverable overpayments. Between April 1999 and March 2006, 4,233 people have been convicted as a result of calls made to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline.

Information regarding calls made, and the proportion of such calls that led to investigation and conviction is only available from April 2004. Available information regarding the number of calls actually answered from 1997 is in the table.

	Calls answered	*Referrals for investigation as a proportion of calls answered (Percentage)*	*Convictions as a proportion of calls answered (Percentage)*
1997-98	188,038	Not recorded	Not recorded
1998-99	170,032	Not recorded	Not recorded
1999-00	162,067	49.05	0.20
2000-01	208,201	48.68	0.23
2001-02	205,999	52.99	0.34
2002-03	159,290	56.51	0.44
2003-04	211,054	53.55	0.29
2004-05	199,004	55.22	0.31
2005-06	211,599	72.47	0.34

Source:
National Benefit Fraud Hotline and Fraud Information by Sector system.

Benefits (Direct Payment)

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of fee-paying cash machines on people whose benefits are paid by direct payment. [57017]

Mr. Plaskitt: Direct Payment offers customers more flexibility in how and where they access their money—including making use of the 33,000 free automated teller machines within the LINK network. 96 per cent. of all cash withdrawals from LINK machines are free.

They can also use the 25 or so different bank accounts that are available free of charge over the counter at Post Office branches. There are around 20 million people who could access their bank account free of charge at a Post Office, but only around 10 per cent. (two million) per week actually do so. This is a huge untapped market which could bring vital new income into Post Office branches. DWP will work with Post Office Ltd. and support it in its efforts in increase this market.

The Post Office has confirmed its intention to withdraw from its involvement with third party fee-charging ATM suppliers and has recently announced its plans to install extra free-to-use automated teller machines in its branches.

DWP has undertaken research into customers' experience of, and satisfaction with, Direct Payment. Cash machine charges were not raised as an issue by customers in this research.

Benefits Processing

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on the introduction of new processing systems for *(a)* income support and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance; and if he will make a statement. [86038]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what progress has been made on the introduction of the new processing systems for (a) income support and (b) job seekers allowance. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

On the progress of the Benefit Delivery Centre roll out programme, I refer you to my reply to your earlier question, (PQ 76509, published in Hansard on Wednesday 28 June 2006, Col 421-422W).

I can also confirm that as Benefit Delivery Centres are rolled out staff will to continue to use the existing IT systems.

I hope this is helpful.

Child Support Agency

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether employers have the right to reduce the amount of attachment of earnings maintenance payment made by employees instructed to do so by the Child Support Agency. [87412]

Mr. Plaskitt: Where the employee's net income falls below the protected rate, the employer has the right to reduce the amount on a deduction from earnings order.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of families in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas who have made claims to the Child Support Agency have received at least one payment in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [85923]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88755]

Mrs. McGuire: It has not been possible to provide all the information in the requested format. The information available is presented in the following table.

Item	*Volume*	*Purchasing period*
USB Flash Drives and Memory Sticks	1,412	March 2005-June 2006[1]
Compact Discs	17,947	March 2005-June 2006
DVD-ROM discs	342	March 2005-June 2006
Laptop computers	430	March 2005-June 2006[2]
External Computer Hard drives	269	March 2005-March 2006[3]
Internal Computer Hard drives	20	March 2005-March 2006[3]
Desktop Computers	381	2March 2005-June 2006[2]

[1] These similar items are counted together
[2] Purchased by DWP or its IT supplier for use by DWP
[3] Information not available April 2006 to date

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Minister of State will reply to the letter of 26 April from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on pension wind-ups. [78040]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 June 2006]*: I replied on 30 June, another copy has been sent to the Member's constituency office.

Council Tax Benefit

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales receive 100 per cent. council tax benefit. [86849]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at May 2004, the most recent available information, there were 3,186,000 households in England and 222,000 households in Wales that received a full rebate through council tax benefit. These figures equate to 80 per cent. of English and 84 per cent. of Welsh households that are in receipt of council tax benefit.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum number of pages of the council tax benefit form a person is required to complete to claim the benefit. [87154]

Mr. Plaskitt: Where a person makes a claim for council tax benefit via Jobcentre Plus through the Customer Management System (CMS), or via the pensions service on a pre-populated form alongside pension credit, the minimum requirement is that the person signs the CMS statement or completed form after checking that the information is correct.

In other cases, the minimum is the two-page claim form used in the rapid reclaim process. This process allows those people who have previously been in receipt of council tax benefit and income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance in the last 12 weeks to reclaim benefit under a simplified process where the break in their claim was due to employment and no other circumstances have changed since their last claim.

For a completely new claim for council tax benefit only, the minimum size of the form issued by the department is a three-page form for pensioners who are in receipt of pension credit and have no dependent children or non-dependents living in the household.

We are unable to provide details of the maximum number of pages needed as this would not only depend on the complexities of a person's circumstances, but also depends on the procedures and forms in place within the 408 local authorities who administer council tax benefit.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster receive 100 per cent. council tax benefit. [87585]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* people, *(b)* senior citizens and *(c)* families are (i) entitled to and (ii) receive council tax benefit in each parliamentary constituency. [88311]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available. Council tax benefit information is not available broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88465]

Mrs. McGuire: None.

CV Writing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what help is available through his Department to people seeking to return to work to assist them in writing a curriculum vitae. [80755]

Mrs. McGuire: Personal advisers provide information, advice and guidance to help people identify, apply for and secure employment. As part of this, they are able to provide help to people on a range of required jobsearch skills, including developing and producing a curriculum vitae (CV).

Particularly disadvantaged people who need additional help can also be referred to Programme Centres which provide more concentrated, in-depth support on the range of jobsearch skills, including CV preparation.

Departmental Budget

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was unallocated in his Department's budget in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [89094]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was formed in June 2001 from the Department of Social Security (DSS), the Employment Service (ES) and parts of the former Department for Education & Employment (DFEE). Therefore it is not possible to provide information prior to 2001-02.

All of the Department's funding is allocated over the Spending Review period with the exception of a relatively small Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP). The Department follows Treasury Public Spending Guidance in maintaining this contingency fund from which unforeseen demands on resources can be met. Amounts carried forward at the end of one year are added to the DUP amounts set aside for the new year from the planning cycle. The amounts set aside for the DUP at the beginning of each year, the amounts expended during the year and the amounts carried forward to the following year are shown in the following table:

£ million

	Unallocated provision at start of year	*Expended during year*	*Provision carried forward at the end of year*
2001-02	56	9	47
2002-03	94	0	94
2003-04	105	103	2
2004-05	100	97	3
2005-06[1]	91	39	52

[1] The figures for 2005-06 are subject to final audit.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list in date order the *(a)* (i) Green and (ii) White Papers and *(b)* written ministerial statements, excluding those on Benefit Fraud Inspectorate reports, which have been produced by his Department since May 1997. [86511]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 19 July 2006]:* The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001. "Green" and "White Papers" are not defined terms. 66 papers were published within the Command Papers series since June 2001. A detailed list has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Written ministerial statements were introduced in October 2002. Since then the Department for Work and Pensions have made a total of 274 excluding Benefit Fraud Inspectorate Reports. A detailed list has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Staff

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's employees have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997. [88455]

Mrs. McGuire: The information on the number of Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) employees who have been *(a)* dismissed and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity for the period July 2003 to March 2006 is shown in the following table. No information is available for the period before July 2003.

No information is held on *(b)* the number of DWP employees who have been suspended for criminal activity in each year since 1997.

Number of DWP employees who have been dismissed and subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity

	Dismissed	*Disciplined*
July to December 2003	6	13
January to December 2004	6	43
January to December 2005	10	33
January to March 2006	1	3

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in the Department have taken early severance in each of the last 12 months; how many of those have been

re-employed by the Department; and how many of those have been re-employed in the same, or similar roles on (a) open-ended, (b) fixed-term and (c) temporary contacts (i) in England and (ii) at South Cheshire Jobcentre Plus. [88876]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of staff who have taken early release, early severance and early retirement, in each of the last 12 months for which centrally held information is available is in the following table.

The number of staff who have been re-employed on permanent, fixed term and temporary contracts is also in the table but data is not available on the specific roles in which they have been re-employed.

You also asked for the position at South Cheshire Jobcentre Plus. South Cheshire is part of the Cheshire and Warrington District of Jobcentre Plus. Information is not available from centrally held data but information obtained from local records indicate that a total of 26 staff left the District in March and 41 staff in June on early release. Of those who left, nine staff have been re-employed on short term temporary contracts to deal with work prior to centralisation. This approach was considered the most cost effective solution given the short term nature of the staffing requirement and the fact that no additional staff training was required.

		Number of staff re-employed in England		
	Number of staff taking early release in England	*Permanent contracts*	*Fixed term contracts*	*Temporary contracts*
2005				
June	169	1		
July	199	1	1	1
August	30	1		
September	325			
October	218			
November	43	1		1
December	235	1		
2006				
January	150			2
February	92	1		
March	732	1		1
April	218			
May	155			1
Total	2566	13	1	7

Notes
Figures relate to the number of individual staff not full time equivalents
Figures relate to early retirement and early severance

Disability Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total departmental expenditure on benefits has been for those who are disabled and unable to work since 1997; and how much of the welfare reform budget has been spent on measures connected with this group. [79985]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Information is not available. In the case of Department for Work and Pensions benefits which are not paid in relation to a disability, claimants are not required to classify themselves as being disabled or non-disabled.

Disabled Staff

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of (a) staff and (b) new staff employed since April 2005 in (i) his Department and (ii) each of the agencies for which he has responsibility were registered as disabled. [89034]

Mrs. McGuire: The process of registration as a disabled person was removed by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. DWP staff are, however, asked on a voluntary basis to state whether they are disabled.

The following table illustrates (a) the proportion of DWP staff that, according to computerised personnel records, have declared their disability status and stated that they are disabled, and (b) the proportion of new staff since 2005 that have declared on their application forms to the Department that they are disabled. The figures are broken down into the individual agencies and the corporate centre.

Agency	*Percentage all staff*	*Percentage new staff since April 2005*
DWP	5.20	6.79
Jobcentre Plus	6.43	6.33
The Pension Service	2.96	6.80
Child Support Agency	2.71	7.14
Disability and Carers Service	5.55	6.17
Debt Management	2.56	3.70
Corporate Centre	3.64	9.19

Escaped Prisoners (Benefits)

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what checks are in place to ensure that benefits are not paid to escaped prisoners. [79002]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits are not payable to convicted prisoners in custody or released on temporary licence. When a claim is made for an income-related benefit, checks are made of the claimant's recent past history as part of the process to establish entitlement.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 28th March 2006, *Official Report*, column 945W, on replacement pension costs, what estimate he has made of the annual cost over the next 10 years of administering the Financial Assistance Scheme (a) under the existing rules and (b) assuming (i) full and (ii) partial restoration of the pensions of those covered by the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report. [63866]

James Purnell *[holding answer 18 April 2006]*: The information is as follows:

(a) As the Financial Assistance Scheme has only recently been set up, estimates of the administrative costs over the next 10 years are subject to a degree of uncertainty. Our current estimate is that it will cost around £4.5 million a year up to 2009-10, when we would expect the costs to reduce significantly once the eligibility of all schemes and members has been assessed.

(b) It is difficult to estimate the administration costs of a scheme providing restoration of pensions to all those covered by the parliamentary ombudsman's report. As the scheme might have to mirror the benefit structures for each qualifying pension scheme, it could be significantly more complex than the Financial Assistance Scheme.

For full restoration, we estimate that the one off set up costs might be around £10 million and during the first five years that it might take to assess scheme eligibility and calculate member benefits, the administration costs could be at least £14 million a year. The total costs over the first year or so could therefore be around £20 million.

We cannot provide an estimate for partial restoration as it is unclear what that would involve.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of how many people will qualify for support from the Financial Assistance Scheme at *(a)* the 80 per cent. rate, *(b)* the 65 per cent. rate and *(c)* the 50 per cent. rate. [77996]

James Purnell: We estimate that 25,000 people could qualify for support from the Financial Assistance Scheme at the 80 per cent. rate, 9,000 could qualify at the 65 per cent. rate and 6,000 at the 50 per cent. rate.

Health and Safety (Temperatures)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has issued on the acceptable *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum temperatures (i) within offices and (ii) on public transport; [89045]

(2) what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has issued on the acceptable minimum and maximum temperatures. [89046]

Mrs. McGuire: I shall answer both of these questions together.

The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 require employers to provide reasonable temperatures in all indoor workplaces, including offices, for their employees. These Regulations are accompanied by an Approved Code of Practice and guidance. HSE recommends a lower temperature of 16 degrees Celsius unless the work involves severe physical effort in which case the temperature should be at least 13 degrees Celsius.

There is no minimum or maximum temperature legally required in the workplace. Establishing either is impractical, as thermal comfort is dependent on a range of environmental and personal factors (e.g. ventilation, humidity, type of work activity being undertaken, clothes worn, and temperature).

Further guidance is available on HSE's website www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/thermal. The website has been designed to provide comprehensive information and a step-by-step approach to help employers and employees manage excessive temperatures in the workplace. There is also HSE guidance for employers entitled "Thermal comfort in the workplace" (HSG 194).

The HSE has issued no specific health and safety guidance on public transport. However, HM Railway Inspectorate, which is now part of the Office of Rail Regulation, does have particular concern that rolling stock and infrastructure failures in deep tunnels can cause more specific health concerns. This is because of the increased temperatures and reduced ventilation that may be encountered by passengers on delayed and overcrowded carriages, especially during summer months. In such cases health and safety law requires employers to put arrangements in place to reduce the risks, but there are infrastructure and technical constraints to improving ventilation on some railways. Railway operators, such as LUL, alert passengers to the risks posed by hot conditions by suggesting that passengers carry a bottle of water and informing passengers of the quickest way of seeking help if taken ill on a train.

In addition, the Department of Health has produced an updated heat-wave plan on 26 May 2006 and new public health information leaflets are available from the Department of Health website: www.dh.gov.uk.

Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the costs to local authorities in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Great Britain for administering (i) housing benefit and (ii) council tax benefit were in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [86971]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department does not collect management information relating to the cost to local authorities of administering housing benefit under the existing national scheme. The available information on the administration subsidy paid to local authorities is in the following table.

Housing Benefit (HB) Council Tax Benefit (CTB) Administration subsidy: Scotland and Great Britain

£ million

	HB	CTB	HB/CTB
1999-2000			
Scotland	8,644,389	7,861,986	16,506,375
Great Britain	87,553,309	72,031,691	159,585,000
2000-01			
Scotland	8,588,591	8,216,713	16,805,304
Great Britain	86,817,329	74,182,671	161,000,000
2001-02			
Scotland	8,868,090	8,639,248	17,507,338
Great Britain	89,735,660	76,264,340	166,000,000

2002-03			
Scotland	8,999,480	8,956,165	17,955,645
Great Britain	91,529,917	78,470,083	170,000,000
2003-04[1]			
Scotland	18,761,705	17,825,973	36,587,678
Great Britain	189,533,660	158,466,340	348,000,000
2004-05[2]			
Scotland	21,238,664	18,372,505	39,611,169
	—	—	3,544,030
Great Britain	200,329,846	163,351,154	363,681,000
	—	—	30,400,000
2005-06[2]			
Scotland	21,992,689	18,946,117	40,938,806
	—	—	2,895,239
Great Britain	209,609,053	172,171,947	381,781,000
	—	—	27,000,000
2006-07[3]			
Scotland	—	—	57,367,265
Great Britain	—	—	554,999,999

[1] From 2003-04, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) distributed 100 per cent. of HB/CTB administration subsidy. Prior to 2003-04 distribution was shared 50 per cent by DWP, and 50 per cent. between the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Executive.

[2] 2004-05 and 2005-06 figures include separate identifiable amounts allocated in recognition of the costs to local authorities of administering HB/CTB claims which include pension credit and tax credits.

[3] From 2006-07 HB/CTB administration subsidy which includes funding for programme protection activities is announced as a single annual figure.

Identity Fraud (Training)

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what internal training courses on tackling identity fraud are provided to departmental staff who have access to members of the public's personal information. [86644]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the Written Answer I gave the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2438W.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in *(a)* South East Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* the Eastern region claimed (i) short-term and (ii) long-term incapacity benefit in each of the last five years. [88850]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the table.

Incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants each November 2001 to 2005, by geographical area and rate

	All IB/SDA	IBST(L)	IBST(H)	IBLT	IBCO	SDA
South East Cambridgeshire constituency						
2005	2,480	140	100	1,100	740	410
2004	2,450	130	110	1,110	680	420
2003	2,390	110	90	1,130	610	450
2002	2,330	110	130	1,080	550	460
2001	2,290	110	120	1,040	500	510
Cambridge city council						
2005	3,470	130	120	1,360	1,500	350
2004	3,360	130	120	1,320	1,430	370
2003	3,210	130	110	1,280	1,310	390
2002	3,160	120	150	1,230	1,250	410
2001	3,040	110	130	1,210	1,160	440
East Cambridgeshire district council						
2005	1,830	90	80	850	530	280
2004	1,830	90	80	850	510	300
2003	1,780	80	70	870	460	300
2002	1,730	90	100	810	410	310
2001	1,690	80	90	800	370	350
Fenland district council						
2005	3,810	160	170	1,940	1,110	430
2004	3,730	160	180	1,880	1,080	430
2003	3,600	140	140	1,870	990	450
2002	3,520	140	190	1,770	960	460
2001	3,390	140	150	1,730	860	510

Incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants each November 2001 to 2005, by geographical area and rate

	All IB/SDA	IBST(L)	IBST(H)	IBLT	IBCO	SDA
Huntingdonshire district						
2005	3,870	170	190	2,050	970	490
2004	3,910	230	220	1,980	980	500
2003	3,730	190	190	1,960	880	510
2002	3,730	170	240	1,900	880	540
2001	3,670	180	220	1,830	830	600
South Cambridgeshire district council						
2005	2,730	140	130	1,230	770	470
2004	2,700	140	110	1,240	710	490
2003	2,620	120	110	1,240	630	510
2002	2,570	120	170	1,140	600	540
2001	2,440	110	120	1,110	510	590
Peterborough city council						
2005	6,990	260	250	3,060	2,750	670
2004	7,020	270	280	3,110	2,660	700
2003	6,810	300	270	3,060	2,440	740
2002	6,800	280	360	2,960	2,420	770
2001	6,650	260	300	2,940	2,290	860
East of England GOR						
2005	179,300	7,080	7,000	82,880	59,520	22,820
2004	181,060	7,550	7,910	83,180	58,690	23,730
2003	178,230	7,940	7,820	82,120	55,550	24,790
2002	174,590	7,850	9,330	78,860	52,680	25,860
2001	171,170	7,180	7,970	78,060	49,550	28,400

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. IBST(L) = Incapacity Benefit short-term lower-rate
4. IBST(H) = Incapacity Benefit short-term higher-rate
5. IBLT = Incapacity Benefit long-term
6. IBCO = Incapacity Benefit credits-only

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Income Statistics

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of households in the UK had an income of *(a)* £22,009 or less, *(b)* £22,010 to £32,744 and *(c)* £32,745 or more in 2005-06. [83159]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The income information for 2005-06 is not available. Fully processed income data for 2005-06 will not be available until March 2007, following the publication of Households Below Average Income 2005/06.

IT Contracts

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* actual cost was of the upgrade from Windows 2000 to EP in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [88587]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's project to upgrade to Windows XP started in August 2004. Rollout commenced in June 2005 with an expected completion date of December 2005 at a planned cost of £12.673 million. The project completed in February 2006 with a final cost of £12.276 million.

Job Outcome Target

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what monitoring he has undertaken of the Job Outcome Target; and if he will make a statement. [87540]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 July 2006:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what monitoring he has undertaken of the Job Outcome Target. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Following a pilot which ran from January 2005 to March 2006 in seven Jobcentre Plus Districts, the Job Outcome Target was introduced nationally in April 2006. Job Outcomes are measured by matching information on employment starts provided by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) with information held on Jobcentre Plus systems.

As part of the pilot we monitored performance and conducted research into the operation of the target. Two reports have been published and are in the Library ('Evaluation of the Job Outcome Target Pilots: quantitative study. Final Report' Authors: Frankham et al. Ref No 316 and 'Evaluation of the Job Outcome Target Pilots: Findings from the Qualitative Study' Authors: Johnson et al. Ref No 302). The national implementation incorporated findings from this research. Further research is underway to examine activity in the pilots one year after implementation and to incorporate best practise on a national basis. We expect findings from this research to be published after February 2007.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the costs were of services from private sector security companies at Jobcentre Plus in each year from 2001-02; and what the estimated costs are in 2006-07. [86566]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the costs were of services from private sector security companies at Jobcentre Plus in each year from 2001-02; and what the estimated costs are in 2006-07. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Security services for Jobcentre Plus are included in the services provided by Land Securities Trillium through its facilities management contract with the Department for Work and Pensions and are not charged separately.

Learning for Adults Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's planned spending is on the work-based learning for adults programme for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [80158]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Planned spend on Work Based Learning for Adults (WBLA) is £23 million in 2006-07 and £14 million in 2007-08.

Funding for occupational training and basic skills courses provided outside the new deal programmes ended on 31 March 2006. For 2006-07, £9 million is being provided to cover training for customers who started WBLA courses prior to 31 March 2006, and £14 million is being provided for training allowances for jobseekers voluntarily taking up Learning and Skills Council (LSC) basic skills provision. In 2007-08, £14 million will again be provided for training allowances for customers voluntarily taking up LSC basic skills provision.

Training to address basic skills needs and work focused training continues to be available through the new deal programme. The mandatory new deal programmes contain a formal training element tailored to meet individual needs, and people participating in voluntary new deals can also take up training opportunities and access training through the Learning and Skills Council, or through other local agreements.

Work continues between Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Education and Skills, Jobcentre Plus and the LSC to develop proposals for a new LSC supported Basic Skills programme for Jobcentre Plus customers for introduction in September 2007.

Means Testing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which benefits are subject to a means test; and which were so subject in *(a)* January 1997 and *(b)* July 1997. [87317]

Mr. Plaskitt: The income-related benefits, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit were all introduced prior to 1997 and they remain income-related.

Minimum income guarantee replaced income support for pensioners from 1999 until it was, in turn, replaced by pension credit in October 2003.

Carers

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will raise the level of carer's allowance to the amount which would be received by a person working an average week being paid the National Minimum wage; and if he will make a statement; [86350]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce poverty among carers. [86351]

Mrs. McGuire: Carer's allowance is an income-maintenance benefit for carers who are not in full-time work and regularly provide substantial care, of at least 35 hours a week, to a severely disabled person receiving attendance allowance or the equivalent rates of the disability living allowance care component. Carers receiving carer's allowance can have earnings, net of a range of expenses, including the cost of alternative care for either the severely disabled person or a child under 16 years of age while the carer is at work, of up to the national insurance lower earnings limit, currently £84 per week, net of certain expenses. This limit and the weekly rate of carer's allowance are increased each year to maintain their value. We have no plans to increase carer's allowance to the level of the national minimum wage.

Special help is available for lower-income carers entitled to carer's allowance through the carer premium in the income-related benefits and the additional amount for carers in pension credit. In 2002 we increased the carer premium by £10 per week over and above annual increases to reflect movements in the Retail Price Index, and set the rate of the additional amount in pension credit at the same level. Currently, carers can receive up to £26.35 per week more from these benefits than other recipients. More than 181,000 pension credit recipients, 210,000 income support recipients and 3,000 income-based jobseeker's allowance recipients are receiving this extra help.

Analysis of the Family Resources Survey and Households Below Average Incomes datasets indicates

that carers, including those receiving carer's allowance, [redacted] more likely to be in poverty[1] than the general population.

[1] Defined as income below 60 per cent. of median household income (before housing costs).

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes have been made since 5 May 2005 to the requirements for applicants for National Insurance numbers to produce original documents. [82606]

Mr. Plaskitt: Original documents are required in all circumstances. This position has not changed since 5 May 2005.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what checks are carried out on people applying for National Insurance numbers; and if he will make a statement. [72632]

Mr. Plaskitt: Adults who apply for a National Insurance number (NINO) are subject to a comprehensive range of checks throughout the NINO application process.

The Department then follows a robust process to verify the individual's identity, including a face-to-face interview designed to build up a picture of the individual's circumstances; document examination checks to ensure the authenticity of any documentary evidence provided in support of the application; and corroborative checks with third parties (including other Government Departments) to verify information supplied during the interview.

Only when Jobcentre Plus is satisfied as to the individual's identity will a NINO be allocated.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what EU regulatory requirements apply to the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision. [88910]

James Purnell: The requirements of EU Directive 2003/41/EC on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision, which was adopted by the member states on 3 June 2003, apply to the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations his Department plans to send to the Committee of European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Supervisors 2006 Conference. [88911]

James Purnell: The Department for Work and Pensions will be represented at the Committee of European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Supervisors 2006 Conference by senior members of staff from the Pensions Regulator. The Pensions Regulator is a non-departmental public body responsible for the supervision of work-based pension schemes within the UK, and usually represents the UK at the regular meetings of the Committee of European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Supervisors. The Department works closely with the Pensions Regulator to ensure that the interests of UK pension scheme members are appropriately represented at these meetings.

Pathways to Work

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to issue guidance to encourage the public sector to employ people with mental illnesses, in line with the relevant recommendation by the Work and Pensions Committee in its report on incapacity benefit and Pathways to Work. [82828]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department is host to the Office for Disability Issues, which was launched on 1 December 2005 to take forward the Government's strategy for improving the life chances of disabled people. One element of this work will be to oversee the effective implementation of the Disability Equality Duty, which requires all public bodies to actively promote equality of disabled people, including people with mental illnesses. The Office for Disability Issues is working in partnership with the Disability Rights Commission to support and encourage government departments to commit to meaningful actions that will improve their policies and services and realise the potential of their diverse workforces.

In addition the Disability Rights Commission has produced a series of Codes of Practice, assisting people and organisations to understand their rights and duties under the Disability Discrimination Act. The Codes give practical guidance, including illustrative examples covering a wide range of impairments, on how to prevent discrimination against disabled people. The Codes have been produced following wide-ranging consultation by the Disability Rights Commission to ensure they are appropriate for the users. The Commission has also produced a range of guidance leaflets and other information to help improve awareness and understanding of rights and requirements under the Act.

Pension Credit

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* South East Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* the Eastern region receive pension credit. [88817]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Individual beneficiaries in South East Cambridgeshire constituency, Cambridgeshire county council and the East of England, February 2006

	Individual beneficiaries[a]
South East Cambridgeshire	4,550
Cambridgeshire	24,030
East of England	274,190

Notes
1. These figures are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures which are taken from the QMS scan at 17 February 2006. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.
2. The number of individual beneficiaries is rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituency, Government Office Region and county council are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
Source
DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (QMS) Pension Credit scan taken as at 17 February 2006.

Pension Funds (Winding Up)

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total amount of assets was in pension funds that started to wind up before 6 April 2005 with insufficient funds to cover their pension entitlements before annuities were purchased; and if he will make a statement. [89091]

James Purnell: This information is not available.

Pension Schemes

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to encourage the implementation of auto-enrolment pension schemes. [88687]

James Purnell: The Government have published research findings which show the effectiveness of automatic enrolment as a technique for improving levels of pension saving.

In July 2005 the Government published technical guidance for the pensions and financial services industries on how to operate automatic enrolment techniques within the current legal framework governing personal pensions. The Government are at present exploring whether it can develop similar guidance for employers, in order to encourage the use of automatic enrolment into occupational pension schemes.

In its Second Report, the Pensions Commission recommended that all employees should be automatically enrolled into funded pension saving but with the right to opt out, and with a modest compulsory employer contribution. In the White Paper Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system the Government made it clear that it accepted the Pensions Commission's recommendation. The Government will introduce legislation requiring employers to automatically enrol their employees into either good quality occupational schemes or personal accounts.

Pensioners (Poverty/Council Tax Assistance)

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioners in the *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area have been lifted out of poverty since 1997. [87366]

James Purnell: Specific information regarding low income for Great Britain is available in "Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 1994/95-2004/05", available in the Library. The main source for HBAI is the Family Resources Survey. "Pensioner Poverty" in the context of this question is taken to be the standard measurement, i.e. people over state pension age living in a household with income below 60 per cent. of the Great Britain median.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust estimates below a regional level. Therefore, estimates for Houghton and Washington East constituency and Sunderland city council are not available. Since 1996-97, around 50,000 people over state pension age in the North East have been lifted out of poverty after housing costs have been taken into account, or around 10,000 before housing costs have been taken into account. This represents 12 per cent. after housing costs, or 3 per cent. before housing costs.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pensioners in the *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area have received the £200 payment to assist with council tax in 2005-06. [87367]

James Purnell: Information that is available is in the table below. It is not possible to provide the percentage of pensioners in the Houghton and Washington East constituency who have received the £200 payment because the information is not available by parliamentary constituency.

		Payments made	*Percentage of people aged 65 or over*
Houghton and Washington East constituency	2005-06	9,350	n/a
Sunderland local authority	2005-06	29,800	65.7

Notes
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and refer only to the main payment run for the £200 payment to help with Council Tax bills, so they do not include the late payment run figures. The final figures will be available shortly and placed in the Library.
2. Percentage figures have been calculated using mid year population estimates of men and women aged 65 and over, which are not available by Parliamentary Constituency.
Source
DWP Information Directorate and Office for National Statistics and General Register Office, Scotland (Mid year population estimates).

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of pensioners who will have an income, through the basic state pension and state second pension, before the addition of means tested benefits, that is higher than the basic state pension level and lower than the savings credit lower threshold in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020, *(c)* 2030, *(d)* 2040 and *(e)* 2050 under the proposals in the White Paper Security in Retirement, Towards a New Pensions System. [78003]

James Purnell: The following table gives the information requested under our reforms, where more

people will be getting state pensions based on their national insurance records, and there will be a more generous basic state pension due to the restoration of the earnings link. This provides a solid foundation for private saving. Incentives are further enhanced by reducing the growth of the savings credit.

Table 1: Pensioners with gross retirement pensions between the level of a full basic state pension and the savings credit threshold under the White Paper reform proposals

	Number of pensioners
2010	900,000
2020	1,500,000
2030	1,700,000
2040	1,800,000
2050	1,500,000

Notes:
1. The estimates are subject to wide margins of uncertainty because they rely on very long-term projections of state pension accruals by individual pensioners.
2. Gross retirement pension is defined here as basic state pension plus gross additional pension i.e. that which has accrued from both contracted-in rights and contracted-out equivalent rights.
3. The projections assume: continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee credit; the savings credit maximum is uprated by earnings from 2008 and then by prices from 2015; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension described in the White Paper.
4. The projections are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Source:
DWP microsimulation modelling and DWP administrative data

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines for co-operation between supervisors in regulating cross-border pension activity have been agreed with other EU states on a multilateral basis. [88606]

James Purnell: The guidelines for co-operation between supervisors in regulating cross-border pension activity are contained within the "Protocol relating to the collaboration of the relevant competent authorities of the member states of the European Union in particular in the application of the Directive 2003/41/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 June 2003 on the activities and supervision of Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision operating cross-border". The protocol was adopted by the supervisory authorities of all the EU member states on 22 February 2006. For the UK, the relevant authority is the Pensions Regulator, a non-departmental public body responsible for the supervision of work-based pension schemes within the UK.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what authorisation and approval is required if a pension scheme wishes to engage in cross-border activity with other EU member states. [88607]

James Purnell: If a pension scheme wishes to engage in cross-border activity with other EU states, it must first be authorised (a general authorisation to accept contributions from European employers) and then approved (approval with regard to a specific European employer) by the Pensions Regulator. The specific procedure which schemes must follow is detailed in sections 287-289 of the Pensions Act 2004. The documentation schemes are required to produce in order to be authorised and approved is contained within the Occupational Pension Schemes (Cross-border Activities) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/3381). Further guidance on making applications for authorisation and approval to operate cross-border can be obtained via the Pensions Regulator website: www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/trustees/crossBorder/index.aspx

Pensions White Paper

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition he uses of 'the long term' on page 110 of the White Paper 'Security in Retirement, Towards a New Pensions System'. [77994]

James Purnell: Expenditure projections in the White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system" assume that the standard Guarantee Credit is uprated by earnings throughout the period to 2050.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the savings that will be realised from the reforms to *(a)* the state second pension and *(b)* savings credit under the proposals in the White Paper "Security in Retirement: Towards a New Pensions System" in each year from 2008 to 2050. [78002]

James Purnell: The White Paper "Security in Retirement: Towards a New Pensions System" presents a coherent, interlinked and comprehensive package of reforms. As such it can be misleading to consider the impact of an individual measure in isolation. Each component needs to be considered alongside the other reforms introduced.

Under our reforms, more people will be getting state pensions based on their national insurance records, and there will be a more generous basic state pension due to the restoration of the earnings link. This provides a solid foundation for private saving. Incentives are further enhanced by reducing the growth of the savings credit.

The White Paper also contains measures to simplify the state second pension, whereby it will gradually become a flat-rate top-up to the basic state pension. Access to the state second pension will be widened, as more workers, carers and parents start to become entitled.

The following tables contain information on the additional costs arising due to the proposed reforms to the state second pension and to the savings credit as set out in the White Paper.

Table 1 shows additional projected state second pension expenditure following reform, compared to previous policy—where it would have become flat-rate by around 2056, credits were available to those caring for children aged under six, and the ability to contract out into DC schemes continues.

The second column shows the extra cost which would be incident if the state second pension did not become flat-rate in accrual by 2030.

Table 1: Cost of state second pension reforms

£ billion, in 2006-07 price terms

	Total cost of state second pension reforms	*Further costs if accelerated flat-rating excluded*
2008	0.0	0.0
2009	0.0	0.0
2010	0.0	0.0
2011	0.0	0.0
2012	0.0	0.0
2013	0.0	0.0
2014	0.0	0.0
2015	0.0	0.0
2016	0.0	0.0
2017	0.0	0.0
2018	0.1	0.0
2019	0.1	0.0
2020	0.2	0.0
2021	0.3	0.0
2022	0.4	0.0
2023	0.5	0.0
2024	0.6	0.0
2025	0.7	0.0
2026	0.9	0.0
2027	1.1	0.0
2028	1.3	0.0
2029	1.5	0.0
2030	1.8	0.0
2031	2.1	0.0
2032	2.4	0.0
2033	2.8	0.0
2034	3.2	0.0
2035	3.6	0.0
2036	4.0	0.1
2037	4.3	0.1
2038	4.7	0.1
2039	4.9	0.1
2040	5.2	0.1
2041	5.4	0.1
2042	5.7	0.2
2043	5.9	0.2
2044	6.2	0.2
2045	6.5	0.2
2046	6.8	0.3
2047	7.1	0.3
2048	7.4	0.3
2049	7.7	0.4
2050	8.0	0.4

Table 2 shows the additional cost under the proposed pension credit reforms, compared to the baseline assumption that the guarantee credit is earnings uprated until 2008 (the Government's previously announced intention), and price uprated thereafter.

The White Paper package means that everyone should have the opportunity to save on the basis of a firm foundation from the state, with confidence that they will see the benefits from their private saving. Earnings-linking the basic state pension, and arresting the spread of the savings credit up the income distribution by uprating the maximum with earnings from 2008 and with prices from 2015, are important elements in that package. The second column shows the extra costs which would be incident if these reforms to the savings credit were excluded.

Table 2: Cost of pension credit reforms

£ billion, in 2006-07 price terms

	Total cost of pension credit reforms	*Further costs if savings credit reforms excluded*
2008	0.6	0.1
2009	1.1	0.3
2010	1.6	0.4
2011	2.6	0.6
2012	3.6	0.6
2013	4.6	0.6
2014	5.5	0.6
2015	6.3	0.7
2016	7.1	0.8
2017	7.9	0.9
2018	8.7	0.9
2019	9.5	1.0
2020	10.3	1.0
2021	11.3	1.1
2022	12.2	1.2
2023	13.2	1.3
2024	14.1	1.4
2025	15.0	1.5
2026	16.0	1.6
2027	17.0	1.6
2028	18.0	1.7
2029	19.0	1.8
2030	20.0	1.9
2031	21.3	2.0
2032	22.6	2.1
2033	23.9	2.3
2034	25.2	2.4
2035	26.6	2.5
2036	27.9	2.6
2037	29.3	2.8
2038	30.7	3.0
2039	32.2	3.1
2040	33.8	3.3
2041	36.1	3.4
2042	38.4	3.6
2043	40.9	3.8
2044	43.3	4.0
2045	45.9	4.2
2046	48.5	4.4
2047	51.3	4.6
2048	54.2	4.7
2049	57.1	5.0
2050	60.1	5.3

Notes
1. Estimates of additional expenditure are consistent with the policy detail set out in the White Paper. Costs are net of all income-related benefits (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit).
2. Costs or savings presented are based on long-term projections of United Kingdom benefit spend, consistent with the Budget report 2006.
3. Table 1, "Cost of state second pension reforms", includes, in the first column, accelerating the flat-rate of accruals, improving coverage, and the abolition of contracting-out for defined contribution pension schemes. Contracting out rebate effects are excluded. Cost of state second pension are net of all income-related benefits (pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit).
4. The second column of table 1 includes the additional costs which would be incident if the accelerated flat-rating of accruals were excluded.
5. Table 2, "Cost of pension credit reforms" includes, in the first column, uprating the guarantee credit by earnings from 2008, and uprating the savings credit maximum by earnings from 2008 and then by prices from 2015. It excludes changes to pension credit as a consequence of earnings uprating the basic state pension.
6. The second column in table 2, headed "Further costs if savings credit reforms excluded", includes costs which would be incident in the absence of the direct reforms to savings credit.
7. Figures exclude the effect of personal accounts.
8. Figures exclude the effects on expenditure on the state second pension and on pension credit arising from increases in the state pension age as set out in the White Paper.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the data which supports the figures given in figure 9 of the White Paper "Security in retirement, towards a new pensions system" for each year between 2020 and 2050. [78005]

James Purnell: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultations his Department has undertaken with Postwatch East of England on pilot schemes for the migration of Post Office card account holders to banking facilities in the eastern region; and if he will make a statement. [55264]

Mr. Plaskitt: DWP officials have met Postwatch a number of times in the past to discuss the direct payment of benefits and pensions. Government funding for the Post Office card account will continue until March 2010 as always planned. This was provided for in the Post Office card account contract agreed by DWP and Post Office Limited in March 2002. An abridged version of the contract has been placed in the Library. The details of the contract were not discussed with Postwatch.

My officials met with officials from the national Postwatch organisation on 27 January 2006 and had a constructive discussion about our future strategy for paying benefits and pensions, including our small-scale pilots. A summary report of the pilot findings has now been placed in the Library. My officials have been in regular contact with Postwatch since that meeting, including attending meetings at Postwatch's Counters Advisory Group.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultations took place with *(a)* Royal Mail, *(b)* Postwatch and *(c)* the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters before the Government announced that the post office card account contract would not be renewed after 2010. [58866]

Mr. Plaskitt: The post office card account contract is a finite contract, which ends in March 2010. There was never any expectation that it would be renewed.

We have been discussing our wider payments strategy with Post Office Ltd. since the summer of 2005. Our aim is to help them retain as much business as possible. The first meeting was instigated by David Mills, the former Chief Executive of Post Office Ltd. The meetings have covered a number of issues, including the DWP pilots which ran from mid-February to mid-March. We continue to have regular meetings with Post Office Ltd. at official level and, where appropriate, Ministers will also meet them. It is important that the Government and Post Office Ltd. work constructively together in the best interests of our joint customers.

DWP officials have met with Postwatch and the National Federation of Sub-postmasters a number of times in the past to discuss the direct payment of benefits and pensions and will continue to meet them in the future. We did not undertake any specific consultation with either about the post office card account contract. The Government will fulfil their contractual obligations and continue to provide funding for the post office card account until March 2010 as always planned.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Pensions Service is entitled to withdraw payment of *(a)* pensions and *(b)* pension credits by means of the post office card account without the consent of the card account holder. [65883]

Mr. Plaskitt: The post office card account is a Post Office Ltd. banking product and is treated in the same way as other bank and building society accounts.

It is an important principle of social security legislation that the Secretary of State does not require the consent of the person entitled to any benefit to change the way in which that benefit is paid. This helps DWP to deal efficiently with a wide range of circumstances that may arise.

In practice, we respect the customer's wishes and pay their benefit into the account of their choice.

Poverty

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number and proportion of *(a)* women pensioners and *(b)* disabled people living on (a) less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income and (b) less than 60 per cent. of contemporary mean income in each year since 1997. [78007]

Mr. Jim Murphy: These data are from Households Below Average Income (HBAI). The main source for HBAI is the Family Resources Survey (FRS). The

estimates are shown Before and After Housing Costs for the years 1996-97 to 2004-05.

The following tables show the numbers and proportions of women pensioners and disabled people, living in households with incomes below the 60 per cent. threshold of (a) the contemporary median and (b) the contemporary mean.

As requested, both median and mean estimates have been supplied for this PQ. The threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income. This is an internationally recognised measure and has been used for many years. The presence of relatively small numbers of individuals with very high incomes results in a skewed distribution and a large difference between the overall GB mean and the GB median.

Table 1: Women pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. Contemporary median income—Great Britain

	Number BHC (Million)	Proportion BHC (Percentage)	Number AHC (Million)	Proportion AHC (Percentage)
1996-97	1.5	23	1.9	30
1997-98	1.5	24	1.9	29
1998-99	1.6	24	1.8	29
1999-2000	1.5	24	1.8	28
2000-01	1.4	23	1.6	26
2001-02	1.5	24	1.5	24
2002-03	1.5	23	1.4	22
2003-04	1.4	22	1.3	21
2004-05	1.3	20	1.1	17

Notes:
BHC=Before Housing Costs
AHC=After Housing Costs
Source:
Family Resources Survey

Table 2: Women pensioners living in households with less than 60 per cent. contemporary mean income—Great Britain

	Number BHC (Million)	Proportion BHC (Percentage)	Number AHC (Million)	Proportion AHC (Percentage)
1996-97	2.6	40	2.8	44
1997-98	2.6	41	2.7	43
1998-99	2.8	43	2.8	44
1999-2000	2.6	41	2.7	42
2000-01	2.7	42	2.6	41
2001-02	2.7	42	2.7	42
2002-03	2.6	40	2.6	41
2003-04	2.5	38	2.6	39
2004-05	2.4	36	2.3	35

Notes: BHC=Before Housing Costs AHC=After Housing Costs
Source: Family Resources Survey

Table 3: Disabled people[1] living in households with less than 60 per cent. contemporary median income—Great Britain

	Number BHC (Million)	Proportion BHC (Percentage)	Number AHC (Million)	Proportion AHC (Percentage)
1996-97	1.8	21	2.6	30
1997-98	2.2	22	2.9	29
1998-99	2.3	23	3.0	30
1999-2000	2.2	22	2.9	30
2000-01	2.3	22	2.9	28
2001-02	2.3	23	2.8	29
2002-03	2.2	22	2.7	26
2003-04	2.2	21	2.5	25
2004-05	2.1	21	2.4	24

[1]Disabled people is the total of disabled children, disabled working age and disabled pensioners.
Notes:
BHC=Before Housing Costs
AHC=After Housing Costs
Source:
Family Resources Survey

Table 4: Disabled people[1] living in households with less than 60 per cent. contemporary mean income—Great Britain

	Number BHC Million)	Proportion BHC (Percentage)	Number AHC (Million)	Proportion AHC (Percentage)
1996-97	3.3	37	3.7	41
1997-98	3.8	39	4.1	42
1998-99	4.1	40	4.4	43
1999-2000	3.8	40	4.2	43
2000-01	4.1	40	4.4	43
2001-02	4.0	41	4.1	42
2002-03	4.0	38	4.3	41
2003-04	3.8	37	4.0	40
2004-05	3.8	37	4.0	39

[1] Disabled people is the total of disabled children, disabled working age and disabled pensioners.
Notes:
BHC=Before Housing Costs
AHC=After Housing Costs
Source:
Family Resources Survey

Remploy

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when approval was given for the Chief Operating Officer of Remploy to take on additional or external commitments as *(a)* a member of the Competition Commission's Reporting Panel, *(b)* a member of the Foster Review of further education and *(c)* a company secretary of Hill Executive Action Ltd.; and who has responsibility for approving such commitments. [80392]

Mrs. McGuire: During 2005 approval was given by Remploy for the Chief Operating Officer to be a member of the Competition Commission's Reporting Panel and a member of the Foster Review of further education. The Chief Operating Officer's commitments as Company Secretary of Hill Executive do not have any impact on her role as Chief Operating Officer and, as such, do not require approval by Remploy.

Approval for additional or external commitments must be given by either the Chairman or the Chief Executive of Remploy.

Shrewsbury Senior Citizens Forum

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give a Government grant to help Shrewsbury Senior Citizens Forum run their association. [74332]

James Purnell: Senior citizens' forums are independent of Government and responsible for financing themselves as such we have no plans to offer a Government grant to Shrewsbury Senior Citizens' Forum.

Sure Start Maternity Grant

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have received the Sure Start maternity grant since 2001. [88383]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Sure Start Maternity Grants for South East Yorkshire Social Fund District

	Number of awards
2001-02	2,360
2002-03	2,690
2003-04 to 30 April	180

Sure Start Maternity Grants for area covered by Barnsley and Rotherham Jobcentre Plus District

	Number of awards
2003-04 from 1 May	2,220
2004-05	2,320
2005-06	2,250

Sure Start Maternity Grants for area covered by Barnsley and Rotherham Jobcentre Plus District and Sheffield Jobcentre Plus District

	Number of awards
2004-05	4,930
2005-06	4,780
2006-07 to 30 June	1,200

Sure Start Maternity Grants for area covered by the interim Doncaster District

	Number of awards
2003-04 1 to 31 May	130

Sure Start Maternity Grants for area covered by Doncaster Jobcentre Plus District

	Number of awards
2003-04 from 1 June	1,550
2004-05	1,760
2005-06	1,770
2006-07 to 30 June	450

Notes:
1. Data are only available by Jobcentre Plus District, and, before Jobcentre Plus Districts were used for the administration of the social fund, by social fund district.
2. Barnsley and Doncaster both used to be part of South East Yorkshire Social Fund District. In May 2003, Barnsley became part of the new Barnsley and Rotherham Jobcentre Plus District and Doncaster became part of the interim Doncaster District. In June 2003, the Doncaster Jobcentre Plus District was formed by removing the Isle of Axholme from the interim Doncaster District. Although Barnsley and Rotherham Jobcentre Plus District and Doncaster Jobcentre Plus District merged on 1 April 2005, they continued as separate districts for Social Fund purposes.
3. In April 2006, Barnsley and Rotherham Jobcentre Plus District was merged with Sheffield Jobcentre Plus District to form Yorkshire and Humberside Social Fund, S. Yorkshire District. The third table allows comparison between data for 2006-07 and earlier years.
4. Different tables thus refer to different areas and so data in one table are not comparable with data in another.
5. Figures are for all awards, irrespective of whether the award was made to the mother or her partner.
6. Some women will have received more than one Sure Start Maternity Grant since 2001-02.
7. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Unemployment

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of people in the *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area were unemployed in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of change in the total amount paid in benefits due to the change in employment levels over the period. [87370]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Information on the number of people in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in the Houghton and Washington East constituency and Sunderland city council area is in the table, together with the proportion of the working-age population for the local authority; no proportion of population is available for constituencies.

JSA claimants in Houghton and Washington East parliamentary constituency and Sunderland local authority area: June 1997 to June 2006

As at June each year	*Houghton and Washington East PC*	*Sunderland LA claimants*	*Sunderland LA percentage population*
1997	2,603	10,777	6.1
1998	2,254	9,488	5.4
1999	2,475	9,532	5.5
2000	2,180	8,695	5.0
2001	2,056	7,611	4.4
2002	1,823	6,891	4.0
2003	1,667	6,250	3.5
2004	1,300	5,128	2.9
2005	1,256	5,278	3.0
2006	1,474	6,048	3.4

Notes:
1. Jobseeker's Allowance figures are un-rounded and percentages rounded to one decimal place.
2. Jobseeker's Allowance figures are not seasonally adjusted.

Source:
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases). ONS Mid-year population estimates.

The change in expenditure for jobseeker's allowance in Great Britain between 1996-97 and 2005-06 is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance expenditure in Great Britain (real terms 2006-07 prices)

	1996-97 (out-turn)	£ million 2005-06 (estimated outturn)
Jobseeker's Allowance (contributory)	421	500
Jobseeker's Allowance (income based)	2,320	1,844

Veterans (Incapacity Benefit)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the number of veterans on incapacity benefit due to *(a)* mental health conditions and *(b)* physical conditions. [86996]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available. No record is kept on the incapacity benefit system of a claimant's employer or former employer.

Volunteers

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if the Government will change the benefits rules to allow volunteers on benefits to be paid the cost of lunch. [85432]

Mr. Plaskitt: When considering entitlement to means-tested benefits all income should be taken into account. To not do so would set an inappropriate precedent and represent unequal treatment within the income rules. If an organisation provides a lunch to a volunteer, benefit entitlement is not affected. However, we are aware of and listening to the concerns that have been raised. The Department is looking at this issue as part of a wider examination of the way the benefit system works.

Warm Front

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of the warm front scheme; and whether the Department passes information to the warm front team regarding individuals' benefit entitlements. [89048]

James Purnell: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is committed to working with others to reduce fuel poverty, particularly among vulnerable groups such as pensioners. This includes working with other Government Departments, for example Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and with the Warm Front scheme manager.

Since June 2005, The Pension Service has been co-operating with the Eaga partnership, the largest administrator of energy efficiency schemes in the UK and the provider of the Warm Front Scheme, on behalf of DEFRA.

Pensioners who contact Eaga for help under the Warm Front Scheme but who are not receiving a benefit that would enable them to qualify for help, for example pension credit, are offered a comprehensive benefit entitlement check.

Where Eaga identifies potential entitlement to pension credit, the pensioner's details are passed, with the pensioner's consent, to The Pension Service. The pensioner is then contacted by The Pension Service and where entitlement to pension credit is confirmed, benefit is put into payment. The Pension Service informs Eaga of this and Eaga are able to implement the help available under the Warm Front Scheme.

As well as contributing in a practical way to the attack on fuel poverty in pensioner households and simplifying matters for pensioners, the partnership between The Pension Service and Eaga supports the development of options for delivering more integrated, flexible and efficient services to pensioners.

The initiative is well in accord with DWP's Link-Age programme which exists to improve access for older people to information about the services available and the help provided.

Way Forward Programme

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the timetable is for the roll out of the Way Forward programme in delivery of benefits to cancer patients. [86716]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government believe that good benefit advice should be available to everyone whatever their disability to enable them to make informed decisions about possible entitlement to benefit. The Department goes to great lengths to ensure that people are aware of the benefits that are available and how to claim them. While we have no plans to roll out a programme of benefit delivery specifically for cancer patients, we and the Department of Health are working closely with organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support to improve the way benefit advice is delivered to all patients.

Welfare Reform Bill

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what new obligations the Welfare Reform Bill will place on local authorities; and whether they will be compensated under the Department for Communities and Local Government's New Burdens principle. [86842]

Mr. Plaskitt: The overall reform strategy for housing benefit continues to focus on streamlining policy rules and working with local authorities to improve local authority administration of housing and council tax benefit. We do not believe that the measures included in the Welfare Reform Bill present any significant additional obligations or burdens on local authorities.

Winter Fuel Allowance

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of people in the *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland City Council area have received the winter allowance for pensioners in each year since it was introduced. [87368]

James Purnell: Information that is available in is the following tables. Information relating to the 1997-99 winters is not available.

It is not possible to provide the percentage of pensioners in the Houghton and Washington East constituency who have received the Winter Fuel Payment because the information is not available by parliamentary constituency.

Houghton and Washington East constituency

	Number of payments made
1999-2000	14,270
2000-01	16,130
2001-02	16,230
2002-03	16,430
2003-04	16,640
2004-05	16,310
2005-06	16,310

Sunderland local authority

	Number of payments made	*Percentage of people 60 years or over*
1999-2000	49,000	83.9
2000-01	54,580	91.8
2001-02	54,500	93.7
2002-03	54,600	94.2
2003-04	54,810	93.2
2004-05	53,340	90.2
2005-06	53,330	90.2

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Population figures are mid year estimates of people aged 60 plus and are not available by Parliamentary Constituency.
3. Figures for 2005-2006 refer only the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. The final figures will be available shortly and placed in the Library.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners claimed winter fuel allowance in each London borough in the last 12 months. [87502]

James Purnell: The number of people aged 60 or over who received a winter fuel payment in each London borough for winter 2005-06 is provided as follows:

London GOR	*Number of individuals receiving a winter fuel payment in winter 2005-06*
Inner London—West	
Camden	25,610
City of London	1,110
Hammersmith and Fulham	19,560
Kensington and Chelsea	19,130
Wandsworth	33,760
Westminster	25,910
Inner London—East	
Hackney	21,260
Haringey	26,820
Islington	21,910
Lambeth	29,190
Lewisham	32,590
Newham	25,140
Southwark	27,850
Tower Hamlets	20,590
Outer London—East and North East	
Barking and Dagenham	24,840
Bexley	43,890
Enfield	45,650
Greenwich	31,750
Havering	49,030
Redbridge	39,590
Waltham Forest	31,120
Outer London—South	
Bromley	62,170
Croydon	53,180
Kingston upon Thames	23,720
Merton	27,790
Sutton	32,520
Outer London—West and North West	
Barnet	53,450
Brent	36,900
Ealing	42,120
Harrow	37,680
Hillingdon	41,690
Hounslow	31,200
Richmond upon Thames	29,420

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Local Authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. These figures refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. Final figures will be available shortly and placed in the Library.

Source:
Information Directorate, 100 per cent. Sample.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of extending the Winter Fuel Payment Scheme to disabled people under 60 years. [87678]

James Purnell: The estimated annual cost of extending the winter fuel payment to disabled people aged below 60 years who are in receipt of either the middle or higher rate care component or the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance is £280 million for 2005-06.

Worklessness

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultations he has undertaken to address worklessness in Liverpool, Riverside; and if he will make a statement. [86290]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* Tackling the problems created by worklessness is central to meeting our aim of increasing prosperity and reducing poverty and social exclusion. We have recently written to 45 local authorities, including Liverpool, to request expressions of interest (EOI) for our Cities Strategy which will bring public, private and voluntary sectors together into a concerted local programme to improve the way support for jobless people is co-ordinated and delivered. We are now considering all the EOIs and will be announcing successful pathfinder areas shortly.

In Liverpool, Riverside, we are working with the local authority, as well as the voluntary, community and private sectors to deliver initiatives to tackle worklessness. These include 'Step Closer 2 Work' which is a programme to help those in receipt of incapacity benefits move closer to the labour market and the 'Diversity and Social Inclusion Project' which aims to reduce worklessness by the provision of training and work experience. I was able to see some of the excellent work being done to tackle worklessness when I visited Liverpool Riverside last month. This included meeting the team running 'Streets Ahead' which is a city wide initiative delivered by a number of partner agencies, aimed at helping disadvantaged people into work.

In Liverpool, we undertook consultations with key partners around the introduction of our Pathways to Work programme, which has already shown significant success in getting people off incapacity benefits and into employment and was rolled out in Liverpool in April. Private and voluntary sector providers deliver and support a number of different programmes within our Pathways to Work pilots.

In Liverpool, we hold bi-monthly meetings which are attended by a range of partners, including Liverpool city council and Connexions. The meetings focus on addressing the educational, training and employment needs of local workless residents, including those in Liverpool, Riverside.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Academic Research

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department is providing to academic institutions to conduct research, broken down by project. [88399]

Angela E. Smith: Details of research projects commissioned by the DCLG are available from our Research Management Database (RMD) at http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk. This includes information about the contractors and the cost of each individual project.

Advertising

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the revision of outdoor advertising planning regulations. [83098]

Yvette Cooper: We published the draft Control of Advertisements Regulations for consultation on 24 July.

Arson

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents of arson there were in each London borough in each of the last five years. [88664]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 July 2006 (UIN 86836).

Casinos

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what previous connection Professor Stephen Crow of the Casino Advisory Panel has had with the Department in the past. [84485]

Yvette Cooper: Between 1988 and his retirement in 1994, Stephen Crow was the Chief Planning Inspector of the Planning Inspectorate. Prior to his appointment as Chief Planning Inspector he was a field Inspector determining planning appeals and other casework. Since his retirement he has acted as independent chairperson of Examinations in Public into the following:

Regional Planning Guidance for the South-East (RPG 9) —June 1999

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Structure Plan—Jan 2001

Devon Joint Structure Plan—June 2003

Cornwall Structure Plan—July 2003

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Structure Plan—June 2004

NW Regional Spatial Strategy amendments— November 2004

In undertaking Structure Plan examinations, the chair reported to the local authority concerned, not the Secretary of State.

He also did research work on Completion Notices for DTLR in 2001.

Civil Servants (Expenses)

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 289W, on civil servants (expenses), how much of the expenditure on temporary overnight accommodation in London by civil servants was incurred on accommodation for civil servants in the Deputy Prime Minister's private office. [82953]

Angela E. Smith: Information is not collected in the form requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Community Land Trusts

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department *(a)* is conducting and *(b)* has commissioned into the use of community land trusts. [85875]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Corporation has funded research on community land trusts:

It funded a research report published in 2003 by the New Economics Foundation and CDS Co-operatives;

It part-funded research by Community Finance Solutions of Salford university published by the Countryside Agency in 2005; and

It also announced on 22 June 2006 that it was providing £120,000 for practical research on pilot community land trusts by Community Finance Solutions.

English Partnerships is also currently developing a pilot community land trust to deliver affordable housing on public sector land at Castles Green, Stroud.

Conservation Areas

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many designated conservation areas there are in England. [88080]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not held centrally.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's *(a)* photography best practice guide and *(b)* COVO manual mentioned in clause 3.7.11, of Section 2 of the VOA's Council Tax Manual. [86788]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The *(a)* best practice guide and *(b)* COVU manual mentioned in section 2, part 3.7.11, of the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Manual are internal technical instructions on use of the agency's digital photography application and how, when and where to store digital photographs on the agency's central database to ensure overall system performance is not affected. It is not appropriate to place these documents in the Library.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts her Department and its predecessors have entered into with *(a)* Infoterra Ltd. and *(b)* BlueSky International Ltd. since 1997. [88082]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and its predecessors has let the following contracts with Infoterra since 1997:

National Land Use Database Pilots 1 & 2: Creation of Urban and Rural Baseline Datasets;

National Land Use Database: County Demonstrator; and

Generalised Land Use Database: Pilot Phase.

DCLG has not let any contracts with Bluesky International Ltd.

Departmental Staff

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 290W, on departmental staff, which Government Department will take over the use of the vacated office space at 26 Whitehall once her civil servants are relocated to Eland House. [82956]

Angela E. Smith: Current plans are for the Department for Communities and Local Government to continue using 26 Whitehall as accommodation until the Department's occupancy agreement with the Cabinet Office comes to an end in March 2008. At present it is planned that staff moved from Eland Road to free accommodation for DCLG ministers and civil servants from 26 Whitehall will backfill the vacated office space.

Empty Dwellings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanism her Department has initiated for estimating the number of empty dwelling management orders issued by councils and property tribunals. [85712]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities are required to keep a register of all management orders made by them under the powers in the Housing Act 2004, including any empty dwelling management orders. The information must be made available for public inspection.

All applications from local housing authorities to make interim empty dwelling management orders must be authorised by a Residential Property Tribunal. The Residential Property Tribunal Service will record and publish on its website the decisions that the tribunals take. The Department will monitor this information.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by her Department to local authorities on empty dwelling management orders and mentioned in her Department's press statement of 13 July issuing guidance on the procedures to be followed when taking control of a private sector home following the death of the owner. [86779]

Yvette Cooper: Copies of the letter dated 6 July from Baroness Andrews to local authority chief executives have been placed in the Library.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on empty private sector housing. [83823]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* There are over half a million empty private sector homes in England. More than half of these remain empty for longer than six months and a significant proportion are

abandoned for years. Empty homes can quickly fall into disrepair and the longer they remain empty the more likely it is that they will become derelict and prohibitively expensive to bring back into use. Empty homes can create significant problems for local authorities, the police and fire services. They blight the homes of neighbouring residents, are vulnerable to squatters, vandals, drug-dealers and arsonists, are bad for the environment and restrict housing opportunities available to people in areas of high housing demand.

Our policy response is to promote effective empty homes strategies by local authorities that emphasise opportunities to work with property owners to find solutions that allow their properties to be brought back into use. We encourage local authorities to offer incentives ranging from advice on selling and letting property to grants and leasing arrangements. We have also introduced a range of fiscal incentive for owners of empty properties through VAT, capital allowances and council tax.

We consider that local authorities must, as a last resort, have access to effective enforcement procedures for long term empty properties where voluntary measures have been declined and owners cannot demonstrate that they intend to bring their properties back into use. Local authorities have access to compulsory purchase procedures to deal with empty homes and may enforce the sale of properties on which they have carried out works. We have recently introduced Empty Dwelling Management Orders as an alternative solution that protects the rights of property owners.

We work closely with the Empty Homes Agency, which is an independent charitable organisation that seeks to find effective solutions to the problems posed by empty homes. The Agency works closely with local authorities and has recently published guidance on setting effective empty homes strategies.

Fire Prevention

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets the Government have set for fire authorities in relation to fire prevention. [88073]

Angela E. Smith: The Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) contains two targets for the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) in England. The first is to reduce the number of accidental fire-related deaths in the home by 20 per cent. averaged over the 11-year period to March 2010 compared with the average recorded in the five-year period to March 1999—with a floor element that no local authority fire brigade will have a fatality rate more than 1.25 times the national average by March 2010. The second target is to reduce by 10 per cent. the number of deliberate fires by 31 March 2010 from the 2001-02 baseline figure.

The FRS is making good progress towards achieving this target. Latest provisional figures show that there were 216 deaths in the 12 months to 30 September 2005, 53 fewer then in the previous 12 months. This represents a fall of 20 per cent. At present five FRAs have more than 1.25 times the number of fatalities in the home than the national average. Deliberate primary fires have also fallen in the latest 12 months, 67,900 were recorded. This is 28 per cent. below the 2010 PSA target of 94,000.

Fire Service

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 924W, on the Fire Service, what estimate the Government have made of the number of armed forces personnel who have been trained to operate fire services appliances and equipment. [88252]

Angela E. Smith: If the Government agree to the provision of emergency cover, the most readily available units are diverted from armed forces tasks and trained to operate fire service appliances and equipment prior to their deployment. There are no armed forces personnel on permanent standby or permanently trained to provide emergency fire cover.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of no-strike clauses in firefighters' contracts; and if she will make a statement. [88322]

Angela E. Smith: Contracts of employment are a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities and pay and conditions of uniformed employees in the fire and rescue service are a matter for the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services.

First-time Buyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what programmes there are to assist first-time buyers in London. [83132]

Yvette Cooper: The HomeBuy scheme has three products available, based on equity sharing, which can help first time buyers to get a first step on the housing ladder. Social HomeBuy enables tenants of participating local authorities and housing associations to buy a share in the property in which they live; Open Market HomeBuy enables purchasers to buy a property on the open market with the help of an equity loan; and New Build HomeBuy, which includes the First Time Buyers' Initiative, will enable purchasers to buy a share in a newly built property with public subsidy or on public sector land.

The First Time Buyers' Initiative is being developed by English Partnerships to deliver up to 15,000 new affordable homes across England by 2010 utilising public land where possible. About 4,500 of these homes will be in London, including up to 1,500 homes provided through the London Wide Initiative on publicly owned brownfield sites.

In addition, eligible social tenants in London may also be helped to buy their rented home at a discount through the right to buy and right to acquire schemes.

We are investing over £415 million in the Homebuy scheme in London through the Housing Corporation's

Affordable Housing Programme in London for 2006-08. This will deliver some 6,000 New Build HomeBuy homes, 740 Social HomeBuy sales and 5,000 Open Market HomeBuy sales.

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department and its predecessors have given the Planning Inspectorate since May 1997 on residential development on gardens. [86783]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Inspectors make judgments in the context of published policy and guidance. Since 1997, this would have included PPG3 and associated guidance carried forward from the previous administration and subsequent revisions to PPG3 and associated guidance since then.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses have been built in West Lancashire in the last five years. [83646]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of new build completions reported for West Lancashire since 2001-02 are in the following table.

	New build completions
2001-02	274
2002-03	411
2003-04	256
2004-05	422
2005-06	143
Total	1,506

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding is available for temporary to permanent housing initiatives in the 2006 to 2008 National Affordable Housing Programme in West Suffolk. [82717]

Yvette Cooper: At present no funds have been made available in Suffolk for temporary to permanent housing initiatives through the Affordable Housing Programme 2006-08.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DLCG) supports innovative schemes which provide settled housing solutions for households in temporary accommodation. Where these schemes offer value for money but require capital investment DCLG would encourage regional housing boards to support bids for Affordable Housing Programme funding.

Affordable housing schemes in Suffolk have been allocated £23.4 million through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme for 2006-08.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in West Suffolk have had improvements under the Decent Homes Standard scheme; and what the cost of such improvements has been. [85543]

Yvette Cooper: Both St. Edmundsbury borough council and Forrest Heath district council have transferred all of their housing stock to registered social landlords (RSL's), in 2002 and 2004 respectively. At the point of transfer Forest Heath (King's Forrest RSL) reported 30 non-decent homes and St. Edmundsbury (Havering Housing Partnership) reported 2,795.

At April 2005 Kings Forest RSL reported 0 non-decent homes and Havering Housing Partnership reported 11.

As RSLs are independent, largely self-financing, bodies, we do not hold data on the costs of this work.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions apply to the sale to tenants of housing association homes built as a result of housing association grants. [85675]

Yvette Cooper: The information is as follows.

The Right to Acquire is a scheme that enables eligible tenants of registered social landlords to buy the home they currently rent. It applies to property built or purchased with public funds, or transferred by a local authority after 1 April 1997. A number of restrictions apply, and we set under part V of the Housing Act 1985 as amended by the Housing Act 2004, the Housing (Right to Acquire) Regulations 1997, or under one of the Housing (Right to Acquire or Enfranchisement) (Designated Rural Areas) Orders 1997.

Exemptions from RTA include:

properties in areas designated as rural by the Secretary of State. These are generally small rural settlements where the population is 3,000 or fewer and where replacing the social housing sold would not be possible.

properties where the landlord has insufficient legal interest ie where the property is a house, a lease with a term less than 21 years and for a flat, a lease with a term less than 50 years;

the landlord is a co-operative housing association;

properties let in connection with employment;

properties designed with special features for letting to people with physical disabilities. To gain exemption the property should be one of a group of properties normally let to people with physical disabilities and a social service or special facility is provided close by wholly or partly to assist the tenants;

properties with special facilities let to tenants who are suffering or have suffered from a mental disorder. As above the property must be one of a group of properties and a social service or special facility must be provided close by wholly or partly to assist the tenants;

properties which are one of a group of properties which it is the practice of the landlord to keep for occupation by persons who have special needs and require intensive housing assistance and such intensive housing assistance is provided either directly or indirectly by the landlord;

properties let to persons of pensionable age. Such properties must be one of a group of properties let to the elderly and have special facilities consisting of or including a resident warden, a non-resident warden with a calling facility and a common room close by;

properties held on Crown tenancies;

properties where the attributable loan debt is equal to or greater that its current market value;

properties that are due to be demolished within 24 months of an RSL serving a final demolition notice, and having followed the prescribed notification process as contained in s182 of the Housing Act 2004.

The above list is not exhaustive, applicants should contact their landlord to ascertain whether their property qualifies.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to promote the conversion of space above shops into residential use since 1997. [85691]

Yvette Cooper: We have consistently promoted reuse of empty properties including opportunities to convert unoccupied space above shops. We introduced a specific tax incentive for flats above shops conversions in Budget 2001 and have worked with the British Property Federation and other property industry stakeholders to identify barriers that prevent more unoccupied space above shops from being converted.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant homes there are in each London borough; and if she will make a statement. [85954]

Yvette Cooper: The following vacant dwellings were reported by each London borough as at October 2005:

Borough	*Total vacant homes*
Barking and Dagenham	1,906
Barnet	3,767
Bexley	2,157
Brent	2,762
Bromley	3,741
Camden	2,895
City of London	123
Croydon	4,376
Ealing	2,971
Enfield	4,301
Greenwich	3,295
Hackney	3,626
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,588
Haringey	1,678
Harrow	1,378
Havering	2,636
Hillingdon	2,302
Hounslow	1,865
Islington	1,970
Kensington and Chelsea	2,901
Kingston upon Thames	1,913
Lambeth	3,015
Lewisham	1,590
Merton	2,085
Newham	3,138
Redbridge	2,276
Richmond upon Thames	1,966
Southwark	2,723
Sutton	2,643
Tower Hamlets	2,081
Waltham Forest	1,924
Wandsworth	3,044
Westminster	3,914
London	85,550

Source: Council Tax Base 1 (CTB1) returns.

These figures are for all vacant dwellings, including dwellings that have been empty for less than six months, some for less than one month.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings there were in Bournemouth in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [86326]

Yvette Cooper: Bournemouth district council have reported the following number of dwellings:

April 1997—73,841

October 2005—80,274

Source:

Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Council Tax Base 1 (CTB1) return to DCLG

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vacant homes there are in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster. [86383]

Yvette Cooper: Barnsley district council and Doncaster district council have reported the following vacant dwellings as in October 2005:

Barnsley—3,616

Doncaster—5,336

Source:

Council Tax Base 1 (CTB1) return to DCLG

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* her officials have had with the Ministry of Defence on local connection for the purpose of entitlement to social housing. [86450]

Yvette Cooper: There have as yet been no discussions between the Secretary of State and her Ministers and the Ministry of Defence on this issue. However, there are ongoing discussions between the two Departments at official level.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there were in each local authority in England in each year since 1997. [87262]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* A table showing the number of vacant dwellings as reported by each local authority in England, in each year from 1997 to 2005, has been placed in the Library of the House. The figures presented are for all vacant dwellings, including dwellings that have been empty for less than six months, some for less than one month.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been built on *(a)* brownfield and *(b)* greenfield land in (i) Rochford district council area, (ii) Southend-on-Sea borough council and (iii) Rochford and Southend East constituency in each year since 1997. [84250]

Yvette Cooper: Estimates for Rochford district council and Southend-on-Sea borough council are as follows:

Rochford district council

	New dwellings		
	Number	*Percentage on brownfield*	*Percentage on greenfield*
1997	303	39	61
1998	358	37	63
1999	384	59	41
2000	173	57	43
2001	182	57	43
2002	139	63	37
2003	174	52	48
2004	99	45	55

Southend-on-Sea borough council

	New dwellings		
	Number	*Percentage on brownfield*	*Percentage on greenfield*
1997	154	99	1
1998	187	79	21
1999	153	95	5
2000	152	97	3
2001	122	72	28
2002	128	100	0
2003	120	93	7
2004	260	100	0

The numbers of new dwellings estimates are from completions figures supplied by the local authorities. Proportions on brownfield and greenfield land are from the Department's Land Use Change Statistics. The figures do not include conversions. Information for the constituency, which cuts across local authority boundaries, is not available.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes there were in *(a)* Rochford District Council area, *(b)* Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and *(c)* Rochford and Southend East constituency in each year since 1997. [84251]

Yvette Cooper: Since 1997 Rochford district council and Southend-on-Sea borough council have reported the following dwellings:

	Rochford	*Southend on Sea*
April		
1997	31,511	74,481
1998	31,649	74,772
1999	31,963	74,828
2000	32,132	75,115
2001	32,291	75,231
October		
2002	33,276	75,513
2003	33,446	75,718
2004	33,508	75,978
2005	33,580	76,529

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the Housing Act 2004 on the operation of the right to buy; and if she will make a statement. [85692]

Yvette Cooper: The changes made by the Housing Act 2004 to the right to buy scheme were designed to tackle profiteering by tenants and by property developers, and to restore the scheme's focus on long-term home ownership and the building of stable communities.

In particular, the Act discourages tenants from buying their homes at a discount in the knowledge that they will receive full market value compensation because the properties are scheduled for demolition. It also discourages them from selling on quickly to companies, which thereby acquire properties at discounted prices. The Act benefits tenants by requiring social landlords to provide them with more information about the costs of home ownership, including the costs of maintenance.

It is up to each social landlord to fulfil the requirements of the legislation, in the light of local circumstances.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how *(a)* tenants and *(b)* the public can assess the relative performance of housing associations; and if she will make a statement. [86168]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* There are a number of ways in which tenants and the public can gain information on the performance of RSLs. An annual Housing Corporation Assessment (HCA) is published for each RSL with over 250 homes. This gives an overview of performance and a rating in respect of the RSL's performance in areas of governance, management, financial viability and where relevant, development. The Corporation also publishes performance indicator data for RSLs with over 250 homes and an Operating Costs Index which allows comparison to be made between the costs of similar organisations. Additionally, the Audit Commission which is responsible for the inspection of RSLs publishes a report on the performance of individual RSLs, including the award of a star rating.

RSLs will also have individual arrangements in place for reporting to their own tenants.

Liverpool Regeneration

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding she has made available for regeneration in Liverpool, Riverside since 1997. [86294]

Mr. Woolas: We do not hold the total figures of regeneration spend for the Riverside constituency since 1997. The following table details regeneration funding spent or allocated from which Riverside has benefited. For some budgets, it is not possible to disaggregate to ward and constituency boundaries.

Type of funding	*Period*	*Area allocated*	*Amount (£ million)*
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	2001-02 to 2005-06	Riverside	26.4
	2006-07 to 2007-08[1]	Riverside	14
Single Regeneration Budget	2000 to 2007-08	City Centre[2]	[3]25
Housing Market Renewal Initiative Merseyside (Liverpool allocation only)	2003-04	Liverpool	2.7
	2004-05		17
	2005-06		28
	2006-07		26.7
	2007-08		29.8
New Deal for Communities (NDC)	2000-01 to 2009-10	Riverside	[4]31
Objective 1 Liverpool City Council	2000 to 2006	City Centre	43
Liverpool Neighbourhood Regeneration Programme	2000 to 2006	Riverside	[5]3.4
		Riverside	[6]6.7

[1] Forecast.
[2] Includes part of Riverside.
[3] Not fully allocated at present.
[4] Estimate.
[5] Schemes commissioned.
[6] Schemes currently in development.

In addition to the aforementioned funding, considerable amounts of funding have been made available from English Partnerships, the North West Development Agency and other sources. However it is not possible to identify funding which has gone specifically towards regeneration in the Riverside constituency as this information is not held at constituency level. Riverside will also have benefited from projects funded through objective 1 delivered across Merseyside, for example by the Learning and Skills Council, Business Link and Merseyside Special Investment Fund.

Local Government

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of funds in each local government pension scheme is invested in socially responsible investment funds. [88892]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Individual Local Government Pension Scheme fund authorities in England and Wales can provide specific figures for their funds.

Local Government Reorganisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Government has made of the merits of cancelling the *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 local elections to facilitate local government reorganisation in two-tier areas. [86787]

Mr. Woolas: We have already confirmed that we expect and intend the 2007 and 2008 elections to go ahead. The details of our approach to restructuring will be set out in the forthcoming White Paper which will be published shortly after the summer recess.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what maximum or highest resolution of aerial photography Ordnance Survey holds for parts of England. [87347]

Angela E. Smith: The highest resolution aerial imagery held by Ordnance Survey is for those urban areas of England mapped at 1:1250 scale and is at 15cm resolution.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made with Ordnance Survey's Digital National Framework; and if she will make a statement. [88084]

Angela E. Smith: The Digital National Framework (DNF) is an industry standard for integrating and sharing business and geographic information from multiple sources. It is supported by Ordnance Survey and a number of other organisations. DNF is directed and overseen by an Expert Group which has over 40 members from the public and private sectors and academia. The Group has produced a "road map" to achieve its aims and is actively working on most elements of this. All progress is reported on the DNF website at www.dnf.org. The majority of recent effort has been directed at creating a framework for unique identifiers.

Planning

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether Planning Gain Supplement will be levied on developments by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations; [88392]

(2) whether Planning Gain Supplement will be levied on home extensions; [88394]

(3) if the Government will take into account Planning Gain Supplement revenues in the calculations for the distribution of *(a)* local and *(b)* regional grant allocations. [88398]

John Healey: The Government consulted on their proposals for Planning-gain Supplement (PGS), including on scope, in their consultation paper published alongside the 2005 pre-Budget report. As set out in the paper, the Government propose that home improvements should be excluded from PGS. In Budget 2006, the Government stated that PGS revenues would be separate from the local government funding settlement to serve as an incentive to support growth. Further announcements will be made by the end of the year.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons parish and town councils are required to conduct all their deliberations on planning applications in public; and if she will make a statement. [83259]

Yvette Cooper: Unless the matter is confidential, parish and town councils are required to conduct their deliberations on planning applications in public in the interests of transparency and accountability.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with Kate Barker on further changes to the planning system. [84158]

Yvette Cooper: My right hon. Friend had an introductory meeting with Kate Barker last month to discuss the review of land use planning that Kate Barker is currently conducting on behalf of the Government. I have also met Kate Barker on several occasions over the past eight months to discuss progress on her review.

Kate Barker has now published her Interim Report, which the Government have welcomed. We look forward to seeing her recommendations later in the year on the further changes we need to make to build on the recent reform of the planning system.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 3

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the 2000 edition of Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 (PPG) applies in Wales; and whether draft PPG3 is intended to apply in Wales. [87023]

Yvette Cooper: The planning system in Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly, which has its own planning policy framework governed by an overarching document—Planning Policy Wales (PPW), which was first published in March 2002. This is supported by a range of technical advice notes, similar to our guidance and statements.

Planning Guidance on Housing in Wales has recently been updated through the issuing of a Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement (June 2006) and the publication of TANs 1 (Joint Housing Land Availability Studies) and 2 (Planning and Affordable Housing) in June 2006.

English planning guidance and planning policy statements can be used as material considerations in determining Welsh planning applications and appeals, where the Welsh policy framework does not cover the particular points in question.

Right to Buy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been purchased under the right to buy scheme in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997, expressed (i) in absolute terms, (ii) per 1,000 population and (iii) per 1,000 households; and if she will make a statement. [84967]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of right-to-buy sales in rural and urban local authorities are tabulated as follows. The number of right-to-buy sales is expressed in absolute terms and as the number of sales per 1,000 people and 1,000 households. Data for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The number of right-to-buy sales is as reported by local authorities and no adjustment is made for missing data.

	Total	*Per 1,000 population*	*Per 1,000 households*
Right-to-buy sales in rural local authorities			
1998-99	10,469	0.59	1.4
1999-2000	13,737	0.77	1.9
2000-01	12,474	0.70	1.7
2001-02	11,991	0.67	1.6
2002-03	14,288	0.79	1.9
2003-04	13,681	0.75	1.8
2004-05	9,121	0.50	1.2
Right-to-buy sales in urban local authorities			
1998-99	23,951	0.77	1.9
1999-2000	28,930	0.93	2.3
2000-01	36,422	1.17	2.8
2001-02	36,793	1.17	2.8
2002-03	45,610	1.44	3.5
2003-04	53,825	1.70	4.1
2004-05	39,068	1.23	2.9

Source:
Quarterly returns (P1B) from local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government, Office for National Statistics population estimates, DCLG household estimates.

Local authorities have been classified as rural or urban according to definitions given by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. For further information on the DEFRA classification please see:

http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/rural_resd/rural_definition.asp

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many right-to-buy completions there were in West Lancashire in each year since 1996-97. [83551]

Yvette Cooper: The number of right-to-buy completions in West Lancashire in each year since 1996-97 can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pub/383/Table648Excel545Kb_id1156383.xls

Search Fees

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what amendments the Government have made to *(a)* regulations and *(b)* legislation relating to local authority search fees since 1997. [70609]

Yvette Cooper: The following amendments have been made to regulations and legislation relating to local authority fees for local land charge services since 1997.

(a) Regulations

Statutory Instrument 1998 No. 1190 - The Local Land Charges (Amendment) Rules 1998

These rules specified the fees payable for local land charge services with effect from 1 June 1998.

Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 2502 - The Local Land Charges (Amendment) Rules 2003.

These rules specified the fees payable for local land charge services with effect from 3 November 2003.

Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 3044 - The National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Function) Order 2004.

This Order transfers the Lord Chancellor's power, with the consent of the Treasury, for setting fees for local land charge services in Wales to the National Assembly for Wales.

(b) Primary Legislation

The Constitutional Reform Act 2005, schedule 4, paragraphs 82 to 85.

This Act amends the Local Land Charges Act 1975. The amendments provide for the transfer to registering authorities in England, of the Lord Chancellor's power, with the consent of the Treasury, for setting fees for local land charge services, other than fees for personal searches, in England.

These amendments were brought into force by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (Commencement No. 5) Order 2006, (SI 2006 No. 1014) on 3 April 2006. The effect of the commencement order was modified by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (Supplementary Provisions) Order 2006, (SI 2006 No. 1693). This Order provides that from 3 April 2006 until 31 March 2007 the fees specified by registering authorities in England under section 13A Local Land Charges Act 1975 shall be those that were applicable immediately prior to 3 April 2006.

No amendments have been made to regulations relating to fees for other local authority search services since 1997.

The Office of Fair Trading made a number of recommendations to improve the operation of the property search market which we are working with other government departments to address.

Security Passes

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 928W, on security passes, how many security passes were issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in each previous year of its existence. [88248]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was created on 29 May 2002. The total number of new and replacement permanent building passes issued for staff, contractors and consultants working in the London HQ buildings for each year since then up to the end of March 2005 is as follows:

	Passes
May 2002 to March 2003	1,394
April 2003 to March 2004	1,593
April 2004 to March 2005	1,375

Thames Gateway

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what publicly owned land in Kent has to be released to facilitate the implementation of the Thames Gateway project; and what the timetable is for that release. [83698]

Yvette Cooper: A number of publicly owned assets are being released for development throughout the Kent part of the Thames Gateway. Government have contributed to the acquisition and reclamation costs for some of these sites from the Thames Gateway expenditure programme. Other sites are already owned by private sector landownwers and developers. All of these sites will play a crucial role in meeting aspirations for new housing and jobs.

The pace at which these sites will come forward for development depends partly on the planning process and partly on the market. In some cases this has already started. For example, the 264 acre 'Bridge' development in Dartford is being developed in a joint venture between Dartford council and ProLogis developers. Elsewhere at Rochester Riverside in Medway, DCLG is funding Medway council and the South East of England Development Agency to create a development platform on their land for future release for development—at least some of which is likely to be marketed within the next 12 months. Investment partners are also currently being sought elsewhere in Medway to help bring major reclaimed sites now into development.

All development on public and privately owned sites is subject to the planning process in the normal way. In Kent Thames Gateway this will be informed by the preparation of Local Development Frameworks in Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the socio economic benefits from the release of *(a)* publicly owned and *(b)* Government controlled land in Kent to facilitate the Thames Gateway plans; and if she will make a statement. [85298]

Yvette Cooper: The economic and social benefits from the release of public owned land for development will be set out in each individual development brief, area masterplan, sustainability assessment, design code and other local strategies that are part of the planning process and subject to a public consultation process. These economic and social benefits will be considered prior to disposal of these assets, as part of planning

applications and as part of subsequent local planning decisions. In addition, individual organisations also approve their public investment through their relevant appraisal processes, which need to meet HMT 'Green Book' appraisal standards.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Anschutz Entertainment Group

Mr. Swire: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which *(a)* officials and *(b)* representatives of Anschutz Entertainment Group and *(c)* other parties with an interest in the millennium dome site were present at meetings during his trip to the US in July 2005. [84704]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 4 July 2006, a copy of which is appended to the Memorandum from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to the Standards and Privileges Committee published on 21 July 2006.

Cantxx

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has received official hospitality from Cantxx Ventures Ltd. and Cantxx UK and its associated companies in the last four years. [85271]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Hospitality received by Ministers is declared in the Register of Members' Interests as is appropriate.

Gifts

Mr. Swire: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the gifts he has received whilst abroad on Government business. [86030]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government publish an annual list of gifts received by Ministers valued at more than £140. Information relating to 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006.

ISO 14001

Chris Huhne: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Office *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81582]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Environmental Management Systems in my office are operated to the ISO 14001 standard.

Millennium Dome

Mr. Swire: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what role and responsibilities he has in relation to *(a)* the millennium dome and *(b)* the surrounding land. [85771]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None.

Ministerial Travel

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent on *(a)* domestic flights and *(b)* rail fares for his travel in an official capacity in 2005-06. [85558]

The Deputy Prime Minister: All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Travel by Ministers', copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. Information relating to 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the hospitality he has received while abroad since 1997. [88221]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Hospitality received by Ministers is declared in the Register of Members' interests as is appropriate.

Official Visit

Mr. Swire: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the itinerary was for his visit to the United States in July 2005; and what the cost of *(a)* his and *(b)* his accompanying officials travel was for each part thereof. [84917]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* For details of my itinerary, I refer the hon. Member to the letter I wrote on 4 July 2006, a copy of which is appended to the Memorandum from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to the Standards and Privileges Committee, published on 21 July 2006. Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year and total costs of all ministerial overseas travel. Information relating to 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006.

Post Offices

Joan Walley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his responsibilities are in relation to Government policy on post offices; what recent work he has undertaken in respect of this responsibility; and what meetings he has attended within the past two months relating to post offices. [88625]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Responsibility for policy on post offices rests with the Department for Trade and Industry. I chair the Ministerial Committee on the Post Office Network (MISC33). The terms of reference of the Committee are 'to consider issues relating to the future of the Post Office network'. I am therefore responsible for ensuring the Government take a coordinated approach to issues relating to the Post Office network. Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when they meet, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Solicitor-General what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87056]

The Solicitor-General: I am informed that none of my Departments ran advertising campaigns during 2000 and June 2004.

Crown Prosecution Service

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will make a statement on the 2006 performance assessment of the Crown Prosecution Service, South Sector. [83928]

The Solicitor-General: CPS London South Sector was created in October 2003. The first HMCPSI Overall Performance Assessment report on the Sector covered 2004-05 and the Sector was rated 'Fair'. This assessment reflected a significant improvement on previous performance. Since then the performance of the Sector has continued to improve against key national targets.

Extradition

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Solicitor-General how many representations he has received on the US-UK Extradition Treaty in 2006. [88326]

The Solicitor-General: I have received 124 representations specifically on the UK-US Extradition Treaty and numerous other representations on extradition issues more generally.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by the Law Officers' Departments or public bodies for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was in each case. [83172]

The Solicitor-General: I am answering on behalf of the all of the Law Officers Departments, the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost, except the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department has, since 2002, undertaken an annual client satisfaction survey. Its purpose is to enable better understanding of clients' views about the services provided to them by the Department and to identify ways to improve that service. The cost of these surveys is predominantly the time spent by TSol staff in administering and recording this information and is estimated at 3,000 per annum. Client satisfaction ratings are among the Service Delivery Agreement (SDA) targets agreed with the Attorney General.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources he has committed to support the health infrastructure reconstruction of Afghanistan over the next three years. [88896]

Hilary Benn: DFID does not contribute to Afghanistan's Health Sector bilaterally, but through funding of the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), which helps fund the Government's recurrent costs. DFID has channelled £135 million through this since 2002. The ARTF covers much of the Government's wage bill, including the salaries of doctors and nurses. DFID has recently announced a further three year commitment to the ARTF which will fund the salaries of these key workers. Other donors such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank and the European Community take the lead in the health sector. DFID continues to support efforts to improve health services through multilateral funding.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to *(a)* encourage and facilitate the safe return of and *(b)* provide support for Afghan health workers who wish to return to Afghanistan. [88897]

Hilary Benn: DFID does not work bilaterally in the health sector. DFID does contribute to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund; one of the activities financed through this trust fund is the Afghanistan Expatriate Programme which enables the return of qualified Afghans to assist in reconstruction and capacity building.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Afghan authorities on the provision of mental health services. [88898]

Hilary Benn: DFID officials have had no recent discussions with Afghan authorities on the provision of mental health services. The European Commission, 19 per cent. of whose funding is provided by DFID, supports a basic health package which includes the provision of mental health services.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to support the Afghan authorities in the provision of *(a)* comprehensive maternal and neonatal services, *(b)* midwifery and nursing training and *(c)* training for community health workers. [88899]

Hilary Benn: DFID supports the health sector in Afghanistan through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund rather than bilaterally. The UK also provides 19 per cent. of the European Commission's €1 billion of development assistance pledged to Afghanistan between 2002-07. A large part of this funding goes towards developing Afghanistan's health sector, specifically to provide a basic package of health

services to all Afghans, including maternal and newborn health; child health and immunisation; and nutrition.

Recruiting, training and deploying health care workers (especially women) are real challenges, especially in rural areas. The absence of female health workers is being addressed by the World Health Organisation, which is running a variety of health courses to boost the number of skilled birth attendants, nurses and midwives.

Aid Programmes

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his oral answer of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 297, on HIV/AIDS, what safeguards are in place to ensure that aid programmes are not used as a tool for sexual exploitation. [89128]

Mr. Thomas: Following the work of a taskforce led by UNICEF in 2002, a UN code of conduct for protection from sexual abuse was drawn up. This code now forms part of the terms and conditions of employment within the UN and all UN staff members are therefore bound by it. Local organisations contracted by the UN also have to sign up to this code. DFID has incorporated the same code into its own terms and conditions of employment.

Following the recent report by the Save the Children Fund (SCF) on the exploitation of children in Liberia, DFID immediately organised a meeting with senior SCF staff to learn more about the accusations. DFID has subsequently raised these concerns with its operational partners to seek clarification from them on how their past and on-going operations have sought to prevent or address this problem. Safeguards for the prevention of sexual exploitation are now routinely part of DFID's appraisal of proposals for humanitarian operations.

DFID has recently published a new humanitarian policy and we are reviewing our funding guidelines and procedures. This will include consideration of how we can continue to best incorporate the UN code of practice.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88470]

Hilary Benn: None.

Developing Countries

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps *(a)* to co-ordinate and *(b)* to implement an integrated approach across Departments to deal with climate change and poverty reduction in developing countries. [87472]

Hilary Benn: Informal working groups communicate regularly on climate change to ensure that all Departments have an opportunity to contribute to policy-making. Ministerial oversight is provided by the Ministerial Committee on Energy and Environment (EE) which is chaired by the Prime Minister.

The Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has overall responsibility for climate change policy including tackling the causes of climate change, working to find ways to adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts, promoting effective science to inform policy, leading on international climate change negotiations, promoting energy efficiency, reducing emissions from industry and business, developing alternatives to fossil fuels and encouraging the protection and enhancement of carbon sinks. The Cabinet Office contributes to policy development and provides co-ordination mechanisms at senior official level.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contributes foreign policy perspectives and analysis. The FCO's staff overseas maintains regular contact with host governments in order to analyse and report on countries' climate change policies and priorities, and to lobby for UK positions. The Department for Trade and Industry (DTI)'s role is to consider all aspects of climate change that impact on the energy and business sectors. This includes ensuring that that the competitiveness of industry is maintained and that issues affecting security of energy supply, energy prices and competitive energy markets are taken into account. Her Majesty's Treasury is involved across the whole range of business. The Chancellor has initiated a major review of the economics of climate change, headed by Sir Nick Stern.

DFID takes the lead on ensuring effective integration of international development objectives into Her Majesty's Government policy. We have seconded two people to the Stern Review. We are helping developing countries adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts. We are working with the multilateral development banks to increase public and private investment in energy efficiency and lower carbon technologies. The UK Government's Development White Paper highlights climate change as one of the key challenges facing development, and sets out how the UK Government as a whole intends to address this challenge.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department gives to *(a)* farmers and *(b)* fishermen in developing countries to understand and achieve standards demanded by western consumer markets. [88616]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development (DFID), launched DFID's agriculture policy in December 2005. This makes a commitment to work in partnership with the food industry to ensure that poor farmers in developing countries can access markets. DFID is working with supermarkets, standard setters and exporters to improve opportunities for farmers in developing countries to participate in international supply chains. We are also supporting work in Africa to support small farmer certification to supermarket standards. For example in Kenya, DFID has supported export horticultural development to the tune of

£872,000 over the past three years. Much of these funds are spent assisting smallholders to cope with the process and cost of compliance with supermarket standards.

DFID is also committed to working in partnership with international standard-setting organisations to ensure that new product standards are based on assessments of risk and are not attempts to protect markets. We support developing countries to participate in formal standard-setting procedures. DFID has contributed £950,000 to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) housed in the World Trade Organisation. STDF is a multi-donor funded programme that assists developing countries in improving their expertise and capacity to analyse and implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS).

DFID also supports the work of the European Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Trade. In 2006, the DG for Trade will provide €1.7 million to support developing countries to meet food safety standards and export their products to the European Union (EU). This provides jobs, economic growth and raises standards in developing countries.

DFID recognises the importance of European markets to the fishing sectors of many developing countries and is an active proponent of greater coherence between EU fisheries trade and development policies. We encourage the EU to ensure that there is fair access to EU markets for developing countries and that resources are made available to help these countries develop capacity in standard setting, quality control and certification.

DFID funded research programmes have supported the development of processing technologies for developing country fishermen. Currently we are funding a regional programme in Southern Africa that is supporting local fishing industries to develop the knowledge, skills and capacity to meet EU market requirements.

More direct support to small-scale fishers, whose marketing needs are arguably greater than other groups within the sector, is also available through a £30 million EU programme of support to developing countries' fisheries sectors, which the UK supports. DFID also supports the activities of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which plays an important role in the setting and implementation of policies relating to international standards and trade in fisheries products.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of his Department's support to improve teachers' wages in developing countries. [88618]

Mr. Thomas: The 2006 Education for All Global Monitoring Report states that salaries for teachers remain problematic. It reports that in Latin America, teacher salaries fail to attract the best candidates. However, some countries are trying to improve teachers' status. In China, salaries have been increased and a National Teachers Education Network established.

The UK's commitment to provide approximately £8.5 billion of support to education in developing countries over the next 10 years, will provide predictable funding against which poor country governments can prepare ambitious sector plans to achieve the education goals. Our support will help in the development and implementation of 10 year plans, which will increase investment in schools, including recruiting and training more teachers. The status of teachers will be important in improving the quality of education.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has *(a)* pledged, *(b)* committed and *(c)* spent on support for developing countries to plan for natural disasters. [88620]

Mr. Thomas: Much of DFID's support for disaster risk reduction and support to developing countries to plan for future disasters is integrated into wider development programmes so it is not possible to identify the exact amount allocated to this work.

We are committed to allocating 10 per cent. of the funding provided by DFID in response to each major natural disaster to prepare for and mitigate the impact of future disasters where this can be done effectively. We pledged £7.5 million to the Indian Ocean region following the 2004 tsunami and £5.8 million to Pakistan following the earthquake for disaster risk reduction programmes.

DFID is also providing significant contributions to the disaster risk reduction programmes of our multilateral partners. In 2005, we committed £12.5 million to international non-governmental organisations and £3.5 million to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for disaster risk reduction work at the community level in Africa and Asia. The UK is the largest contributor of un-earmarked funds to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction at £1 million per year. In 2006, DFID committed over £4 million to the World Bank to help developing country governments incorporate disaster risk into Poverty Reduction Strategies, and £3 million to the ProVention Consortium.

Equal Opportunities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department will take to ensure that policies outlined in the White Paper will *(a)* deliver equal employment opportunities for women, *(b)* uphold equal pay and labour standards for women, *(c)* advance equal property rights for women and *(d)* endorse women's equal access to microfinance. [88619]

Hilary Benn: Gender discrimination is not only unjust but is an impediment to sustainable economic development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The policy paper "Poverty Elimination and the Empowerment of Women" sets out the Government's commitment to supporting gender equality and to ensuring that women are able to play a full role in economic life. In the White Paper, "Eliminating World Poverty: making governance work for the poor", published earlier this month, the

Government re-affirmed its intention to give priority to work in support of gender equality and women's rights in its development assistance. DFID is currently in the process of developing more detailed plans on how this commitment will be taken forward across the Department's operations. These plans should be completed by the end of the year; they will include work looking at the linkages between gender equality and economic growth.

Fast Track Initiative

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid for education his Department has provided under the Fast Track Initiative; and what plans he has to increase the amount. [88615]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is supporting the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) as part of our overall approach to accelerate progress towards quality primary education for all children by 2015. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development, recently announced an additional UK contribution of £100 million to the FTI Catalytic Fund, bringing our total support to £150 million. Our contribution over the next two years will cover nearly a quarter of the funding gap in the FTI.

In addition, the UK is calling for other donors, especially G8 countries, to increase their support for an expanded FTI. We have urged other G8 countries to increase their support to education within the FTI framework, either directly through the FTI Catalytic Fund or by increasing their support for education in FTI endorsed countries.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* his departmental colleagues attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their Ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contribution from third party organisations. [83598]

Hilary Benn: Neither myself, nor my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development attended any FIFA World Cup 2006 matches in Germany in our Ministerial capacity.

Genetic Use Restriction Technologies

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will commission an assessment of the impact of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies on *(a)* free access to genetic resources and *(b)* the food security and livelihoods of small scale farmers in developing countries; [88421]

(2) what assistance he has made available to support and enhance capacity building in developing countries to enable them to make decisions concerning the introduction of GM crops containing Genetic Use Restriction Technologies; [88422]

(3) what criteria will be used to determine that the conditions for the safe and beneficial use of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies in developing countries have been validated; and who will make that decision. [88423]

Mr. Thomas: DFID takes genetic modification in crops and foods and its potential impacts on poor people, including small-scale farmers, in developing countries very seriously. Our approach is based on the principle that the livelihoods and health of poor people and of their environment is of primary concern. We recognise that GM technology in itself will not solve the problem of world hunger. We consider that biotechnology, including gene technology, if managed responsibly and applied to those crops on which the poor rely, has the potential to make a contribution to development and poverty reduction.

The parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) decided in 2000, that there should be a precautionary approach to their use while research into the possible impacts of these technologies was carried out. Parties at the CBD meeting in March this year reaffirmed this decision. Parties were also encouraged to continue to undertake further research on the impacts of GURTs and to share information from these studies and address capacity building for decision making in developing countries. As a party to the CBD, the UK Government will continually study research into the possible impact of GURTs. DFID is willing to consider funding assessments of the impact of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies on small scale farmers.

Recognising that there are both potential benefits and risks associated with gene technologies and GM crops, developing countries should be able to make their own informed choices. To this end, DFID has worked with the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), other HMG Departments and the international community to establish the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, under the CBD. The protocol adopts a strong precautionary approach and aims to ensure that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of genetically modified organisms. It also facilitates the exchange of information on living modified organisms and assists countries in the implementation of the protocol. This means that importing countries are able to make a decision to avoid or minimise potential adverse effects of GM organisms, even if there is a lack of scientific certainty on the extent of such potential adverse effects. We are working to ensure developing countries have the capacity to make informed decisions on these issues for themselves, for example by providing core support to regional African research bodies which are building capacity in biotechnology safety and regulation in their regions.

It is for each party to the Convention on Biological Diversity to assess whether appropriate scientific data is available in relation to the field testing of products incorporating Genetic Use Restriction Technologies and to take decisions accordingly. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety seeks to provide the means for developing countries to make such decisions.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research projects the Government have *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* funded on appropriate scientific data for the field testing of products incorporating Genetic Use Restriction Technologies. [88424]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have not undertaken or funded any research projects specifically on the scientific data for the field testing of products incorporating Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs).

Middle East (Project Funding)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which infrastructure projects funded by *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the UK have been destroyed by Israeli forces in Gaza in recent months. [87464]

Hilary Benn: Because of military activity, aid agencies currently face difficulty assessing the extent of damage to facilities in the Gaza Strip. However, initial reports from northern Gaza indicate that four schools and one clinic provided for Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have sustained heavy damage. 57 empty food containers leased by UNRWA have also been damaged at a cost of £31,000. The European Community and EU member states collectively provide more than half of UNRWA's core funding and two of the damaged schools were specifically financed from European Community funds.

The main entrance bridge to Beit Hanun was partially destroyed by an Israeli air strike on 9 July. The bridge was built in 2004 with £205,000 in funding from the European Community.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he last met the Scottish First Minister; and what subjects were discussed. [88748]

Hilary Benn: I last met with the Scottish First Minister on the 23 June in Edinburgh. We discussed the Scottish Parliament's Co-Operation Agreement with Malawi and the work DFID is undertaking in the health sector. The discussion also covered the capacity building work the Scottish Parliament is doing with the Malawi Parliament.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87644]

Mr. Thomas: Ministerial offices were redecorated as part of the refurbishment of the building prior to DFID moving in, in 2001. They have not been redecorated since.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [84005]

Hilary Benn: In the last 12 months I have visited Wales twice and Scotland three times. I have not made any visits to Northern Ireland. I have also made a number of visits to different parts of England.

Palestine

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Temporary International Mechanism in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza; what representations he has received on the effectiveness of the mechanism from British aid agencies working in the Occupied Territories; and what concerns they have expressed. [88492]

Hilary Benn: The Temporary International Mechanism, designed to help provide for Palestinians' basic needs, is providing vital assistance to the people of the Gaza Strip at this difficult time. Since 11 July, the mechanism has provided fuel for back-up generators at hospitals, health centres, water supply pumps and sanitation facilities. This has enabled equipment to continue operating during power cuts after Gaza's only power station was damaged in an Israeli attack.

DFID is in regular contact with British aid organisations regarding the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In these discussions, several agencies have expressed concern that the Temporary International Mechanism does not provide support through the Palestinian Authority. Some agencies have also said that the range of areas covered by the mechanism should be wider than health, utilities and basic social support. The Government's view is that the mechanism has already proved its ability to ensure that basic services continue in very difficult circumstances in Gaza. Further support to ensure the continuation of essential health services throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories is expected to begin shortly. The Government will keep the mechanism, and the best ways for supporting the Palestinian people, under close review.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) which British *(a)* aid agencies and *(b)* other British organisations have made representations to his Department on the suspension of British aid to the Palestinian Authority; and which (i) supported and (ii) opposed the suspension of aid; [88493]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with British aid agencies working in Occupied Palestine on the suspension of direct British aid to the Palestinian Authority. [88494]

Hilary Benn: DFID is in regular contact with British aid organisations about the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Since Hamas' victory in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in January, we have had meetings with representatives of Welfare Association, World Vision, Oxfam, Christian Aid, Interpal, War on Want, Medical Aid for Palestinians and Save the Children.

The agencies attending these meetings all shared the Government's concern about the humanitarian situation and shared our view that humanitarian support to the Palestinian people should continue. The agencies also expressed concern that direct aid to the Palestinian Authority should not be suspended. We explained the UK Government's commitment to do all we can to support the Palestinian people. We also explained that DFID could not support a government when that government was committed to violence, terrorism and the destruction of Israel.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85208]

Mr. Thomas: No questions tabled to DFID were still awaiting a reply as of 10 July. As of that date, 3,153 parliamentary questions had been tabled to DFID during the current parliamentary Session.

The Department endeavours to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day and also to provide answers to ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department in each year since February 2004. [88554]

Mr. Thomas: The number of passes lost and stolen since February 2004 is as follows:

	Lost	*Stolen*
February 2004-January 2005	30	0
February 2005-January 2006	50	5
February 2006 to date	25	0

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85190]

Hilary Benn: None.

Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported.

Sudan

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of whether international donors have met pledges to provide aid in Darfur. [88613]

Hilary Benn: The current UN appeal seeks $801 million (mostly for humanitarian assistance) for Darfur to cover the period up to 31 December 2006. So far, $345 million has been pledged by donors, and the bulk of these pledges have been met. A significant element of the £49 million provided by DFID to the Common Humanitarian Fund, covering the whole of Sudan, will be channelled to Darfur.

The signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May has enabled work to begin on identifying the region's longer-term recovery and development needs. An assessment team is currently in Darfur, and will present a report to donors at a conference due to be held in The Hague later in the year. Donors will be able to pledge further financial support at this meeting.

Tropical Storm Bilis

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact on developing countries in the region of tropical storm Bilis. [88415]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has been monitoring the situation closely, and has been prepared to respond if necessary. There has not been any request for international assistance and needs are being met by the affected countries' governments and local response arrangements.

Tsunamis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to assist countries affected by the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2005 in preparations to minimise the damage of future tsunamis. [88791]

Mr. Thomas: Following the tsunami in December 2004, DFID set aside £7.5 million of its humanitarian assistance to support disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in the affected region.

DFID is currently considering:

support to DRR capacity building in Indonesia and Sri Lanka;

support to the UN-International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and UNESCO/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission co-ordinated Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System (IO-TEWS) programme and

support to efforts by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to strengthen capacity in climate change adaptation planning in Asia.

UK Aid Expenditure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK aid expenditure was on *(a)* acute diarrhoeal illness, *(b)* acute lower respiratory infections, *(c)* child health, *(d)* HIV/AIDS, *(e)* malaria, *(f)* poor nutrition, *(g)* reproductive and maternal health, *(h)* tuberculosis and *(i)* vaccine preventable diseases in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; and what such spending is estimated to be for (A) 2006-07 and (B) 2007-08. [88372]

Mr. Thomas: It is not possible, to disaggregate UK aid expenditure by disease category or sub-sectors areas such as child health or reproductive and maternal

health. DFID uses a range of different aid instruments to assist developing countries implement their national health plans. UK support ranges from direct budget support to funding delivered through multilateral agencies such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF.

The focus of DFID's work in health is to help countries strengthen their health systems to prevent and mitigate the impact of ill health including communicable diseases. Functioning systems are crucial for effectively tackling diarrhoeal diseases, pneumonia and vaccine preventable disease epidemics as well as HIV, TB and malaria and to deliver child and reproductive health services. With country partners DFID monitors improvements in health outcomes (e.g. reduced child mortality rates) or outputs (more children immunised against measles and fewer cases and deaths) rather than inputs targeting individual diseases. The exception is AIDS, where DFID does monitor spend against a government commitment to spend at least £1.5 billion over the three years 2005-06 to 2007-08.

DFID's overall bilateral spend on the health sector was £363 million in 2004-05 through our country, regional and research programmes. We also provide general Poverty Reduction Budget Support to several developing countries to help build basic services. Some of this funding goes on health services, but is not captured within our sector specific spending figures which therefore somewhat underestimate our overall bilateral contribution to improving health in developing countries. In addition to our bilateral assistance we provided a further £110 million in 2004-05 for health through multilateral assistance including to the WHO and other UN agencies.

We are also supporting a number of innovative financing mechanisms to increase resources to tackle communicable diseases. For example, the International Finance Facility for Immunisation will raise an additional £4 billion from a number of donors for vaccines for the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisations and help support the development of new vaccines for communicable diseases that can be prevented.

The specific spend on communicable diseases, other than AIDS, in 2004-05 was £80 million (out of the £363 million). Recording AIDS-specific expenditure requires careful analysis because there are a range of sectors which have an impact on the epidemic, including health, education, social development and good governance. There are also a range of instruments used to channel AIDS-related development spending. DFID has been working with the Joint United Nations Programme of HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and others to review and improve these expenditure calculations. While refinements to the methodology are still in progress DFID has reported a provisional bilateral expenditure of £350 million on AIDS for the period 2004-05.

Expenditure data for 2005-06 by sector will not be released until the autumn and expenditure forecasts for 2006-07 and 2007-08 will be subject to the direction of DFID country programming in response to the 2006 White Paper and the revised Health Strategy under preparation.

World Food Programme (Kenya)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take urgent steps to tackle the situation facing the World Food Programme in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [88265]

Hilary Benn: We share the World Food Programme's assessment that despite improved rains, food security remains poor among some communities in particular in northern and eastern Kenya—the same areas affected by drought in 2005. In many parts of northern Kenya rains were again below normal and drought conditions persist, resulting in continuing humanitarian needs in these areas. Rates of acute malnutrition remain very high—well above the emergency threshold.

The UK is the second largest bilateral donor in the response (after the US). The UK's total contribution in response to the drought in Kenya since December 2005 is £22.2 million spent on food aid, water supplies and emergency health. Of this, £12.5 million has been channelled through the World Food Programme (WFP). I am considering further contributions and at the same time urging other donors to make contributions.

DFID is also working with the Government of Kenya and others to tackle the underlying causes of the persistent food crises affecting Kenya. The Government of Kenya with our support is developing a hunger safety net programme that aims to tackle chronic hunger in the long term.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council (Jazz Funding)

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the oral Answer to the hon. Member for Waveney (Mr. Blizzard) of 24 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 351, on Arts Council (Jazz Funding), what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the rescheduling of jazz music on Smooth FM on the listenership of that genre; and if she will make a statement. [89097]

Mr. Lammy: Such an assessment does not fall within the remit of my Department.

Community Development Fund

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to extend the Community Development Fund beyond its initial three year period. [88893]

Mr. Caborn: £60 million was available for the Community Club Development Programme in the three-year period 2003-06. An additional £40 million is available for the period 2006-08.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been allocated in grants from the Community Development Fund; and which sports have received an allocation. [88894]

Mr. Caborn: £60.1 million has been committed to date to the support of 1,018 sports facilities projects through the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP).

Sports benefiting from CCDP in the period 2003-06 include: cricket, football, tennis, rugby football league, rugby football union, netball, rowing, swimming, badminton, cycling, canoeing, gymnastics, judo, basketball, hockey, and table tennis. A further three sports will be eligible to receive CCDP from 2006/07: boxing, golf and squash.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 131W, on Departmental Staff, how many staff in her Department have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the last three years. [84029]

Mr. Lammy: My department had 89 members of staff who had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five working days in two or more of the last three years.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance she has issued on digital switchover for landlords and local authorities; and if she will include information on integrated reception systems in future guidance to landlords. [87822]

Mr. Woodward: We wrote to all local authorities, registered social landlords and a number of representative bodies, including those representing private sector landlords and house builders in June 2004 alerting them to Digital Switchover. We wrote again to local authorities in January 2006. An electronic version of both letters is available on www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk, a copy of each has been placed in the Library.

In 2005 we published "Digital Switchover: A Good Practice Briefing Special" in association with the Chartered Institute of Housing replacing an earlier booklet published by DCMS in December 2001. The Good Practice Briefing describes the implications of digital switchover for private and social sector landlords giving clear, objective advice on the various options available including integrated reception systems. It has been circulated widely to housing sector professionals by DCMS and the Chartered Institute of Housing, by other housing representative bodies and by Digital UK. An electronic version is available on www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk. I am arranging for copies to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was paid to her Department from the Access to Work Scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget she plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government departments; and if she will make a statement. [89008]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport was paid £7,603.90 from the Access to Work scheme in the 05-06 financial year. Following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government departments, the cost of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff will be met centrally by the Department.

Fishing Licences

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many fishing licences were granted in *(a)* London and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [87253]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Rod fishing licences are issued by the Environment Agency.

Historically, the agency has not analysed sales of these licences by Government Office Region or by borough. However, there were 41,584 rod licence holders resident in London in 2005. Some of these will have purchased more than one licence.

London Olympics

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what training is being provided to enable local people to gain access to construction jobs created by the Olympic developments; what steps she has taken to encourage contractors to provide *(a)* jobs and *(b)* apprenticeships for local people; and if she will make a statement. [88210]

Mr. Caborn: ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for the construction industry, has established a special team—Constructing London 2012—to deliver locally available construction skills to build the Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure. It will work with partners to recruit and train local people, ensuring that building the infrastructure provides sustainable skills and job opportunities for people resident in east London through a range of newly targeted initiatives. A detailed Plan is currently being developed.

The Construction National Skills Academy, due to be launched during the last quarter of 2006 will have a significant impact on developing construction skills for the Olympic infrastructure, and other London-based construction projects. One of its first on-site centres is likely to be in the Thames Gateway/ Olympics area.

The London 2012 Employment and Skills Taskforce (LEST) was commissioned by the Mayor

and Government to produce an action plan aimed at helping Londoners benefit from the jobs and skills opportunities created by the London Games. This will be finalised in the autumn but Jobcentre Plus has already placed 15 people into jobs at the Olympic site and are discussing a further 200 vacancies with the two contractors so far engaged. These should arise over the next 12 to 18 months.

The Olympic Delivery Authority's draft Procurement Policy sets out the overall framework and values guiding the ODA and its Delivery Partner's approach to procurement The draft Policy states the ODA's commitment to requiring its contractors and subcontractors to operate with a commitment to a competent workforce, and its desire to work with the appropriate sector skills councils to provide a legacy of a trained and motivated workforce for the future.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to redirect sewerage services at the site of the Olympic Park and the Lea Valley area during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. [88510]

Mr. Caborn: DEFRA are currently leading work to consider options for intercepting intermittent sewage discharges into the Thames, including developing a package of measures to protect the Olympic Park when the Olympic and Paralympic Games take place in 2012.

Online Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what action the Government can take against online gambling companies permitted by the whitelist to advertise in the UK who breach the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005; and if she will make a statement; [89130]

(2) what criteria will be used to establish the whitelist of countries overseas from which online gambling establishments based in their jurisdiction may advertise in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [89131]

Mr. Caborn: Section 331 of the Gambling Act prohibits any gambling operator based outside the European Economic Area or Gibraltar from advertising in the UK unless a specific exemption has been made for that jurisdiction under sub-section 331(4). My Department will begin consulting on the criteria for making an exemption shortly.

Should it become apparent that gambling regulation by a jurisdiction which has been specified under sub-section 331(4) of the Act is failing to meet the standards set by the Gambling Act, the Secretary of the State has the power to remove this exemption.

Swimming Pools

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many chlorinated public swimming pools there were in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* constituency in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [87330]

Mr. Caborn: We do not hold specific information on numbers of chlorinated public swimming pools. However, the numbers of public swimming pools by London borough in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The ISRM advise that all pools must provide some form of residual disinfection in the pool water to protect bathers against the risk of cross-infection. The UK is not alone in using chlorine for this purpose. It is probably the most effective disinfectant in water and this is the reason it is used throughout the world, not only in swimming pools, but also in drinking water supplies. However, many swimming pools do use supplementary forms of treatment to enhance the disinfection process, such as ozone and UV.

		Of which "x" built in				
London borough	*Total number of pools*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Barking and Dagenham	8	—	—	—	—	—
Barnet	22	2	1	—	1	—
Bexley	14	—	—	—	1	2
Brent	8	—	1	—	—	—
Bromley	28	2	1	—	1	—
Camden	25	1	—	—	—	—
City of London	14	3	1	1	—	—
Croydon	28	—	2	—	4	—
Ealing	26	2	2	1	1	—
Enfield	16	—	2	—	—	—
Greenwich	16	—	—	—	—	—
Hackney	5	—	—	1	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	18	1	4	2	—	—
Haringey	16	—	—	—	—	—
Harrow	11	—	1	—	—	—
Havering	12	2	—	—	4	—
Hillingdon	20	2	—	—	1	—
Hounslow	16	1	—	1	—	—
Islington	14	2	1	—	—	—
Kensington and Chelsea	16	—	1	1	—	—

London borough	Total number of pools	Of which "x" built in 2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Kingston upon Thames	12	—	3	1	—	—
Lambeth	11	1	—	—	1	—
Lewisham	9	—	—	—	2	—
Merton	14	—	1	—	—	—
Newham	10	2	1	1	—	—
Redbridge	11	1	1	—	—	—
Richmond	19	—	—	—	2	—
Southwark	17	—	1	—	1	—
Sutton	12	1	—	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets	11	1	1	—	—	—
Waltham Forest	15	1	3	—	—	—
Wandsworth	20	1	1	—	1	—
Westminster	40	4	3	—	2	1

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many swimming pools there were in each London borough in each year from 1998 to 2004. [87414]

Mr. Caborn: We do not hold the requested information on the number of pools in each London borough from 1998-2003.

However, we do have a figure for the numbers of pools in each London borough for 2004 through the Active Places database. This information is shown in the table. The information includes swimming pools provided by public and private operators.

Number of pools by London borough in 2004

	Total
Barking and Dagenham	8
Barnet	22
Bexley	11
Brent	8
Bromley	27
Camden	25
City of London	14
Croydon	27
Ealing	25
Enfield	16
Greenwich	16
Hackney	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	19
Haringey	15
Harrow	11
Havering	12
Hillingdon	20
Hounslow	17
Islington	14
Kensington and Chelsea	16
Kingston upon Thames	12
Lambeth	11
Lewisham	9
Merton	14
Newham	10
Redbridge	11
Richmond	19
Southwark	17
Sutton	12
Tower Hamlets	12
Waltham Forest	14
Wandsworth	20
Westminster	40

Number of pools by London borough in 2004

UK School Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what evaluation procedures are planned in respect of the delivery of the UK School Games by the Youth Sports Trust; and if she will make a statement. [88895]

Mr. Caborn: The selection of an operator to organise the UK School Games for 2006 and for 2007-11, and the subsequent grant of National Lottery money was a matter for the Millennium Commission. In my capacity as Chair of the Commission, I will write to you on this matter and arrange for copies of my reply to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses in due course.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Contingencies Act

Mr. Walker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many local authorities have complied fully with the obligations contained in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004; and if she will make a statement. [87902]

Edward Miliband: Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 establishes a statutory framework for civil protection arrangements at the local level. Responders were given a six-month implementation period to put arrangements in place before the bulk of the duties came fully into force on 14 November 2005. The Act sets out clear roles and responsibilities for local responders (including local authorities) establishing a basis for effective performance assessment.

The performance of responders against the requirements set out in the Act is assessed through their existing mainstream performance assessment

frameworks. English local authorities' performance is assessed by the Audit Commission through the comprehensive performance assessment (CPA) process. The performance of local authorities in Wales is assessed by the Wales Audit Office.

The Scottish Executive is responsible for making regulations and issuing guidance, under the Act, to local authorities in Scotland. In Northern Ireland, local authorities are subject to the non-statutory 'Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework'.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost was of the Deputy Prime Minister's *(a)* private office and *(b)* Central Policy Group within the Cabinet Office in 2001-02. [83030]

Hilary Armstrong: Support arrangements for Ministers include Private Secretaries, Special Advisers and Parliamentary Branch. The costs of individual Ministers' private offices are not separately identifiable, on my department's accounting system, from the overall support costs.

The total support costs for all Cabinet Office Ministers in 2001-02 were £2,180,503. This period includes the General Election held in June 2001 and the machinery of government changes which followed. The total cost therefore includes support for three Ministers' offices to June 2001, and the Deputy Prime Minister and four additional ministers (one of whom, the Minister without Portfolio, was unpaid) following the General Election. These figures are therefore not representative of the typical annual running costs of Ministers' private offices.

In addition to this, the total cost in 2001-02 of the Central Policy Group, from its foundation following the 2001 General Election, was £490,932.

Both figures include staff pay costs and general office expenditure such as staff travel costs, IT related spend and office equipment costs.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the value was of each IT contract awarded by the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88980]

Mr. McFadden: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The information for the Department cannot be produced in the form requested without incurring disproportionate cost. However, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 545W.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which IT contracts awarded by the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88981]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. member to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 5 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 2773W, and the pursuant reply on 2 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 667W.

Official Residence

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Government have for the two empty official residences at Admiralty house; and what the estimated *(a)* capital and *(b)* rental value is of each of the two flats. [86897]

Hilary Armstrong: There is currently one flat vacant at Admiralty house. A decision on its allocation will be taken in due course.

For information on the capital and rental value of the property, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire (Oliver Heald) on 24 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 136W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister paid to the Cabinet Office for the official residence of Deputy Prime Minister in Admiralty House in 2005-06 *(a)* in total and *(b)* to cover the cost of (i) rent, (ii) security, (iii) utilities, (iv) facilities management and (v) general maintenance. [85664]

Edward Miliband: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister paid £173,268 to the Cabinet Office in 2005-06 to cover the cost of rent, security, utilities, facilities management and general maintenance for the official residence of the Deputy Prime Minister in Admiralty House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent staff provide maintenance to the Deputy Prime Minister's official residence under the Cabinet Office contract for the maintenance of Admiralty House. [85665]

Edward Miliband: Admiralty House is one of a number of buildings in London covered by the Cabinet Office's Total Facilities Management contract. Maintenance of all buildings is carried out by a team of 11 engineers, and agency and specialist sub-contractors as required, in accordance with the Output Specification. There are no engineers specifically dedicated to the maintenance of the Deputy Prime Minister's official residence in Admiralty House.

Post Offices

Mr. Davey: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Deputy Prime Minister will be chairing the first meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Post Offices; and if she will make a statement. [88330]

Hilary Armstrong: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when they meet, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

A list of Cabinet Committees, including the membership and terms of reference of the Ministerial Committee on the Post Office Network (MISC33), is available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Year of the Volunteer

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how the £7 million allocated by the Chancellor to the Year of the Volunteer was spent; and what the measurable outcomes of the funding were. [83471]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Grants totalling £7.1 million for the England-wide Year of the Volunteer 2005 were made by the Home Office directly to organisations in the Voluntary and Community Sector, who were responsible for the delivery of the Year. The table shows how much grant was paid to each organisation, and for what purpose. The Year of the Volunteer involved over 3,000 events across the country, 12 themed months promoting different types of volunteering and a very significant media campaign to raise awareness of volunteering overall. An independent Delivery Review, conducted by GFK NOP Social Research and published in April, showed that over a quarter of all adults in England were aware of the year, over 2.2 billion minutes were pledged by the public for volunteering (well exceeding the 1 billion minutes target) and over a third of a million people visited the website. The Year brought together new partners to promote volunteering, including contributions of an additional £2 million worth of free media. The third sector, private sector and Government have built on the success of the year with initiatives such as the continuation of Environmental Volunteering Month in May, and a new Volunteering for All Programme.

Grants made by the Home Office during the Year of the Volunteer 2005

Home Office investment into YV05	*Purpose of Grant*	*Amount invested by the Home Office (£)*
Community Service Volunteers	Principal Voluntary Sector partner delivering a range of activities, events, promotional materials and press and media coverage	1,000,000
Community Service Volunteers	To deliver a government employee volunteering scheme	500,000
Volunteering England	Principal Voluntary Sector partner working with a consortium to deliver a range of activities, events, promotional materials and press and media coverage	1,000,000
Volunteering England	To increase the capacity of local volunteer centres throughout England	3,000,000
Volunteering England	Small grants programme for other stakeholders who can contribute to achieving the objectives of YOV 2005	250,000
Marketing/Communications Support	Research and branding, publicity, partnership marketing and the YOV 2005 website www.yearofthevolunteer.org	250,000
Website and YOV 2005 evaluation support	To develop and enhance www.yearofthevolunteer.org and manage project evaluation	100,000
Media Trust	For high-profile, multi-media consumer marketing campaign which aims to supercharge the year, raise awareness of volunteering and drive registrations of new volunteers.	1,000,000
Total		7,100,000

SCOTLAND

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list in date order the *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81647]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office published one Command Paper between October 2005 to date: Command No. 6834 Departmental Report, published on 24 May 2006.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the unnumbered command papers produced by his Department in each session since 1976; how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81650]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

Documents which are laid before Parliament as Unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to Explanatory Notes to Treaties, Explanatory Memorandum to Statutory Instruments and some Treasury Minutes. All other documents are published in the Numbered Command Papers series.

Copies of the Office's Explanatory Memoranda to Statutory Instruments are, as is the usual practice, made available via the Vote Office.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid to his Department from the Access to Work Scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget he plans to meet the costs

of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [89004]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has received no funding under this scheme.

Information Technology

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computers hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88763]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not collect this information in the form requested.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case; [88976]

(2) which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88979]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the Answer I gave to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 939W.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10th July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85195]

David Cairns: As at 25 July, one outstanding Scotland Office parliamentary question remained to be answered. It is an 'ordinary' written reply for 24 July and will be answered at the earliest opportunity.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out, wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83162]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established in July 1999 and has executive responsibility for the conduct of elections to the Scottish Parliament and the handling of legislation under the Scotland Act 1998. To date, this Office has not issued any questionnaires or carried out statistical inquiries or investigations.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85177]

David Cairns: Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Northern Ireland Members

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals to impose the same financial penalties on any hon. Members from Northern Ireland constituencies who do not take their seats as will be imposed upon members of the Northern Ireland Assembly with effect from 25 November 2006. [88338]

Mr. Straw: There are no plans to impose financial penalties on Members representing Northern Ireland constituencies who do not take their seats. The Northern Ireland Act 2006 provides for the dissolution of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the indefinite postponement of the next Assembly elections if an Executive has not been formed by 25 November 2005. In these circumstances, it would not be appropriate for members of the Northern Ireland Assembly to continue to receive salaries and allowances.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House how many parliamentary questions tabled and due for answer were still awaiting a substantive reply at 25 July 2006. [87957]

Mr. Straw: None.

Anne Main: To ask the Leader of the House if he will take steps to ensure that the drafting of answers to parliamentary questions in Government Departments is undertaken by officials with direct responsibility for the subject matter. [88783]

Mr. Straw: However they are drafted, Ministers are responsible for answers given.

Departments must ensure that the answers to questions abide by the terms of the Ministerial Code and the guidance issued in respect of the accuracy of answers.

I therefore have no plans to issue guidance on the administrative arrangements for the preparation of answers to parliamentary questions, which must remain a matter for each Minister and his or her Department.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Accommodation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 8W, on accommodation, why the houses are structurally unsuitable for use as offices. [87140]

Nick Harvey: The houses are unsuitable for use as offices because the floor loading capacity is inadequate, there is limited fire protection with no secondary means of escape and there are no facilities for disabled access. The buildings are also tall and narrow, resulting in limited accommodation on each floor. It is furthermore unlikely that the necessary listed building consent would be given for the extensive physical alterations which would be required for conversion to office use.

Mail Delivery

Mr. Hancock: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent research the Commission has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the length of time it takes for mail to reach hon. Members' and hon. Members' staffs offices after arriving on the Palace of Westminster estate; and if he will make a statement. [88184]

Nick Harvey: After mail arrives at the Palace of Westminster it is delivered to Members offices' within the parliamentary estate on the day it arrives. Alternatively it is forwarded by the Royal Mail Special Delivery service to constituency offices to arrive the next working day by 1 pm. The next day service is guaranteed and is tracked and traced throughout its entire journey.

Passholders

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many passholders are non-UK citizens, broken down by nationality. [87303]

Nick Harvey: 280 House of Commons passholders are non-UK citizens, covering over 90 nationalities, including dual and multiple nationalities. 71 of these are UK citizens with other nationalities. Hon. Members are not included, because they are not required to complete a pass application form. A full list of nationalities and the numbers for each nationality has been placed in the Library of the House.

Recycled Waste

Sarah Teather: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much waste generated by the House was recycled in each year since 1997, broken down by category of waste. [87630]

Nick Harvey: Data on waste began to be collected in April 2002 and no data are available prior to this date. The annual waste data from April 2002 to March 2006 are given in the table.

Annual total waste from 2002-03 to 2005-06

	2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	Total (kg)	*Percentage of waste recycled*	*Total (kg)*	*Percentage of waste recycled*	*Total (kg)*	*Percentage of waste recycled*	*Total (kg)*	*Percentage of waste recycled*
Paper and Cardboard	390,390	13.0	379,080	16.3	393,615	20.5	539,578	24.0
Glass	252,850	8.4	173,100	7.5	152,800	8.0	182,760	8.1
Metal	45,700	1.5	50,420	2.2	6,120	0.3	77,620	3.5
Oil	8,030	0.3	4,140	0.2	6,360	0.3	12,212	0.5
Fluorescent Tubes	702	0.0	553	0.0	757	0.0	1,276	0.1
Sodium Lamps	1,016	0.0	393	0.0	880	0.0	1,284	0.1
Light Fittings	38	0.0	270	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Items	0	0.0	360	0.0	705	0.0	6,631	0.3
Waste not recycled	2,068,220	—	1,710,570	—	1,355,272	—	1,430,319	—
Annual total	2,766,946	25.3	2,318,886	26.2	1,916,509	29.3	2,251,680	36.5

Note: All total figures are in kilograms. 1,000 kilograms = 1 tonne.

Smoking

David Taylor: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent discussions he has had with House authorities on the implementation of Smokefree Regulations in the Palace of Westminster in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [87420]

Nick Harvey: I understand that the Administration Committee has had a preliminary discussion about the application of the principles of the smoking provisions in the Health Bill to the parliamentary estate, and that

it will consider the matter further in the autumn in the light of the draft regulations recently published by the Department of Health. The Commission awaits the Administration Committee's advice.

St. David's Day

Mark Williams: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the Refreshment Department plans to *(a)* hold a Welsh Cheese Week and *(b)* serve Welsh dishes and products in the cafeterias and Members' Dining Room at Westminster on St. David's Day in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [88855]

Nick Harvey: The Refreshment Department does not usually mount food promotions to coincide with all the national saints' days of the countries making up the UK, but normally celebrates at least one of them each year. Regional food promotions may also be mounted at other times of the year. No decision has yet been taken on such promotions in 2007.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Wednesday 26 July and Friday 1 September 2006

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87066]

Meg Munn: The Department for Communities and Local Government was established on 12 March 2006 and its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, was established on 29 May 2002. Advertising figures before that can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In 2002-03 the advertising spend was £3.4 million on fire safety running throughout the year.

In 2003-04 the advertising spend was £4.4 million of this sum—£2.9 million was spent on fire safety running in September, February and March and £1.5 million was spent on Elected Regional Assemblies running in June and July.

Arm's Length Management

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to reform arm's length management organisations. [88223]

Yvette Cooper: The review of Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs) and a statement, "From Decent Homes to Sustainable Communities" were published on 7 June. The documents examined how ALMOs could build on the success of their delivery of decent homes and set out the Department's view on the long-term future of ALMOs within the broader social housing context. The statement invites views on the emerging initiatives and ideas raised in the documents by 15 September 2006.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average rents were in council-owned housing stock in each local authority in each year since 1990, including where the management of the stock has been transferred to an arm's length management organisation. [83375]

Yvette Cooper: A table showing average local authority rents for the years 1995-96 to 2004-05 inclusive has been placed in the House Library. Information for earlier years is available only at disproportionate cost.

Ballpoint Pens

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister spent on ballpoint pens with Office of the Deputy Prime Minister branding; and how many were ordered. [88400]

Meg Munn: The then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister spent a total of £3,450 on 20,000 ballpoint pens with Office of the Deputy Prime Minister branding.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister spent in the last 12 months on pens marked with the "Office of the Deputy Prime Minister" title. [86935]

Meg Munn: The then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister spent £1,900 on pens marked with "Office of the Deputy Prime Minister" in the 12 months to the 5 May 2006.

Brownfield Land

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her definition is of brownfield land for planning purposes; and if she will make a statement. [86163]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* The definition for brownfield land is currently set out in Annexe C to Planning Policy Guidance Note 3 —Housing. This says that:

"Previously-developed land is that which is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings), and associated fixed surface infrastructure[1]. The definition covers the curtilage of the development[2]. Previously-developed land may occur in both built-up and rural settings. The definition includes defence buildings and land used for mineral extraction and waste disposal[3] where provision for restoration has not been made through development control procedures[4].

The definition excludes land and buildings that are currently in use for agricultural or forestry purposes, and land in built-up areas which has not been developed previously (e.g. parks, recreation grounds, and allotments—even though these areas may contain certain urban features such as paths, pavilions and other buildings). Also excluded is land that was previously developed but where the remains of any structure or activity have blended into the landscape in the process of time (to the extent that it can reasonably be considered as part of the natural surroundings), and where there is a clear reason that could outweigh the re-use of the site—such as its contribution to nature conservation—or it has subsequently been put to an amenity use and cannot be regarded as requiring redevelopment."

The definition is based on the Land Use Change Statistics classification (LUCS) introduced in 1985.

In December last year we published draft PPS 3, which is designed to update planning for housing policy. Annexe A of draft PPS 3 proposes some clarificatory changes to the definition of previously developed land. We are currently considering representations that were received to the consultation on draft PPS3, and are due to publish final PPS 3 later in the year.

Cantxx

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* she has and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have received official hospitality from Cantxx Ventures Ltd. and Cantxx UK and its associated companies in the last four years. [85273]

Meg Munn: Neither the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, or any Minister in her Department has received official hospitality from Cantxx Ventures Ltd. or Cantxx UK or its associated companies.

Conservation Areas

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many designated conservation areas there are in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster. [88378]

Yvette Cooper: The Government do not hold this information centrally. However I understand from the local planning authority that Barnsley has recorded 18 conservation areas and that Doncaster has recorded 46.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many criminal offences her Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88478]

Angela E. Smith: There have been no criminal offences created in Orders in Council for which the Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible since DCLG was created in May 2006. Nor were any criminal offences created in Orders in Council by its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, since 2002. It would involve a disproportionate cost to provide details in respect of predecessor Departments for the period before 2002.

Departmental Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected budgets are for each area-based initiative which receives funding from her Department for *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09, broken down by (i) region and (ii) county. [87526]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was established on 5 May 2006 following the machinery of government changes.

The table following sets out the projected budgets by region for the area based initiative programmes sponsored by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister which are now administered by DCLG.

The Department does not hold county level data for the full suite of area-based programmes.

The 2008-09 budget allocations will be set following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review 2007.

(1) Details of projected budgets by region

£ million

Region/programme	*2006-07 budget*	*2007-08 provisional budget*
Eastern		
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Growth Areas	17.0	32.9
Thames Gateway	36.8	49.3
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	3.9	3.9
New Deal for Communities	7.9	8.1
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	1.0	—
Local Area Agreements	29.1	—
ERDF	5.8	7.7
Total	101.6	101.9
East Midlands		
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Growth Areas	21.0	29.2
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	31.0	31.0
New Deal for Communities	20.3	17.4
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	1.7	—
Local Area Agreements	99.2	—
ERDF	13.8	17.9
Total	187.1	95.5
London		
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Growth Areas	20.0	27.7
Thames Gateway	59.2	82.8
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	119.0	108.8
New Deal for Communities	70.0	71.2
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	13.8	—
Local Area Agreements	83.7	—
ERDF	9.3	12.1
Total	375.1	302.6
North East		
Market Renewal Pathfinders	28.5	53.8
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	65.1	64.1
New Deal for Communities	27.8	23.5
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	5.0	—
Local Area Agreements	31.5	—
ERDF	23.3	30.3
Total	181.3	171.7
North West		
Market Renewal Pathfinders	178.9	196.7
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	143	142.6

(i) Details of projected budgets by region

£ million

Region/programme	2006-07 budget	2007-08 provisional budget
New Deal for Communities	42.5	37.6
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	22.6	—
Local Area Agreements	79.0	—
ERDF	66.5	86.3
Total	532.6	463.2
South East		
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Growth Areas	31.0	46.5
Thames Gateway	51.0	50.9
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	3.4	3.9
New Deal for Communities	14.9	14.4
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	3.2	—
Local Area Agreements	66.5	—
ERDF	1.6	2.0
Total	171.7	117.7
South West		
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	10.6	10.5
New Deal for Communities	15.8	14.4
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	11.1	—
Local Area Agreements	15.6	—
ERDF	18.2	23.5
Total	71.4	48.4
West Midlands		
Market Renewal Pathfinders	52	79.5
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	70.0	74.6
New Deal for Communities	46.5	45
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	5.8	—
Local Area Agreements	50.4	—
ERDF	27.9	36.3
Total	252.7	235.4
Yorkshire and Humberside		
Market Renewal Pathfinders	63.0	86.5
Liveability Fund	0.1	—
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	79.0	86.0
New Deal for Communities	27.3	16.8
Safer Stronger Communities Fund	6.1	—
Local Area Agreements	68.2	—
ERDF	48.4	62.9
Total	292.1	252.2

There is also a budget of £17.7 million in 2006-07 and in 2007-08 for the coalfields regeneration trust, for which a regional breakdown is not currently available.

In addition there is a central support budget of £6.5 million in 2006-07 and a provisional budget of £5.6 million in 2007-08 for new deal for communities.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was *(a)* originally budgeted for 2005-06, *(b)* not spent in 2005-06, *(c)* carried forward to 2006-07 and *(d)* budgeted for 2006-07 for each area-based initiative for which her Department is responsible. [87527]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was established on 5 May 2006 following the machinery of government changes.

The following table sets out the data for the area-based initiative programmes sponsored by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which are now administered by DCLG.

£ million

Programme	Budget 2005-06 (a)	Under spend on budget 2005-06 (b)	End year flexibility carried on 2005-06 underspend (c)	Budget 2006-07 (d)
New Deal for Communities	274.6	2.0	2.0	279.5
Liveability	39.5	1.8	1.8	[1] 0
Crime Wardens	8.1	0.0	0.0	[2] —
Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders	19.3	0.0	0.0	[2] —
Community Empowerment Networks	38.1	0.0	0.0	[2] —
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	525.0	6.6	6.6	525.0
Coalfields Regeneration Trust	20.7	2.1	2.1	17.7
Market Renewal Pathfinders	304.3	0.8	0.8	317.6
Growth Areas	73.2	0	0	89.0
European Regional Development Fund	228.8	2.1	2.1	214.9
Thames Gateway	161.5	0	0	147.0

[1] Balance included in Local Area Agreements (LAAs) from 2006-07.
[2] Included in Local Area Agreements (LAAs) from 2006-07.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget was for each area-based initiative for *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06 for each (i) region and (ii) county. [87528]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was established on 5 May 2006 following the machinery of government changes.

The following table sets out the amount of grants and payments made by region for the area-based initiative programmes sponsored by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which are now administered by DCLG.

The Department does not hold county level data for the full suite of area-based programmes.

(1) Details of projected budgets by region

Region/Programme	2004-05	£ million 2005-06
Eastern		
Liveability Fund	4.3	4.5
Growth Areas	14.3	20.4
Thames Gateway	26.5	33.3
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	3.5	3.5
New Deal for Communities	10.5	11.2
ERDF	8.0	6.3
Crime Wardens	2.5	—
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	1.0	1.0
Community Empowerment Networks	0.7	0.6
Total	71.3	80.8
East Midlands		
Liveability Fund	4.7	4.8
Growth Areas	16.0	15.6
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	29.1	33.6
New Deal for Communities	24.8	24.8
ERDF	18.8	14.7
Crime Wardens	1.8	0.9
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	1.8	1.8
Community Empowerment Networks	3.1	2.7
Total	100.1	98.9
London		
Liveability Fund	4.7	4.6
Growth Areas	2.0	5.8
Thames Gateway	70.5	68.9
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	100.7	128.8
New Deal for Communities	62.2	72.1
ERDF	12.7	9.9
Crime Wardens	3.9	3.0
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	2.4	2.4
Community Empowerment Networks	9.3	8.2
Total	268.4	303.7
North East		
Market Renewal Pathfinders	28	31.9
Liveability Fund	3.7	3.9
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	59.4	69.1
New Deal for Communities	27.7	31.1
ERDF	31.7	24.9
Crime Wardens	2.5	—
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	2.5	2.5
Community Empowerment Networks	6.2	5.5
Total	161.7	168.9
North West		
Market Renewal Pathfinders	118.3	176.6
Liveability Fund	4.2	4.3
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	124.5	149.1
New Deal for Communities	41.4	36.2
ERDF	90.4	70.8
Crime Wardens	3.8	1.5
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	3.7	3.7
Community Empowerment Networks	11.0	9.7
Total	397.3	451.9

(1) Details of projected budgets by region

Region/Programme	2004-05	£ million 2005-06
South East		
Liveability Fund	4.5	4.5
Growth Areas	30.1	31.3
Thames Gateway	50.8	59.3
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	4.6	4.6
New Deal for Communities	12.8	12.0
ERDF	2.2	1.7
Crime Wardens	1.8	1.2
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	1.2	2.3
Community Empowerment Networks	1.2	1.0
Total	109.2	117.9
South West		
Liveability Fund	4.7	4.3
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	9.1	10.7
New Deal for Communities	13.9	11
ERDF	24.6	19.3
Crime Wardens	0.9	—
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	1.5	1.5
Community Empowerment Networks	1.4	1.2
Total	56.1	48
West Midlands		
Market Renewal Pathfinders	20.6	49.3
Liveability Fund	4.5	4.8
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	56.3	59.7
New Deal for Communities	39.3	42.1
ERDF	38.0	29.7
Single Regeneration Fund	—	—
Crime Wardens	1.2	1.5
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	1.9	1.9
Community Empowerment Networks	4.6	4.2
Total	166.4	193.2
Yorkshire and Humberside		
Market Renewal Pathfinders	30.0	45.4
Liveability Fund	3.7	3.8
Neighbourhood Renewal fund	62.8	66.0
New Deal for Communities	27.7	28.1
ERDF	65.9	51.5
Crime Wardens	1.1	—
Neighbourhood Management pathfinders	2.2	2.2
Community Empowerment Networks	5.5	4.6
Total	198.9	201.6

There was also an expenditure of £17.7 million in 2004-05 and £20.7 million in 2005-06 for the coalfields regeneration trust, for which the regional breakdown is not currently available.

In addition, there was a central support expenditure of £9.7 million in 2004-05 and £6 million in 2005-06 for the new deal for communities programme.

Departmental Staff

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff worked in the private office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2005-06. [83079]

Angela E. Smith: For information relating to 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the then Under-Secretary of State at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the hon. Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1245W.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid to her Department from the access to work scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget she plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of access to work funding for central Government Departments; and if she will make a statement. [89015]

Meg Munn: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was established on 5 May 2006. Staff now working within DCLG were formerly employed in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Home Office.

In 2005-06, £9,278 was paid to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister from the access to work scheme. To date in 2006-07, no access to work funding has been paid out to this Department, although applications for funds totalling £10,662 have been made. The costs of future reasonable adjustments will be met from departmental resources.

The Office of Disability Issues (ODI) will also be monitoring the overall situation to ensure that there is no detriment to current and future employees who are disabled.

Environmental Regulations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulatory simplification proposals her Department has received in relation to environmental regulations since the start of the initiative; which stakeholders have been consulted on each proposal; and if she will make a statement. [81029]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government have received no simplification proposals in relation to environmental regulations. The Government are continuing to engage with a wide range of stakeholders from the private, public and voluntary sectors as part of a radical programme of reform to reduce unnecessary and burdensome regulation. The Government welcome suggestions from stakeholders for regulatory simplification.

Fire Control Project

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Department and its predecessors spent on external consultants on the fire control project in each year during the period May 2002 to March 2006. [86801]

Angela E. Smith: Consultants provide a wide range of specialist services and skills to the project. Among the staff they provide are project managers, lawyers, IT specialists, accountants, architects, building engineers, and experts in the property market and in security and resilience. Staff with these skills are not readily available in the civil service.

The following table[1] gives the information requested:

[1] The figures are stated net of reimbursements and exclude costs from within the public sector.

	£
2002-03	0
2003-04	1,524,833
2004-05	9,055,656
2005-06[1]	11,702,057

[1] At the end of 2005-06 the Department clarified its policy in relation to VAT and this resulted in a significant charge to expenditure of VAT that had previously been treated as recoverable.

Fire Service

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 924W, on the fire service, whether armed forces personnel would be required to cross picket lines in the event of a fire strike to collect fire appliances and equipment in order to provide emergency fire and rescue cover. [88251]

Meg Munn: No.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firemen *(a)* retired and *(b)* retired on the grounds of ill health, broken down by type of ill health, in each year since 1997. [88442]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 25 July 2006]*: The available information is set out in the following tables:

Firefighter retirements in England (whole-time and retained duty system)

	Total retirements	*Of which: ill health retirements*
1998-99	1,306	690
1999-2000	1,294	625
2000-01	1,276	634
2001-02	1,296	497
2002-03	1,529	587
2003-04	1,260	531
2004-05	1,476	348

Type of ill health retirement

(Percentage)

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Cancer	2	3	2	1
Cardiovascular	8	5	7	5
Mental Health	21	22	22	23
Musculo Skeletal	50	54	44	54
Neurological	3	2	4	4

Type of ill health retirement

				(Percentage)
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Respiratory	3	5	3	4
Senses	6	6	10	4
Other	7	4	9	6

Notes
2000-01 figures exclude West Sussex and Humberside
2001-02 figures exclude London
Source
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the staffing costs, excluding administrative costs, of its fire service group were in the last five years for which figures are available. [86802]

Angela E. Smith: Since 2002 responsibility for fire services within my Department has been restructured several times and historical figures are not available in the form requested. In 2005-06 the fire service directorate was merged with the civil resilience directorate. The staffing costs (includes pay, temporary agency staff and secondees) for the combined directorate in 2005-06 was £18.5 million.

Fires

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* accidental and *(b)* non-accidental fires were recorded in each London borough in 2005. [88959]

Angela E. Smith: Information provided by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) is tabulated as follows:

Fires attended by the London Fire Brigade in 2005

	Accidental	*Non-accidental*
Barking	655	1,117
Barnet	628	611
Bexley	661	803
Brent	620	447
Bromley	632	1,145
Camden	706	363
City	90	4
Croydon	642	768
Ealing	732	618
Enfield	712	758
Greenwich	816	1,246
Hackney	895	611
Hammersmith	432	176
Haringey	679	469
Harrow	345	225
Havering	625	913
Hillingdon	627	620
Hounslow	522	743
Islington	615	566
Kensington	396	150
Kingston	257	216
Lambeth	796	503
Lewisham	728	627
Merton	405	358
Newham	869	924
Redbridge	529	582
Richmond	277	172
Southwark	1,046	777
Sutton	356	397
Tower Hamlets	1,108	1,686
Waltham Forest	628	530
Wandsworth	612	346
Westminster	1,040	192

Source
LFEPA

Home Condition Reports/Information Packs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to issue a format for home condition reports which will standardise that content within home information reports. [85138]

Yvette Cooper: On 14 June 2006, the Department for Communities and Local Government published the standards for certification schemes which set out the form of the Home Condition Report. These can be found on the DCLG website at www.communities.gov.uk. The standards also set out the inspection and reporting requirements that home inspectors must observe.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice the information commissioner has provided in relation to the register of home condition reports. [83063]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government has had various discussions with the Information Commissioner's office about the home condition report register, and access to it, to ensure that the arrangements comply with data protection and privacy standards.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of further *(a)* guidance and *(b)* circulars on home information packs. [83234]

Yvette Cooper: We expect to set out further information on the dry run and the next steps for market led roll-out of home condition reports with home information packs in the autumn. Further guidance for consumers will follow after that.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a home information pack will be needed to sell a *(a)* park home and *(b)* mobile home. [85715]

Yvette Cooper: A home information pack will not be required for a park home or mobile home.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average income of a qualified, full-time home inspector. [83042]

Yvette Cooper: The cost of a home condition report will be set by the market. The current cost of a mid-level survey is around £400 plus VAT. A home inspector's income will generally depend on how many inspections they carry out and on the size of the property.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances home inspectors *(a)* may and *(b)* will take photographs as part of their inspection of a property. [83048]

Yvette Cooper: The home condition report does not include photographs. However, the home inspector may, subject to obtaining the home owner's permission, take photographs during the course of an inspection to supplement the site notes which will form the basis of their preparation of the home condition report. This is the current practice of surveyors when undertaking home surveys.

Homelessness

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to offer greater protection from homelessness to people living in properties left in trust; and if she will make a statement. [82710]

Yvette Cooper: All trusts must use the properties held by them in accordance with the terms of their trusteeship and these may preclude them from acting in a way that is any different from any commercial landlord. Therefore, like all other tenants, those they let to must rely on the terms of their tenancy agreements.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of people in the *(a)* Houghton and Washington, East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area were (i) homeless and (ii) on Sunderland city council's housing waiting list in each year since 1997. [87371]

Yvette Cooper: (i) Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation, which is collected in respect of households rather than persons, is collected quarterly and at local authority level. The parliamentary constituency of Houghton and Washington, East falls entirely within the Sunderland local authority.

The number of households accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need for each year since 1997-98, and the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation as at 31 March of each year since 1998, is tabled for the Sunderland local authority. The percentage of total number of households in temporary accommodation is also included.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation, some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home), until a settled solution becomes available.

Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also presented in the table.

Number of households in Sunderland (1) accepted as homeless[1] and (2) placed in temporary accommodation, (3) the proportion of total households in temporary accommodation, and (4) the number of rough sleepers

	[1]Number households accepted as homeless	Number of households in TA (31 March snapshot)	[2]Percentage of households in TA/total households	Number of rough sleepers, people, (June estimate)
1997-98	597	72	0.06	n/a
1998-99	632	278	0.2	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
2000-01	735	880	0.7	0
2001-02	690	1,179	1.0	0
2002-03	791	12	0.01	0
2003-04	894	12	0.01	0
2004-05	597	15	0.01	0
2005-06	593	9	0.01	0

[1] Households found to be eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falling within a priority need group, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty by the local authority.
[2] Based on mid-year estimates of household population.
Sources:
ODPM P1E homelessness returns (quarterly) and HSSA returns (annual)

(ii) Information about housing waiting lists is not collected at constituency level. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Central dated 7 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1114-16W, in which the number of households on the housing waiting list for Sunderland local authority, and the percentage of total households in the Sunderland local authority area were presented.

Housing

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 139-40W, on house sales, when the Department expects the baseline research to be completed. [82726]

Yvette Cooper: The baseline study on the home buying and selling process will be reporting later on this year.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of homes were built on brownfield sites in *(a)* Bournemouth and *(b)* Dorset (i) between 1997 and 2003 and (ii) since 2003. [86690]

Yvette Cooper: The information available is from the Department's land use change statistics. The estimated percentage of new dwellings built on brownfield land are shown in the following table:

	Bournemouth	Percentage Dorset
1997-2003	94	65
2004	100	67

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to ensure that new houses built under the sustainable communities programme meet high standards of energy efficiency; and if she will make a statement. [85884]

Meg Munn: The Government are committed to improving energy efficiency standards in all housing. The new buildings regulations part L 2006, taken together with changes to strengthen the building regulations in 2002 and 2005, will improve energy efficiency standards by 40 per cent. from pre-April 2002 levels. The new draft code for sustainable homes will also raise the environmental standard of housing further and will signal the future direction of building regulations.

To achieve the higher levels of housing growth set out in the sustainable communities plan we recognise that new homes must be built in a sustainable way to reduce their environmental impact and carbon footprint. We have already committed around £400 million to the development of the three growth areas and £850 million for the Thames Gateway up to March 2008. This is to deliver on all aspects of a sustainable community, including environmental performance.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average *(a)* cost is of private homes for sale and *(b)* monthly rental is for (i) private homes and (ii) social homes for rent divided by the average net household income of (A) all working age households and (B) households headed by people aged 25 to 40 years in (1) England, (2) Yorkshire and the Humber and (3) each housing local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber. [87133]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* The information is as follows:

(a) Average property prices for the period April 2004 to March 2005 were as follows. More recent prices are available but this period has been chosen for consistency with the answer to part *(b)* for which 2004-05 is the most recent available.

	Average (£)
England	185,312
Yorkshire and Humber	131,718
Local authority area	
Barnsley	106,571
Bradford	112,525
Calderdale	118,801
Craven	182,800
Doncaster	113,026
East Riding of Yorks	148,033
Hambleton	214,700
Harrogate	226,686
Kingston upon Hull	68,965
Kirklees	124,167
Leeds	147,899
North East Lincolnshire	96,670
North Lincolnshire	119,548
Richmondshire	181,443
Rotherham	110,679
Ryedale	200,997
Scarborough	148,377
Selby	167,160
Sheffield	131,689
Wakefield	122,868
York	176,441

Source: Land Registry

(b) For 2004-05, the average net rent expressed as a percent of average disposable income is set out in the following table for:

private renters and social renters;

household reference persons of (i) working age and (ii) aged between 25 and 39;

England and Yorkshire & Humber.

Equivalent figures for individual local authorities are not available.

Average net rent expressed as a percentage of average disposable income, 2004-05

	Private renters	Percentage Social renters
England		
HRP[1] of working age[2]	28	12
HRP[1] between 25 and 39	26	11
Yorkshire and Humber		
HRP[1] of working age[2]	20	10
HRP[1] between 25 and 39	17	10

[1] HRP stands for Household Reference Person (formerly Head of Household)

[2] Working age is 16-64 for male HRPs and 16-59 for female HRPs

Notes:

1. All rents and incomes have been derived from DWP's Family Resources Survey for 2004-05.
2. Disposable income (equivalent to "net income") equals gross income less deductions for income tax and National Insurance contributions.
3. The income measure used was the joint disposable income of the HRP plus partner (if any) and not "household income". This is because, whilst there might be other income earners in the household, the HRP and spouse alone will generally have responsibility for paying the rent—so their joint income was considered to be the more appropriate income measure.
4. The rents used in the calculations were the average rents net of housing benefit (as opposed to gross rents). Net rents were considered more appropriate for comparison with disposable incomes.

Source:

Department for Work & Pensions: Family Resources Survey, 2004-05

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the number of families in temporary accommodation in each region for each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [87438]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter and, since 2002, separately identifies those that include dependent children or a pregnant woman.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The total number of households in temporary accommodation (as arranged by local authorities) as at 31 March in each year since 2001, and the number of these with dependent children or an expectant mother since 2002, in each region of England are presented in the following table.

Households in temporary accommodation[1] arranged by local authorities, by Government office region

	2000-01	*2001-02*		*2002-03*	
	All households	*All households*	*o.w families*	*All households*	*o.w families*
North East	1,480	1,820	1,270	440	220
North West	2,070	1,890	990	2,500	1,330
Yorkshire and Humber	2,700	1,830	870	2,240	1,160
East Midlands	1,940	2,070	1,440	2,420	1,750
West Midlands	2,070	1,840	1,030	1,570	1,050
East	5,180	6,350	3,850	7,630	4,870
London	42,620	46,390	33,010	52,690	37,620
South East	11,560	12,230	8,320	13,020	9,480
South West	5,600	5,790	3,860	6,530	4,030
England	75,200	80,210	54,660	89,040	61,510

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	All households	*o.w families*	*All households*	*o.w families*	*All households*	*o.w families*
North East	1,020	350	910	520	780	430
North West	2,960	1,450	3,000	1,900	2,490	1,480
Yorkshire and Humber	2,400	1,290	2,100	1,110	2,240	1,290
East Midlands	2,820	2,090	3,030	2,250	1,950	1,470
West Midlands	2,230	1,420	2,630	1,750	2,050	1,500
East	8,220	5,650	8,250	5,480	6,610	4,640
London	58,820	44,620	61,990	46,360	62,740	48,360
South East	13,080	9,510	12,440	8,520	11,160	8,040
South West	6,150	4,190	6,740	4,780	6,360	4,340
England	97,680	70,580	101,070	72,670	96,370	71,560

[1] Households in accommodation arranged by local authorities awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance of a main duty

Source:
DCLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the data sources are for her Department's house price index. [88086]

Meg Munn: The Department for Communities and Local Government's monthly house price index is a weighted average of prices for a standard mix of dwellings. Dwelling prices come from mortgage completion data from the regulated mortgage survey of the Council of Mortgage Lenders and BankSearch.

The index is "mix-adjusted" to allow for the fact that different houses are sold in different periods and is achieved partly by fitting a model. The variables in the model include two variables that define similar areas. One is a classification of local authorities into clusters derived by the Office for National Statistics and the other neighbourhood type based on postcode data produced by CACI Ltd. (ACORN). In addition weightings in the "mix-adjustment" are based on transaction data, partly based on data from the Land Registry and partly on past data from the mortgage survey.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the total housing stock is key worker housing. [88701]

Yvette Cooper: As at mid year 2004 the estimated total amount of housing stock in England was 21,613,000 dwellings.

In recent years the Government have funded a number of schemes to offer specific housing assistance to key workers in areas experiencing recruitment and retention difficulties: from April 2001 to March 2006, over 22,000 homes for key workers have been provided through the starter home initiative (SHI) and key worker living (KWL) programmes. These include both new homes and provision of equity loans to support purchase of existing homes.

In addition, certain local authorities will make provision in the planning system for a proportion of new homes to be affordable housing for key worker groups based on specific local needs. We do not hold such information centrally.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many key worker homes have been built in each region in each of the last five years. [88702]

Yvette Cooper: In recent years the Government have funded a number of schemes to offer specific housing assistance to key workers in areas experiencing recruitment and retention difficulties: from April 2001 to March 2006, over 22,000 homes for key workers have been provided through the starter home initiative (SHI) and key worker living (KWL) programmes. These include both new homes and provision of equity loans to support purchase of existing homes.

The following table details the number of new build homes provided for key workers through SHI and KWL over the past five years. 2005-06 completions are provisional until the Housing Corporation end of year processes are finalised:

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*[1]2005-06*	
London	0	0	41	228	771	1,040
South East	0	16	144	1,282	1,208	2,650
East	0	21	5	100	261	387
South West	0	20	14	0	0	34
	0	57	204	1,610	2,240	4,111

[1] Provisional

In addition, certain local authorities will make provision in the planning system for a proportion of new homes to be affordable housing for key worker groups based on specific local needs. We do not hold such information centrally.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* council, *(b)* other registered social landlord and *(c)* private homes have been built in each London borough since 1997. [88714]

Meg Munn: A table showing the number of new build dwellings as reported by the Housing Corporation and each local authority in London, in each year from 1997-98 to 2004-05, has been placed in the Library of the House. The figures presented are for completed new dwellings and are broken down by tenure.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the main obstacles to the building of affordable housing in rural areas. [88857]

Yvette Cooper: In July 2005 my Department and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs set up the Affordable Rural Housing Commission to inquire into the scale, nature and implications of the shortage of affordable housing for rural communities in England and to make recommendations to address unmet need.

The Commission reported in May 2006 setting out its findings, including barriers to the supply of affordable housing in rural areas. The Government aim to respond constructively to the agenda it has set using a range of channels and mechanisms, including the forthcoming comprehensive spending review.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 39WS, on the Housing Act 2004, why the guidance to local authorities was not published on her departmental website on 6 July. [85449]

Yvette Cooper: The guidance note on empty dwelling management orders was available on request on Thursday 6 July and was subsequently posted on the Department for Communities and Local Government website on Monday 10 July.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many properties have been *(a)* bought and *(b)* part-bought under the social homebuy scheme; [83096]

(2) how many *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations are offering the social homebuy scheme. [83097]

Meg Munn: The social homebuy scheme became available in April 2006 and provides a new opportunity for tenants of participating local authorities and housing associations to purchase a share in their home. The scheme is currently being offered by 42 housing associations and one local authority. My officials are in discussions with other local authorities which have expressed an interest in social homebuy. The Housing Corporation plans to hold a further bidding round in the autumn to enable more housing associations to participate.

To date, there has been one completed sale in the housing association sector. The purchaser bought outright with the available discount. More sales are expected shortly. Although a number of local authority tenants have applied to buy shares in their homes, no sales have yet been completed.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much she has allocated to *(a)* Newham's Local Space initiative, *(b)* Ealing's Safe Haven partnership and *(c)* L&Q Housing Trust's HILS programme; what targets were set for these programmes for the number of families in temporary accommodation to be provided with settled homes; how many families in temporary accommodation have been provided with settled homes through each programme; and if she will make a statement. [86704]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* The London borough of Newham created a registered

social landlord called Local Space to acquire properties to be leased to the council for temporary occupation. Local Space received a social housing grant allocation from the Housing Corporation in 2005-06 totalling £25 million over two years to acquire a minimum of 1,000 properties.

Ealing's Safe Haven London, a charity specially established for the purpose, is to acquire houses and flats over a two-year period, including some new build stock and lease them back to the council under an arrangement which provides for the transfer of the properties to a housing association at expiry of the lease. The project does not benefit from a Housing Corporation grant, or any other grant. To date 50 properties have been purchased and occupied.

The London and Quadrant Housing Trust (LQHT) homelessness initiative leasing scheme (HILS) is a programme which commenced in 2003-04, administered by the Housing Corporation and was designed to help eliminate the use of bed-and-breakfast accommodation as temporary housing. Its remit was to deliver 500 units at a cost of £17.5 million.

The trust has delivered 401 units in agreed local authority areas, which they have leased back to the local authority for a period of 10 years. The local authority nominates households who would otherwise be housed in bed and breakfast to be accommodated in these units.

Building on these initiatives, £30 million will be made available through an extra homes pilot in London to help families move from temporary accommodation into settled homes. Detailed guidance on submitting proposals for this pilot will be issued later in the year.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority and housing association homes were *(a)* sold, *(b)* demolished and *(c)* added to the public sector rented housing stock in each housing local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1996-97. [87132]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* The numbers of local authority (LA) dwellings sold in each year since 1998-99 are published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/383/Table648Excel545Kb_id1156383.xls

Information on years prior to those shown is not readily available. The numbers of registered social landlord (RSL) social rent dwellings sold in each year since 1997-98 are shown in table A.

The numbers of social units for rent (LA & RSL) demolished in Yorkshire and the Humber as reported by local authorities in each year from 2000-01 to 2004-05 are shown in table B. Information for years prior to those shown is not readily available.

Public sector social units for rent are provided with funding from central Government and through planning agreements (S106) between councils and developers. For the number provided with Government funding in each year I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil Mr. Laws on 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 279W. For the numbers of social units for rent provided without any government funding through section 106 planning agreements please see table C. Information is available only for the years shown.

Table A: Sales of Registered Social Landlord social rent stock through, preserved right-to-buy, rent to mortgage and right-to-acquire

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Barnsley	2	0	2	1	0	3	10	2
Bradford	5	7	8	12	5	20	594	578
Calderdale	1	2	4	1	172	167	243	241
Craven	0	0	1	0	0	1	26	21
Doncaster	6	3	0	1	4	5	2	1
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	3	0	1	0	2	3	1
Hambleton	41	51	60	49	42	34	47	12
Harrogate	2	3	7	4	1	4	3	2
Kingston upon Hull	1	1	5	4	6	1	5	5
Kirklees	4	3	4	3	4	4	7	3
Leeds	7	12	14	16	16	18	30	13
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
North Lincolnshire	1	0	1	0	0	2	11	3
Richmondshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	1	0	1	4	0	1	0	0
Ryedale	24	26	50	23	21	10	7	11
Scarborough	0	0	0	0	0	3	24	120
Selby	1	0	1	3	2	2	3	1
Sheffield	10	10	9	18	13	12	14	17

Table A: Sales of Registered Social Landlord social rent stock through, preserved right-to-buy, rent to mortgage and right-to-acquire

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Wakefield	1	6	10	14	2	8	2	2
York	39	31	13	10	8	5	8	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	146	158	190	164	296	303	1,039	1,038

Note:
Information on years prior to those shown is not readily available. There may be a small number of RSL sales to the private sector which do not appear in the table as this information is not held centrally. Some RSLs with small numbers of stock are not required to provided this information and therefore if there have been any sales to sitting tenants they aren't included above.
Source: Returns from the Housing Corporation to the Department for Communities and Local Government (RSR).

Table B: Demolitions of Social Rent stock, 2000-01 to 2004-05

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Barnsley	0	210	n/a	177	133
Bradford	284	383	550	77	61
Calderdale	255	86	34	143	200
Craven	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Doncaster	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0
Hambleton	0	38	n/a	0	0
Harrogate	0	0	21	0	0
Kingston upon Hull	0	950	n/a	252	476
Kirklees	0	n/a	100	141	0
Leeds	866	322	652	256	290
North East Lincolnshire	0	n/a	5	4	2
North Lincolnshire	150	1	7	0	n/a
Richmondshire	0	0	n/a	0	n/a
Rotherham	159	n/a	152	38	125
Ryedale	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
Scarborough	160	n/a	117	10	0
Selby	0	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	1000	923	n/a	n/a	1398
Wakefield	74	56	93	127	163
York	0	n/a	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,948	2,969	1,731	1,225	2,848

n/a = Not available
Source: Returns from local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government (HFR).

Table C: Social Rent units provided through S106 agreements with no central funding

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Barnsley	0	0	0	0	0
Bradford	0	0	0	8	7
Calderdale	0	15	11	5	6
Craven	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	6	9	11	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	3	26	21
Hambleton	0	0	0	0	0
Harrogate	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Hull	0	0	0	0	14
Kirklees	3	3	19	14	0
Leeds	48	29	29	10	49
North East Lincolnshire	7	5	0	0	16
North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	1	0
Richmondshire	0	0	0	0	6
Rotherham	0	0	13	6	0
Ryedale	0	0	0	0	3
Scarborough	0	3	0	0	0
Selby	0	0	0	0	11

Table C: Social Rent units provided through S106 agreements with no central funding

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Sheffield	0	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	10	2	3	0	10
York	8	57	46	84	102
Yorkshire and the Humber	82	123	135	154	237

Source: Returns from local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government (HSSA).

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the time scale is for the introduction of choice-based lettings; what the results were of the pilot projects; and how she expects the policy to operate in rural areas, where there is a shortage of social housing. [87226]

Meg Munn: The Government have set a target for all local authorities to operate choice-based lettings by 2010; and an interim target of 25 per cent. of local authorities by 2005. As at April 2005 some 27 per cent. of local authorities said that they offered choice-based lettings.

The report of the evaluation of the pilot schemes was published in May 2004, and showed that they were successful in achieving their aim of establishing more open systems that are seen to offer customers choice. They also did not appear to disadvantage vulnerable households, who continue to access a significant proportion of vacant properties and often bid successfully for the most popular, and led to improvements in housing management performance with, for example, re-let times reducing substantially in some areas.

Choice-based lettings schemes have already been operating for some time in a number of rural areas including Cornwall, Herefordshire and Wiltshire.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information facilities will be made available to ensure that tenants have knowledge of stock availability under the introduction of choice-based lettings. [87227]

Yvette Cooper: Choice-based lettings schemes use a variety of media to advertise available vacancies, including websites, newspapers, free sheets, property shops and telephone services. Adverts will include brief details about the property and may include details about the area. In addition, schemes will usually publish feedback information for each advertised property that has been let, such as the number of bids received and the priority level of successful applicants, to help home seekers make judgments about which properties to bid for in future.

The transparency that choice-based letting schemes offer means that the amount, location and type of all stock available should be made easily available for home seekers.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of each IT contract awarded by her Department and its predecessor was in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88994]

Angela E. Smith: This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which IT contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88995]

Meg Munn: Since May 2002 no strategically important IT contracts have been abandoned by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Information prior to the inception of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (May 2002) is not readily available.

Judicial Reviews

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of her Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80470]

Meg Munn: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only by disproportionate cost.

Key Workers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of people under 30 are categorised as key workers, broken down by region. [88703]

Yvette Cooper: We do not hold data on the percentage of people under 30 years who are categorised as key workers. This information is held by key worker employers.

A full list of eligible key worker employers for the key worker living programme can be found in Annexe B of the capital funding guide on the Housing Corporation website www.housingcorp.gov.uk.

Life Expectancy

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to tackle low life expectancy in areas of deprivation. [87009]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* My Department has a specific role in improving health in deprived areas through a range of policies and programmes which impact on the determinants of health. We have been supporting and investing in these areas since 2001, through the neighbourhood renewal fund. Local strategic partnerships are responsible for allocating these resources on local priorities to tackle inequalities, and most have prioritised specific funding to improve health, or funding aimed at tackling some of the wider determinants of ill health.

Local Government

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on peer mentors for local authority members in *(a)* the second quarter of 2005-06, *(b)* the third quarter of 2005-06 and *(c)* the first quarter of 2006-07, broken down by local authority. [86140]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given local authorities on whether they should have a cabinet member with a specific public health brief. [88067]

Mr. Woolas: No such guidance has been issued.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the merits of integrating the delivery of street cleansing, waste collection, waste disposal and waste planning by local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [88720]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA has not assessed in detail the merits of integrating these services. However, we are aware of a number of studies which show that where waste collection and waste disposal are split between two tiers of local government, there can be real benefits in authorities working together to deliver an integrated waste service. For example, a recent report by the Innovation Forum, a group of excellent rated authorities, highlights the benefits of joint working on waste in two-tier areas, citing possible efficiency savings of up to £150 million nationally.

Our consultation on the waste strategy review stresses the need for joint working between authorities, integrating strategy development and spatial planning. The Government are considering further how we can facilitate joint working by authorities.

Partnership working is one of the ways local authorities can realise the £300 million of efficiency savings identified in the Gershon review from waste and street cleansing during the period 2005 to 2008.

The Department for Communities and Local Government strategic partnering taskforce's final report, published in 2004, said that strategic partnerships are one of the main service delivery options available to local authorities in their quest for efficient and effective high quality services.

Luton Town Football Club

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department and its predecessor has had within the last 12 months with *(a)* representatives of the board of Luton Town Football Club, *(b)* the chief executive of Luton Town Football Club, *(c)* representatives of Luton borough council, *(d)* representatives of South Bedfordshire district council, *(e)* representatives of Bedfordshire county council, *(f)* representatives of the East of England development agency and *(g)* representatives of the East of England regional assembly regarding the proposal to relocate Luton Town Football Club; what representations have been received from each; and if she will make a statement. [88091]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor have received no representations from the organisations identified in the question. Luton borough council, and neighbouring authorities, have briefed the Government office on the proposal but no advice was sought, nor any offered. As the application may be referred to the Secretary of State for her consideration, it would be inappropriate to comment on the merits of the proposal.

Millennium Dome

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* the Deputy Prime Minister and *(b)* another Minister within the former Department decided whether or not to call in the Meridian Delta/AEG planning application for the millennium dome to Greenwich borough council. [84502]

Yvette Cooper *[Holding answer 11 July 2006]:* I took the decision to leave the planning application to Greenwich borough council to determine.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she last met her Scottish counterpart; and what subjects were discussed. [88772]

Angela E. Smith: The Secretary of State last spoke to her Scottish counterpart, Malcolm Chisholm MSP, on 12 June 2006. They discussed a range of issues of mutual interest.

National Land

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of Ordnance Survey's MasterMap products on the commercial and financial viability of the National Land and Property Gazetteer. [88089]

Mr. Woolas: No assessment has been made.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the estimated total cost is of the National Land Use Database; [88402]

(2) if she will make a statement on the *(a)* status and *(b)* introduction of the National Land Use Database. [88407]

Meg Munn: There are two projects under the National Land Use Database heading. One is the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land (NLUD-PDL). This was launched in 1998 and has been an annual survey since 2001. The latest report is on the Department's website at: www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1147698.

The other is the Full National Land Use Database, also known as NLUD-Baseline. This would show land use and, separately, land cover for all land parcels in England. The Department for Communities and Local Government has funded developmental work, a report on which is on the Department's website at: www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1161713.

At present there are no plans to implement the full database. A simplified version, the Generalised Land Use Database has, however, been created and is available on the website at: www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1146084.

NLUD-PDL is run jointly by the Department and English Partnerships. English Partnerships carries out the data collection at a cost of £250,000 a year. It is not known what the cost of Full NLUD would be. This would depend on the outcome of competitive tendering, the scope of the database and the potential for cost recovery through sales. As stated, however, there are no plans to implement Full NLUD.

New Growths Points Programme

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the new growth points programme; and where the development will be located. [88395]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement on the new growth points programme which I made on 20 June.

The new growth points programme is aimed at areas of high demand that are additional to and outside the existing growth areas, which include London.

Oil-fired Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to raise standards for installation and servicing of oil-fired equipment. [85122]

Angela E. Smith: My Department is responsible for the installation of oil fired equipment through the building regulations which set standards for safety and energy efficiency. Safety improvements were introduced in April 2002 and additional changes introduced in April 2005 mean that from April 2007 more energy efficient condensing oil boilers will normally be required.

To improve compliance my Department is working to attract more installers into approved competent persons schemes which demand reasonable standards of expertise and enable the self-certification of compliance.

Environmental issues are becoming more important however and the Government are looking to see how better maintenance could be achieved in the future.

Servicing is a matter for equipment owners but to assist in this the building regulations require that chimneys and flues should be labelled with their safe performance limits and oil tanks should be labelled with advice on dealing with spills. My Department also produces a leaflet for householders encouraging routine servicing of combustion appliances and flues to avoid the dangers that can otherwise arise.

Olympic Delivery Authority Partner

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have held meetings with representatives of companies or consortia on the shortlist for the contract as the Olympic Delivery Authority deliver partner; which (i) Ministers and (ii) companies or consortia partners attended each meeting; what the location was of each meeting; what was discussed at each meeting; and if she will make a statement. [88228]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* Department for Communities and Local Government officials have regular meetings with developers and housing companies in order to take forward the government's regeneration agenda but no meetings have taken place with any of the companies or consortia regarding contracts for the Olympic Delivery Authority partner.

Ordnance Survey

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the grounds for non-compliance were in the bid by the Ordnance Survey to supply geographical information to the Government. [87015]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The procurement process for the replacement pan-Government agreement is not yet complete.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to review the pan-Government agreement with Ordnance Survey. [87349]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has undertaken a competitive procurement for the replacement of the existing pan-Government agreement with Ordnance Survey. DCLG is currently consulting with pan-Government agreement members on the procurement and on future arrangements for the provision of geographic information to Government.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts Ordnance Survey has entered into with *(a)* Infoterra Limited and *(b)* BlueSky International Limited since 1997; and for what purpose. [88403]

Angela E. Smith: Since 1997, Ordnance Survey has entered into the following contracts with Infoterra Limited:

Imagery supply contract for the supply of digital imagery of England for the OS MasterMap imagery layer. This contract is with Infoterra as a partner in the joint venture company UK Perspectives.

Imagery hosting contract for the edge matching and colour balancing of imagery, hosting services and supply of data to customers.

Ordnance Survey has not entered into any direct contract with BlueSky International Limited.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* information and *(b)* products Ordnance Survey has provided to the Valuation Office Agency in the last five years. [88404]

Angela E. Smith: The Valuation Office Agency is a signatory to the pan-Government agreement and has licensed access to coverage of Great Britain of the following Ordnance Survey datasets:

Large Scale Detailed Mapping
OS MasterMap Topographic Layer
OS MasterMap Integrated Transport Network Layer
OS MasterMap Address Layer
Land-Line
1:10000 Scale Raster
Small Scale Mapping
1:25000 Scale Colour Raster
1:50000 Scale Colour Raster
1:250000 Scale Colour Raster
Strategi
Meridian 2
Location Mapping
MiniScale
Address Referencing
Address-Point
Code-Point and Code-Point with polygons
Roads
OSCAR Asset-Manager
OSCAR Traffic Manager
Boundary Data
Boundary-Line
Height Data
Land-Form Profile

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many satellite photographs Ordnance Survey *(a)* took and *(b)* purchased from external suppliers in each of the last five years. [88405]

Angela E. Smith: Ordnance Survey has not taken any satellite photographs in the last five years nor has it used satellite photography for production purposes.

However, it has evaluated the potential of satellite imagery to meet future business needs. This includes an assessment of data from the Quickbird, Ikonos and Spot 5 high resolution satellites for potential use in change detection and feature extraction applications.

Parks Funding

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the prioritisation of funding for parks. [88304]

Mr. Woolas: Public parks and green spaces are primarily funded by local authorities through unhypothecated formula grant. Central Government do not dictate how much should be spent by each local authority on their parks; this is clearly a matter for them to determine in line with local priorities.

We have made more money available for parks over the past five years, through revenue support, the liveability fund, and the safer and stronger communities fund. We have also provided support to local authorities to improve the quality of their parks through the CABE space-enabling scheme and the how to programme.

The quality of urban parks has improved since 2000, as recognised by the recent NAO report, 'Enhancing Urban Green Spaces'. We remain committed to supporting local authorities to deliver quality parks and green spaces through our cleaner, safer, greener communities programme.

Planning Delivery Grant

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to change the methodology for the allocation of planning delivery grant. [88076]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement titled 'Housing and Planning Delivery Grant' which was made to the House on 24 July. This statement announced the launch of a consultation on proposals for a new housing and planning delivery grant and the proposed criteria for allocations for the final year of the current planning delivery grant. The document entitled 'Housing and Planning Delivery Grant Consultation Paper' and the corresponding document 'Planning Delivery Grant 2007/08: Proposed Allocations Criteria' are available in the Libraries of the House.

Post Office

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 127W, on Post Office network services (1) what activity required to answer the question most contributed to her estimate of disproportionate cost; [87565]

(2) what services her Department makes available through the Post Office network. [87566]

Meg Munn: The Department for Communities and Local Government currently lets no contracts with Post Office Ltd. or Post Office Counters Ltd. Our principal predecessor Department—the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister—was established in 2002 and made one transaction with Post Office Ltd. during that year.

As was indicated in the earlier answer, the information requested in the hon. Member's original question is not held centrally. Our judgment is that it would entail disproportionate cost to check with individual teams across the Department and its associated public bodies for the period and range of activity covered by the original question.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by her Department or public bodies for which she is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83193]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested could be collated centrally only at disproportionate cost.

Renewable Energy Generators

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional scope she plans to give to individual households under the planning system to install renewable energy generators in houses. [84159]

Angela E. Smith: Works carried out inside a house do not generally require planning permission. Whether external work would be permitted without a planning consent would depend on the type of microgeneration technology proposed and the particular circumstances of the case. The Government have announced a review of this area in response to concerns that the current legislation as to what is allowed without planning permission is both too restrictive and too vague. We want far more microgeneration to be classified as permitted development and we plan to consult on the detail of the proposals for change later this year.

Right to Buy

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will suspend the right to buy in areas where demand for affordable rented housing exceeds the availability of such properties; and if she will make a statement. [86960]

Yvette Cooper: The Government support the principle of right to buy and have no plans to change the scheme in that way. The Government are introducing social home buy so that more tenants can have the chance to buy a share of their home.

Sexual Orientation Regulations

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the sexual orientation regulations will require *(a)* Anglican Churches and *(b)* Churches of other denominations to perform civil partnership services in their churches; whether the regulations will apply to teaching in Sunday schools; and if she will make a statement. [87621]

Meg Munn: *[holding answer 24 July 2006]* A consultation on proposals to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services through regulations to be made under part 3 of the Equality Act closed on 5 June. The consultation made clear that the Government considers that it is very important that the application of these regulations to religious activities should be clearly defined and understood and proposed that activities closely linked to religious observance or practices that arise from the basic doctrines of a faith should be exempted from the regulations. The proposed exemption for religious organisations will be available to both Anglican Churches and Churches of other denominations and we are currently considering what activities should be covered by the exemption in the light of the consultation findings.

A civil partnership cannot be registered on religious premises. Registering a civil partnership is an entirely secular process and the Civil Partnership Act prohibits any religious service from taking place during the registration.

Sheree Dodd

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1759W, on Sheree Dodd, what recruitment process was undertaken to fill the vacancy of interim head of news. [86893]

Meg Munn: The directorate of communication approached Sheree Dodd to work as an interim head of news for the Department for Communities and Local Government while a full Civil Service recruitment process was completed. This was a short-term role and required a person with expertise and recent knowledge of Whitehall. Sheree Dodd was approached as she had previously filled a similar role for another Government Department. Sheree Dodd's employment as the Department for Communities and Local Government head of news has now terminated and the permanent post has been filled following a Whitehall competition.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1759W, on Sheree Dodd, on what pay scale Sheree Dodd is paid. [86894]

Meg Munn: The terms of contracts between the Department for Communities and Local Government and individuals are private matters.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1759W, on Sheree Dodd, whether Sheree Dodd *(a)* has provided and *(b)* continues to provide press support to the Deputy Prime Minister since the changes to the machinery of government. [86895]

Meg Munn: The information is as follows.

(a) The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) press office provided interim support to the Deputy Prime Minister's press office until the recent machinery of government changes were completed. As interim DCLG head of news during that period, Sheree Dodd occasionally provided support to the Deputy Prime Minister's press office.

(b) Sheree Dodd is no longer head of news at the DCLG.

Thames Gateway Partnership

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the minutes of the meeting on 28 February 2006 between officials in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and organisations from the Thames Gateway partnership; what the *(a)* name and *(b)* job title was of each person attending; and what organisation each represented. [86042]

Yvette Cooper: No meeting of the Thames Gateway strategic partnership took place on 28 February 2006. However, a meeting of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership took place, at which the Department for Communities and Local Government (then the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) attended.

The draft minutes of this meeting will be placed in the Library and the names, titles and organisations of those who attended are as tabled:

Name	*Representing*	*Title/organisation*
Mr. Rob Bennett	Thames Gateway Kent Partnership (TGKP) (Chair)	Director, BBP Regeneration
Cllr Andrew Bowles	Swale Forward (Vice Chair)	Leader, Swale Borough Council
Cllr John Burden	Kent Thameside Delivery Board	Leader, Gravesham Borough Council
Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Renaissance Partnership	Leader, Medway Council
Cllr Mrs. Jane Chitty	Medway Council	Councillor, Medway Council
Mr. Paul Clark	Member of Parliament	Member of Parliament
Mr. Barry Clout	Medway Renaissance Partnership	Executive Officer, Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Service

Name	Representing	Title/organisation
Mr. Christopher Crook	Medway Renaissance Partnership (representing Alan Cherry)	Managing Director, Countryside Properties
Cllr John Davies	Kent County Council (representing Graham Gibbens)	Councillor, Kent County Council
Mr. Paul Hudson	South East England Development Agency	Director of Development and Infrastructure, SEEDA
Cllr Tony Martin	Kent Thameside Delivery Board	Councillor, Dartford Borough Council
Mr. Peter Southcombe	North Kent Community Forum	Chair, North Kent Community Forum
Ms Christine White	Swale Forward	Director, Swale Volunteer and Community Development Centre
Observers		
Mr. Harvey Bradshaw	Environment Agency	Kent Area Manager, Environment Agency
Mr. Gwyn Drake	Highways Agency	Divisional Director, Highways Agency
Mr. Ben Stoneman	ODPM (now DCLG)	North Kent Programme Manager, Thames Gateway Delivery Unit
Also present		
Ms Judith Armitt	Medway Council	Chief Executive, Medway Council
Mr. Mark Bilsborough	Swale Borough Council	Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council
Mr. Padraig Herlihy	Sport England South East	Head of Strategic Planning and Partnerships, Sport England South East
Mr. Alex Homfray	Culture Thames Gateway North Kent	Cultural Co-Coordinator, Culture Thames Gateway North Kent
Mr. David Liston-Jones	TGKP	Chief Executive, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
Mr. Greg MacDonald	Swale Forward	Programme Director, Swale Forward
Mr. Pete Raine	Kent County Council	Director of Strategic Planning, Kent County Council
Miss Linda Searle	TGKP	Personal Assistant, TGKP
Mr. David Tuck	Genecon	Partner, Genecon
Mr. Michael Ward	Kent Thameside Delivery Board	Chief Executive, Kent Thameside Delivery Board
Mr. Alan Watkins	Press	Reporter, Kent Messenger
Mr. Jim Wintour	Gravesham Borough Council	Managing Director, Gravesham Borough Council

Urban and Economic Development Group

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department and its predecessors have provided to the urban and economic development group since 1997; and for what purposes. [88071]

Mr. Woolas: Since 1997, the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessors have paid a total of £488,000 to the Urban and Economic Development Group (URBED) Ltd. for a number of research consultancy projects. These have included:

(i) Living Places: Urban Renaissance in the South East—a guide to best practice in urban renaissance in towns and cities in south east England;

(ii) Changing Places Project—to disseminate examples of good practice in urban renaissance by setting up and maintaining a website of case studies and holding symposia/ workshops on urban renaissance themes;

(iii) Towns and Cities: Partners in Urban Renaissance—to explore the different challenges and lessons learnt from delivering urban renaissance in 24 partner towns and cities;

(iv) Assessing Urban Housing Capacity—a guide to better practice to accompany Planning Policy Guidance 3: Housing;

(v) Strategies for Smaller Centres—to provide examples of town centre renaissance for inclusion in forthcoming better practice guidance to accompany Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* locality definitions and *(b)* neighbourhood adjustment factors are used in the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model. [88393]

Mr. Woolas: A "locality", within the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) automated valuation model is a contiguous geographic space or area within which the dwellings are considered to be subject to the same or similar market forces. Localities have been defined (or delineated) by experienced chartered surveyors employed within the VOA using their market and valuation knowledge.

Locality adjustment factors are used in regression to establish relative differences among localities (the term "neighbourhood" was initially used to describe what the VOA now calls localities). The locality adjustment factor is a logarithmic variable applied to each of approximately 10,000 localities. Every locality has a locality adjustment factor derived from the average value, and average size, of dwellings in the locality at a required point in time.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the multiple regression formula used as part of the Valuation Office Agency's Automated valuation model is; and what each variable in the model is. [88396]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) automated valuation model (AVM) is designed to use sales to determine the relationship between sale price and property attributes, so that it may subsequently be used to predict property values from recorded property attribute data. The agency's multiple regression models have a log linear structure and the calibrated multiple regression formula looks like this:

$$Ln(Y) = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 \ldots$$

Where:

Y = Property price

Ln = Natural logarithm

$X_{1,2,3}$ = Property attribute 1,2,3 etc

$b_{1,2,3}$ = Coefficient 1,2,3 etc

a = Constant

Variables in the model are derived from the property attribute data and will differ by billing authority area. Details of variables could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many value significant codes are available for capture electronically by the Valuation Office Agency for council tax liability purposes. [88401]

Mr. Woolas: Value significant codes are used by the Valuation Office agency to support decisions on banding. The agency does not have any responsibility for liability, which is a function of local government. For further detail I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 9 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 274W to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) and the reply given on 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1171W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what access the Valuation Office Agency has to the national land use database. [88406]

Mr. Woolas: None

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the joint Valuation Office Agency and Local Government Association steering group have met. [88408]

Mr. Woolas: The joint Valuation Office Agency and Local Government Association steering group has met on 11 occasions, between May 2001 and June 2005, largely to discuss the preparations for the 2005 non-domestic rating revaluation.

Voluntary and Community Sector

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister gave to the Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector in each year since 1997; and what plans her Department has to provide funding. [88079]

Mr. Woolas: No funding was made centrally by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to the Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector (ARVCS). We have no current plans to provide funding to ARVCS in future.

DEFENCE

Active Duty (Deployment)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of service personnel were deployed on active duty in *(a)* January and *(b)* July of each year since 1976. [85213]

Mr. Watson: The most current figures collected from manual records show that on 11 July 2006 the deployment of UK service personnel on operations overseas was:

Service	*Number of personnel deployed*
All Services	15,170
Naval Service	1,760
Army	11,240
RAF	2,180

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent disclosure of sensitive information.
2. Figures include mobilised reservists.

Figures for the number of deployed UK service personnel are not available in a consistent time series; however, percentages of service personnel undertaking operations and other military tasks are published in the Ministry of Defence annual report and accounts.

Figures from 2001-02 to 2005-06 are shown in the following tables, which have been extracted from each annual report. Summary information for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was published in the respective Ministry of Defence performance reports (CM4520, CM5000), copies of which are available in the Library of the House. This information was not compiled on a comparable basis to those set out as follows.

Quarterly information for years predating the 1998 strategic defence review is not held centrally.

The figures given as follows report the percentage of regular armed forces undertaking operations and other military tasks. These figures are quarterly averages and are calculated by comparing the number of personnel undertaking operations and other military tasksagainst the total strength of the armed forces. Figures for 2005-06 are collated using a different methodology and are therefore not comparable.

Percentage of regular armed forces undertaking operations and other military tasks[1] during 2005-06[2,3]

Percentage

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	11.6	9.3	12.1	13.5
Army	21.0	22.0	22.8	25.1
RAF	13.3	11.9	12.3	13.4

[1] Includes activities such as nuclear deterrence, military aid to the Civil Authorities and to the Civil Powers in Northern Ireland, integrity of UK waters and airspace, defence and security of the overseas territories and of the Cyprus sovereign base areas and defence relations, alliances and support to wider British interests.
[2] These figures are quarterly averages and reflect the burden of activity imposed by the operations and military tasks undertaken by each service. Figures are based on man-day equivalents.
[3] Percentages include personnel in preparation for and recovering from operations (e.g. in the case of the Army it takes account of those on pre-operational training and post-operational leave).

Percentage of trained strength of regular forces deployed on operations and other military tasks[1] during 2004-05[2,3]

Percentage

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	16.8	13.2	13.3	11.6
Army	23.7	22.1	21.4	21.2
RAF	11.8	12.0	13.5	13.4

[1] Includes activities such as nuclear deterrence, military aid to the Civil Authorities and to the Civil Powers in Northern Ireland, integrity of UK waters and airspace, defence and security of the overseas territories and of the Cyprus sovereign base areas and Defence relations, alliances and support to wider British interests.
[2] These figures are quarterly averages and reflect the burden of activity imposed by the operations and military tasks undertaken by each service. Figures are based on man-day equivalents.
[3] Percentages exclude those either preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

Percentage of trained strength of regular forces deployed on operations and other military tasks[1] during 2003-04[2,3]

Percentage

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	18.7	12.8	14.0	17.7
Army	46.9	23.2	22.9	22.6
RAF	16.5	13.0	12.9	12.1

[1] Includes activities such as nuclear deterrence, military aid to the Civil Authorities and to the Civil Powers in Northern Ireland, integrity of UK waters and airspace, defence and security of the overseas territories and of the Cyprus sovereign base areas and Defence relations, alliances and support to wider British interests.
[2] These figures are quarterly averages and reflect the burden of activity imposed by the operations and military tasks undertaken by each service. Figures are based on man-day equivalents.
[3] Percentages exclude those either preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

Percentage of trained strength of regular forces deployed on operations and other military tasks[1] during 2002-03[2,3]

Percentage

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	17.5	13.0	16.5	28.5
Army	24.6	23.9	32.5	55.6
RAF	12.6	10.9	19.1	21.8

[1] Includes activities such as nuclear deterrence, military aid to the Civil Authorities and to the Civil Powers in Northern Ireland, integrity of UK waters and airspace, defence and security of the overseas territories and of the Cyprus sovereign base areas and Defence relations, alliances and support to wider British interests.
[2] These figures are quarterly averages and reflect the burden of activity imposed by the operations and military tasks undertaken by each service. Figures are based on man-day equivalents.
[3] Percentages exclude those either preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

Percentage of trained strength of regular forces deployed on operations and other military tasks[1] during 2001-02[2,3,4]

Percentage

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	9.5	8.4	16.7	15.7
Army	21.8	25.6	26.3	23.9
RAF	11.9	12.2	13.6	13.1

[1] Includes activities such as nuclear deterrence, military aid to the Civil Authorities and to the Civil Powers in Northern Ireland, integrity of UK waters and airspace, defence and security of the overseas territories and of the Cyprus sovereign base areas and Defence relations, alliances and support to wider British interests.
[2] These figures are quarterly averages and reflect the burden of activity imposed by the operations and military tasks undertaken by each service. Figures are based on man-day equivalents.
[3] 2001-02 figures include personnel on Exercise SAIF SAREEA II.
[4] Percentages exclude those either preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

Aerial Photography

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the security services have access to high-resolution *(a)* aerial and *(b)* satellite photography of domestic English properties and English landscapes. [88411]

Des Browne: I am withholding this information as it relates to bodies dealing with security matters.

Afghanistan

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the minimum time is for notification to units designated for tours of Afghanistan that they are earmarked to serve in *(a)* 16th Air Assault Brigade and *(b)* other posts in theatre. [81995]

Des Browne: Units can generally expect to receive at least six months' warning, and individual augmentees 90 days' warning, for operational tours, including Afghanistan. However, the size and shape offerees required in any operational theatre is kept under review, and adjusted as appropriate. There will therefore be occasions when units or individuals are required to deploy at much shorter notice.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* his counterparts in other NATO countries, *(b)* the NATO Secretary-General and *(c)* his counterparts in other non-NATO countries on force generation for deployment in Helmand province, Afghanistan in the last three months; what the outcome of these discussions has been to date; whether they are ongoing; and if he will make a statement. [82863]

Des Browne *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* As a result of the NATO force generation process held in 2005 and 2006, Denmark and Estonia have already deployed forces to Helmand province alongside the UK as part of the NATO-led international security assistance force (ISAF).

I continue to have regular discussions with the NATO Secretary-General, NATO allies and with other ISAF troop contributing nations on force generation for ISAF, including, where appropriate, for Helmand province. These discussions include bilateral meetings and the regular meetings of NATO Defence Ministers, the last of which took place on 8 June.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment was made of the *(a)* strength and *(b)* fighting capability of (i) Taliban and (ii) other illegal armed groups prior to the announcement of further troop deployment on 26th January 2006. [83929]

Des Browne: The Government's view then, as now, was that the Taliban and other illegally armed groups do not pose a long-term strategic threat to Afghanistan, though they do represent a significant impediment to the country's near-term reconstruction, particularly in the south. That is why we have deployed a substantial number of UK forces to enable the expansion of the NATO-led international security assistance force into that area.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the level of support for armed groups in Helmand from *(a)* Iran and *(b)* Pakistan. [84899]

Des Browne: We have no credible evidence of direct support by the Pakistan or Iranian Governments to insurgents in Helmand province in Afghanistan. There is, however, some indication that armed groups in Helmand receive support from sympathisers and associates in neighbouring countries.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral statement of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1131-48, on Afghanistan (troop levels), how many combat personnel will be deployed as part of the additional deployment to Helmand province; and when they will arrive. [85561]

Des Browne: The majority of the additional forces that I announced on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1131-35W, are deploying to maintain momentum on reconstruction activity or to provide associated support to that task. Around 260 personnel will be dedicated to force protection or security tasks.

Ammunition

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many live shells and bombs have been used by UK forces in the last three years. [55287]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Annington Homes

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many homes have been sold by the Ministry of Defence to Annington Homes *(a)* in England and *(b)* at Colchester in the last five years. [86337]

Mr. Watson: In 1996, the Ministry of Defence sold and leased back 57,428 houses in England and Wales to Annington Homes Limited (AHL). A provision of the 1996 sale agreement is that when MOD terminates the leasehold interest in properties it no longer requires, it also completes the freehold transfer of the properties to AHL. Since April 2001, just over 5,300 properties have been handed back to AHL in England and Wales, including 255 properties in Colchester.

Anti-Armour Missile Systems

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the *(a)* Brimstone and *(b)* Maverick anti-armour missile system meets in full the RAF's anti-armour requirements. [87835]

Mr. Ingram: Our anti-armour requirements are met by a range of air and land systems and are not defined by service. The RAF's contribution to meeting this requirement is currently offered by Brimstone on Tornado GR4; Maverick on Harrier GR7; and the RBL755 and BL755 bombs on Jaguar GR3a, Harrier GR7 and Tornado GR4.

Armed Forces (Fit for Task)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force personnel were fit for task in every year since 2003. [86997]

Mr. Ingram: The fit for task figure provides a quarterly measure of all trained personnel that are considered medically fit for the task they were posted to their ship/unit/station to perform. It is the balance of the trained strength that is not medically downgraded. It is important to note, however, that the majority of medically downgraded personnel remain fit enough to work in some other capacity. For example, for the first quarter of year 2006-07 whereas 94.5 per cent. 83.7 per cent. and 90.2 per cent. of Royal Navy, Army and RAF personnel respectively were fit for task, only approximately 0.5 per cent. in each Service were considered unfit for any military duties. The remainder were not fully fit for task, but still fit to work in some other capacity.

Figures up to and including 1 April 2005 were collated centrally by the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) and give a snapshot of the situation on the first day of each quarter. Since April 2005, the figures have been obtained directly from the three single services and give a snapshot of the situation at one point in time during each quarter. This will usually be a snapshot at the end of each quarter, but the exact reporting date can vary between each service.

The following tables show the percentage of trained regular[1] personnel in each service that were not medically downgraded in each quarter since January 2003.

Service	1 January 2003	1 April 2003	1 July 2003	1 October 2003
Royal Navy	92.3	92.3	92.0	91.9
Army[2]	88.1	87.8	87.5	87.2
RAF	91.9	91.5	90.8	90.9

Source:
DASA (Tri-Service)

Service	1 January 2004	1 April 2004	1 July 2004	1 October 2004
Royal Navy	91.6	91.2	90.8	91.2
Army[2]	86.8	86.4	85.9	85.4
RAF	91.2	91.1	91.2	91.0

Source:
DASA (Tri-Service)

Service	1 January 2005	1 April 2005
Royal Navy	91.1	91.1
Army[2]	84.9	84.3
RAF	90.9	90.8

Source:
DASA (Tri-Service)

Service	Q1 2005-06	Q2 2005-06	Q3 2005-06	Q4 2005-06
Royal Navy	92.8	93.7	92.9	94.8
Army	85.1	84.7	84.4	84.2
RAF	90.7	90.6	90.3	90.2

Source:
DMSD

Service	Q1 2006-07
Royal Navy	94.5
Army	83.7
RAF	90.2

[1] Excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised Reservists.
[2] Army figures in the first three tables are for Army Soldiers only (not Officers).
[3] Q1 2005-06' refers to a snapshot during the period from 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005, and so on.
Source:
DMSD

Assets Disposal

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to "Releasing the resources to meet the challenge ahead", Cm 6889, what assets he has identified for disposal. [86937]

Des Browne: The value for money work conducted by the Ministry of Defence as part of the comprehensive spending review included an initial assessment of additional assets which could be disposed of in the spending review 2004 period (such as the sale of estate in Greater London and of surplus assets linked to redevelopment of Aldershot and Salisbury plain barracks). It also included a broad assessment of the overall value of assets which may become available for disposal in the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. These preliminary assumptions will be refined as part of comprehensive spending review implementation work.

British Troops (Afghanistan)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the cost to families of posting parcels to British troops based in Afghanistan; and if he will provide free postage for small parcels to troops in Afghanistan from their families. [87092]

Mr. Watson: Recent representations received from hon. Members and members of the public regarding the cost of posting parcels to operational theatres this year are summarised in the following table:

	Parliamentary questions	Ministerial correspondence	Treat official correspondence	Total
January	—	4	4	8
February	—	4	0	4
March	—	4	4	8
April	—	4	1	5
May	—	6	8	14
June	—	7	4	11

Free postage for small parcels to service personnel was a temporary feature of the initial deployment of HM forces to Iraq in 2003 which ceased on 8 April 2004 when it was deemed that the complete operational welfare package (which includes access to the expeditionary forces institute (the deployable retail and leisure arm of the NAAFI)) was available.

Deployment to Afghanistan was part of a long-planned NATO deployment in which operational welfare provision was considered in detail. As a result, those deployed in Afghanistan are in receipt of welfare facilities comparable to other operational theatres worldwide; to provide a free parcel service to those in Afghanistan would not be equitable and would be divisive. Commanders in the theatre of operations do not regard a free postal packet scheme as a priority and would prefer to see available welfare money spent on facilities in theatre.

As a result of a review in 2005, it was agreed that a free parcel scheme would be provided at Christmas for a short period of approximately four weeks to all overseas operational theatres. An announcement regarding dates for 2006 will be published in the autumn.

Capita Group

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have held with directors and senior

executives of (i) Capita Group plc and (ii) its subsidiaries since 1 January 2004; and whether (A) Capita Group plc and (B) its subsidiaries have provided input (1) in writing and (2) in person to policy discussions in his Department since 1 January 2004. [61088]

Mr. Ingram: No Defence Minister has held a meeting with representatives from Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries since 1 January 2004. The information on input to policy discussions with officials is not held centrally and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Civil Contingencies Reaction Forces

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current actual strength is of each of the civil contingencies reaction forces. [87698]

Des Browne: Detailed figures for civil contingency reaction forces are not routinely collated. The current strength of the Territorial Army is 32,000, from which the civil contingency reaction forces are mainly drawn.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from the volunteer reserves are committed to the civil contingencies reaction force in addition to their normal role. [87701]

Des Browne: All personnel who volunteer to participate in a civil contingency reaction force are also committed to undertake other reserves tasks. Personnel who volunteer undertake an additional five days training annually.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many volunteer reserves who are committed to the civil contingencies reaction forces are deployed overseas. [87702]

Des Browne: In the event that individual volunteers are deployed on operations overseas they become unavailable for civil contingencies reaction forces duties and another volunteer is sought to fill the vacancy. In this way the operational capability of the civil contingency reaction force is not compromised.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many additional personnel have been recruited to the civil contingencies reaction forces; and what the target figure is in the next 12 months. [87703]

Des Browne: Reservists are not specifically recruited into a civil contingencies reaction forces. Individuals are recruited into the reserves, and the civil contingency reaction forces is then manned from the reserves. Each force has a target strength of 500 personnel; there are no plans to change this.

There are currently 14 Territorial Army infantry battalions with civil contingency reaction force roles, providing a maximum of 7,000 personnel. The number of infantry battalions with such as role will reduce to 13 in April 2007, in line with the future army structure.

Claims for Compensation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many claims for compensation for dismissal from the armed forces on grounds of sexuality were made *(a)* before the European Court of Human Rights ruling on 19 October 2002 and *(b)* after 19 December 2003; of the claims in each category (i) how many resulted in a payment of compensation, (ii) what the (A) highest and (B) average payment was and (iii) how many remain outstanding; how many of the claims made after 19 December 2003 have been refused due to the date of application; and if he will make a statement. [88300]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* 153 claims for compensation were made prior to 19 October 2002, with two claims submitted after 19 December 2003. Of those claims submitted prior to 19 October 2002, 38 have been settled, the highest award being £147,875, with an average award of £35,598.00. 62 of these claims remain outstanding. Both the claims received after 19 December 2003 have been refused on the grounds of their late application.

Combined Services Detained Interrogation Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 896W, on the combined services detained interrogation centre, when he expects to be able to write to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South. [88236]

Mr. Ingram: The work required to find information about the combined services detailed interrogation centre has taken time as we have wished to provide as complete an answer as possible from the surviving records. I have now written to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Command Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the unnumbered Command Papers produced by his Department in each Session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81288]

Mr. Watson: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to explanatory notes to treaties, explanatory memorandum to statutory instruments and some Treasury minutes. All other documents are published in the numbered Command Papers series.

A complete list of unnumbered Command Papers can only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Copies of all unnumbered Command Papers are made available via the Vote Office.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88475]

Mr. Watson: None.

Dartmoor National Park (Firing Ranges)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1232W, on Dartmoor national park (firing ranges), when he will write to the hon. Member for Totnes. [86441]

Mr. Watson: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Defence Establishments

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which defence establishments have been closed during the last three years; and how much financial assistance his Department provided in the surrounding area after the closure to support *(a)* economic development, *(b)* training, *(c)* environmental improvements and *(d)* other purposes in each case. [86703]

Mr. Watson: *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* The Department has disposed of a large number of sites over the past three years. I will write to the right hon. Member with the answer and place a copy in the Library of the House.

It is not the policy of the Ministry of Defence to provide financial assistance for areas affected by the closure of Defence establishments. Other Departments have responsibility for providing direct financial support for economic development regionally or to communities. However, the Department does work closely with the local authority and other stakeholders, amongst others English Partnerships, regional development agencies, and in Scotland the Scottish Executive, the enterprise bodies and the Welsh Assembly in Wales to consider the most appropriate future use when disposing of surplus sites.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget is for the Defence Export Services Organisation in 2006-07. [88685]

Mr. Ingram: Provision of £15 million has been made for the net operating costs of the Defence Export Services Organisation in 2006-07.

Defence Information Infrastructure Project

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's budget of the additional monies which have been allocated to *(a)* EDS and *(b)* others for the defence information infrastructure project; and if he will make a statement. [85297]

Mr. Watson: A range of changes to the defence information infrastructure (future) programme have taken place since contract award for increment 1 to the Atlas consortium in March 2005, as allowed for under the provisions of the contract. These changes are not expected to have any effect on the defence budget.

Defence Logistics Organisation/Procurement Agency

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the impact on costs of the merger of the Defence Logistics Organisation and the Defence Procurement Agency. [86991]

Des Browne: The merger of the Defence Logistics Organisation and the Defence Procurement Agency will be subject to further detailed work over the coming months. However, it is not expected that the merger itself will involve significant additional costs beyond those arising from the proposal to collocate elements of the two organisations.

Defence Medical Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has sufficient *(a)* regular and *(b)* reserve medical officers to support current operations; what shortages of defence medical service health care professionals there are, broken down by speciality; and if he will make a statement. [84483]

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the staffing levels against establishment are for service *(a)* medical and *(b)* dental officers. [87171]

Mr. Watson: The following table shows the current staffing level against establishment and requirement for service medical and dental officers:

	Cadre	
	Medical Officer	*Dental Officer*
Establishment	810	290
Current Manning	490	260
SDR Requirement	970	270
DMC Requirement	640	240

Note:
Figures above 100 have been rounded to the nearest 10. *Source:* DMSD

The figures show establishment and manning levels as at 1 April 2006, and include some specialists working in headquarters posts not directly related to their specialism.

The "Current Manning" figures show the tri-service trained strengths in both cadres.

"Establishment" is the listing of an individual unit's funded appointments/posts. It is different to the "Requirement", which are those posts necessary to support defence planning assumptions.

To date the Defence Medical Services (DMS) have met all operational requirements placed on them. Medical support to deployed operations is absolutely vital and there is no question of British forces deploying on military operations without the appropriate medical support.

It is important to note that the overall DMS manning requirement covers a much broader spectrum than just medical support to operations, since it includes all the personnel involved in the delivery of medical services to the non-deployed armed forces as well.

DMS manning requirement figures were initially drawn up as a consequence of the strategic defence review (SDR). These remain the official, formally endorsed figures. Since then, however, overall defence planning assumptions have changed and DMS manning requirement figures have evolved. In order to support the defence planning assumptions contained within defence strategic guidance 03, the defence medical capability (DMC) phase 2 study was carried out. The DMC study has produced interim revised DMS manning requirement figures which more accurately reflect defence planning assumptions and have thus overtaken the SDR figures. Elements of these interim manning requirements have previously been released, prior to a new definitive set of figures (as set out in my predecessor's answer to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper) on 9 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1402W.

Work is ongoing to establish the overall requirement, with the overall requirement expected to decrease, although increases are expected within some individual specialties. I anticipate that new endorsed DMS manning requirement figures will be available later this year.

It is acknowledged that currently there are manpower shortages across the DMS, especially in some key specialties. The following tables show the manning levels as at April 2006 in the key shortage specialties for Medical Officers and Nurses (requirement figures shown are the SDK figures and the DMC figures):

	Requirement		
Medical Officer Specialty	*SDR*	*DMC*	*Current manning*
General Medical Practice	460	270	260
Anaesthetics	120	76	48
General Surgery	41	36	18
Emergency Medicine	29	23	13
Psychiatry	26	31	13

Notes:
Figures above 100 have been rounded to the nearest 10. Figures include some specialists working out of speciality in headquarter posts.
Source:
DMSD

	Requirement		
Nursing Specialty	*SDR*	*DMC*	*Current manning*
Emergency Medicine	130	150	67
Intensive Care	210	190	68
Operating Theatre	81	72	51
Registered Mental Health	110	150	97

Notes:
Figures above 100 have been rounded to the nearest 10. Figures include some specialists working out of specialty in headquarter posts.
Source:
DMSD

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1879W, on Defence Medical Services, if he will make a statement on the Ministry of Defence hospital unit concept to which he refers. [86492]

Mr. Watson: The process to close military hospitals began in 1994 because they no longer had sufficient patient volume and case mix to develop and maintain the skills of our medical personnel. To meet this training need we have established Ministry of Defence hospital units (MDHUs) located within NHS hospitals at Derriford, Frimley Park, Peterborough, Portsmouth and Northallerton, and the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine within the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT) in Birmingham.

The integration throughout the NHS trusts of service personnel in those specialisms which are required on deployed operations enables Defence Medical Services staff to take advantage of NHS expertise and to maintain their own clinical skills in an active, up-to-date environment. Additionally, treating Service patients within the NHS trusts which host MDHUs provides the most effective means of giving the UK armed forces benefit from the latest advances in medical treatment and the recent investments in NHS facilities.

In the last two years, enhanced command and control structures have been introduced. Each MDHU now has a dedicated command team. This has improved administrative, business and training functionality and enables clinical staff to concentrate on honing their professional skills, both medical and military. Although service staff work in a NHS environment, military ethos is maintained through regular collective events. Military uniform is worn by all command and serving administrative staff and also by clinical staff, except where duties require specific clinical dress. Clinical staff have their working time apportioned between "Trust Protected Time" and "Military Protected Time". The former guarantees sufficient clinical exposure to maintain standards, while the latter ensures that service operational and training requirements are met.

Departmental Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81285]

Mr. Watson: Since October 2005 the MOD has published one White Paper, "The Defence Industrial Strategy".

Departmental Staff (Fraud)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff members in his Department have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted following fraud charges since 1997. [88447]

Mr. Watson: Reported cases of suspected fraud, theft and irregularity are currently recorded centrally on a summary basis only and it cannot be assumed that criminal proceedings have or will be applied in every case. The provision of information on prosecutions and convictions for fraud involving MOD Crown servants over the period specified could thus be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deployments

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what deployments are being undertaken by the armed forces; and how many personnel are deployed thereon. [84568]

Mr. Ingram: On 21 June 2006 the military operations being undertaken by the UK armed forces together with the number of personnel deployed on each operation were as follows:

Operation	*Number of personnel deployed*
TELIC	10,060
HERRICK	4,555
OCULUS	830
UN Operations	
TOSCA	280
BARONET	5
PERCIVAL	5
SEQUESTER	[1]—
DALMIN	[1]—
MOTTO	[1]—

[1] fewer than five.

Note.
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Figures include personnel deployed to the following locations:

OP TELIC: Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and USA, plus personnel deployed on ships in the Gulf region.

OP HERRICK: Afghanistan

OP OCULUS: Bosnia and Kosovo

OP TOSCA: Cyprus

OP BARONET: Georgia

OP PERCIVAL: Democratic Republic of Congo

OP SEQUESTER: Liberia

OP DALMIN: Sudan

OP MOTTO: Sierra Leone

Data are based on personnel reports collated manually from operational deployments, and may not include all current operations. Figures include UK regular forces, reserve forces and MOD civilian personnel.

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the deposited papers placed in the Library by his Department since 2000; and when they were published. [8289]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, on Monday 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Detached Duty

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest number of days detached duty over the last 12 months was for each of the Royal Air Force pinch point trades identified in his Department's annual report and accounts 2005-06. [87035]

Mr. Watson: Separated service information for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 is shown in the table[1].

The table shows all types of detachment including operational deployments (formed and non formed units). South Atlantic deployments and pre-deployment training, routine tasks, formal staff visits, non operational unestablished commitments such as the Royal International Air Tattoo and routine career training not associated with a planned operational deployment. Separated service for the RAF is only reported for absence of three or more consecutive nights.

	Average days	*Highest days*	*Lowest days*
Junior Officer Pilots	55	215	3
Weapons System Operators (Air load Masters)	60	215	3
Weapons System Operators (Linguists)	95	190	3
Operations Support (Fighter Controller)	50	205	3
Operations Support (Provost Security)	50	260	3
Medical Officers	65	260	3
Princess Mary RAF Nursing Service	50	185	3

[1] These figures are derived from information available as at 6 March 2006. The remainder of the data for the month of March is incomplete due to the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration System on 1 April 2006.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any building in his Department falls short of disability access regulations. [73091]

Mr. Watson: Within the Ministry of Defence access requirements can vary between buildings, dependent on their use, occupancy and following a risk assessment. This Department acts within the disability regulations and Part M building regulations. Government Departments are subject to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which requires them to make reasonable access arrangements for disabled people.

Factors such as the practicability of making an adjustment to premises and the extent to which these overcome the difficulties faced by disabled people may be taken into account in determining what is reasonable.

Commanding officers and heads of establishments are responsible for defence establishments and carry out risk assessments in line with departmental guidance to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act and other relevant regulations.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid to his Department from the access to work scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget he plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of access to work funding for central Government departments; and if he will make a statement. [89019]

Mr. Watson: Although the Ministry of Defence makes full use of Access to Work in assessing the needs of its disabled staff for reasonable adjustments in the workplace, it does not collect the numbers of disabled staff receiving adaptations and equipment paid for by access to work nor do we keep a central record of the associated costs for such reasonable adjustments.

The MOD currently funds all reasonable adjustments from a budget held centrally. This budget will be disaggregated to the MoD's business units with effect from April 2007. They will be responsible for funding all reasonable adjustments in the workplace in their areas.

Disarmament

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place *(a)* in the Library and *(b)* on his Department's website a copy of the presentation made by the Atomic Weapons Establishment to the 2005 nuclear non-proliferation treaty review conference on verification aspects of disarmament, referred to in paragraph 59 of his Department's annual report and accounts for 2005-06, HC1394. [86904]

Des Browne: The presentation to the 2005 nuclear non-proliferation treaty review conference related to the UK working paper on the Atomic Weapons Establishment's research into the verification aspects of nuclear disarmament. Following the review conference in May last year, it has been available on the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk). I have now made it available on the MOD website (www.mod.uk) and will arrange for it to be placed in the Library of the House.

Engagements

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the official visits made to major units and bases of the *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Army and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each of the past three years by Ministers holding non-Defence portfolios. [56583]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 6 March 2006]:* The information is not held centrally and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Equipment (Unaccounted)

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* weapons, *(b)* ammunition and *(c)* equipment could not be accounted for in each year since 2000. [64249]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ethiopia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether modifications made to airframes of Ethiopian MiG fighters undertaken by Hunting Engineering prior to the Eritrea-Ethiopian conflict of 1998 to 2000 required the approval of his Department; what discussions took place between *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency and (i) Hunting Engineering and (ii) the Ethiopian Government on this contract; and what the purpose of the modifications were; [65534]

(2) when he expects to answer Question 65534, on Ethiopian MiG fighters, tabled by the hon. Member for Stroud on 20 April. [84394]

Mr. Ingram: Available records for the period before the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea indicate that an official of the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) was briefed in December 1996 on the requirement of the Ethiopian Air Force to upgrade its MiG21 aircraft. Records indicate that DESO made arrangements for Ethiopian officials to visit the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) and Hunting Engineering (now Insys) in March 1997. Subsequently, DERA won contracts for project management advice on the upgrade programme. We have found no evidence of discussions involving the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency of the US Government. Nor have we found any record of actions by Hunting Engineering connected with the programme for which the approval of the Ministry of Defence was required.

Far East Civilian Internees

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made by the working group on the introduction of the 20-year residence criterion for the settlements for second world war far east civilian internees; and if he will make a statement. [85463]

Mr. Watson: I announced the agreement and implementation of the detailed rules for the new 20-year residence criterion for the ex-gratia payment scheme for former far east prisoners of war and civilian internees on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 9. A copy of the detailed rules has been placed in the Library of the House. The Veterans Agency is presently writing to applicants who they are aware may qualify and the Association of British Civilian Internees Far East Region has agreed to highlight the implementation of the new criterion through their newsletter. In view of the age of those who may be eligible, we are working to consider applications as quickly as possible, and I am pleased to say that the first payment was made on the day of the announcement.

Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters were in service with the *(a)* Army Air Corps, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each year since 1997. [84804]

Mr. Ingram: The number of Army Air Corps, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table:

	Army Air Corps	*Royal Navy*	*Royal Air Force*	*Total*
1997-98	308	108	123	539
1998-99	300	107	144	551
1999-2000	288	113	146	547
2000-01	269	117	162	548
2001-02	262	181	161	604
2002-03	293	192	158	643
2003-04	308	193	158	659
2004-05	304	188	158	650
2005-06	310	212	157	679

Hospitals

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has for facilities for afloat primary casualty receiving capabilities. [72581]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 25 May 2006]*: RFA Argus is designated as the primary casualty reception ship. We are considering options for the future provision of afloat medical capability.

ICT Training

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many army recruits have undergone basic information and communications technology training in each year since 2001. [87700]

Mr. Watson: On enlistment, Army recruits join a Phase 1 training establishment and undertake an intensive 14-week period of basic training. During this period of basic training, there is no formal IT training provided.

Junior entry (JE) recruits at the Army Foundation College (AFC) undertake a 42-week course and IT training forms part of their vocational education leading to the award of a foundation modern apprenticeship. From financial year 2001-02 to 2005-06 5,080[1] JE soldiers completed their training at the AFC. This figure also includes those JE soldiers who passed through the Army Technical Foundation College Arborfield prior to its merger with the AFC in September 2004.

At those Phase 2 training establishments where trainees are required to have a comprehensive understanding of IT, such as the Defence College of Communications and Information Systems, soldiers receive appropriate IT training for them to be able to operate the Army's increasingly complex weapons and communication systems.

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10.

Injured British Servicemen (Treatment)

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops were aero-medically evacuated from Iraq by US forces for treatment at US facilities in Ramstein, Germany in each of the last 12 months. [82052]

Mr. Ingram: In the last 12 months nine UK soldiers have been aero-medically evacuated from Baghdad to Ramstein by US forces.

All of them were subsequently returned to the United Kingdom and are included in our current TELIC Aeromed reporting published on the Ministry of Defence website.

International Anti-terror Exercise

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the Stepnoy Orel-2006 (Steppe Eagle) international anti-terror exercise; and what *(a)* UK and *(b)* international forces were involved. [54406]

Mr. Ingram: Exercise Steppe Eagle takes place annually, and focuses on increasing interoperability between Kazakh and UK—and, therefore, NATO—forces, in the realm of peace support operations. The exercise involves the deployment of a UK infantry company to Kazakhstan for joint training.

This year's exercise is due to take place at the beginning of September, and will comprise:

155 personnel from the 4th Battalion of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment;

120 personnel from the Airmobile Forces of Kazakhstan.

Military officers from the United States, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan took an observer role in last year's Steppe Eagle. This year, 22 personnel from the United States will take part in the exercise itself, and there will again be Turkish observers.

Iraq

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of British troops stationed in Iraq on threats to UK security. [82763]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence does not make assessments of the impact of UK military deployments on UK security. The Home Office is responsible for assessing threats to the UK. As the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have said, the UK was a target for international terrorism before Iraq. Over the last 12 years there have been terrorist attacks in over 36 countries, not all of whom have been involved in—or even supported—military action in Iraq. There is no excuse or justification for terrorism and we cannot let our foreign policy be dictated by it. The establishment of a stable, democratic Iraq, enjoying the rule of law, will be our and Iraq's best defence against terrorism.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attacks on multi-national forces were recorded in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basrah,

(b) Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan in June 2006. [85618]

Des Browne: The following table sets out the number of attacks recorded against multi-national Forces in each province of multi-national division (south east) in June 2006.

Province	*Number of Attacks*
Al Muthanna	3
Basrah	38
Dhi Qar	2
Maysan	18

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of people injured or killed in Iraq in the last 12 months for *(a)* wearing shorts, *(b)* wearing jeans, *(c)* wearing hair gels and similar products, *(d)* not wearing a hijab, *(e)* having a goatee beard, *(f)* wearing a necklace and *(g)* using a cell phone in public. [88540]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

In recent months there has been an increase in the level of violence against some ethnic, religious and social groups in Iraq to which the Government of Iraq, with the backing of the multi-national forces in Iraq, have responded by tightening their security regime. Clearly, we condemn the use of violence against any groups but we do not compile statistics of such attacks. Among other things we are working with the Ministry of Human Rights to develop its capacity so that it can promote the fundamental concepts of inclusiveness that will help overcome any social movement against particular minority groups.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the extent of Turkish military activity in northern Iraq in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [88542]

Des Browne: Turkey has maintained a limited number of troops in northern Iraq since the late 1990s. Coalition forces are aware of their presence. We are not aware of any of these troops being engaged in offensive operations in the last 12 months.

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average waiting time is for the issue of Iraq medals from when the application is received at the medal office on behalf of personnel who have completed the 30-day qualifying period. [86474]

Mr. Watson: The average waiting time for the issue of the Iraq medal is two months.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case; [88999]

(2) what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case; [88998]

(3) how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computers hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88769]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Joint Personnel Administration

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average response time has been for joint personnel administration pay claims since the system was implemented. [88101]

Mr. Watson: The average time to pay claims into the banking system for short-term allowances claimed through the joint personnel administration system i-expenses tool is some 14 working days, although performance has improved steadily such that the July average is below five working days. Some claims do take longer than average to resolve when authorisation by the claimant's superior officer is required.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what measures he has taken to address data errors transferred from legacy systems to the joint personnel administration system; [88102]

(2) what steps have been taken to minimise input errors in the operation of the joint personnel administration system. [88103]

Mr. Watson: Much of the RAF data were transferred from legacy systems to JPA by a team of RAF clerks to ensure that data input was effectively controlled. Wherever possible, data are input by using lists of values contained in drop-down menus which reduces the opportunity to input data incorrectly. Free text boxes are used in only a handful of scenarios where drop-down menus are deemed to be inappropriate. Where errors have been identified in data transferred from legacy systems the individual is encouraged to amend the details either through the self-service facility or though unit HR staff. Improved training packages for users are currently being developed.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average response time has been to complaints made through the i-query service for the joint personnel administration system since the system was implemented. [88104]

Mr. Watson: Currently 71 per cent. of joint personnel administrative telephone inquiries, (currently about 5,000 per week) are dealt with at first call. Up until 21 July 2006, the average response time to inquiries made via the web based i-support tool or by telephone, which could not be dealt with immediately, was 11.5 days. This compares with the customer charter target of 10 working days. The software tool which tracks queries does not distinguish between verbal and i-support queries.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects the armed forces personnel administration agency to meet the key targets for delivery of joint personnel administration. [88160]

Mr. Watson: The key target to roll-out joint personnel administration to the Royal Air Force by the end of March 2006 has already been met. I expect the key target for financial year 2005-06 to roll out to the Royal Navy and the Army by October 2006 and March 2007 respectively to be achieved.

The key target for the inquiry centre during financial year 2005-06 is for 75 per cent. of queries to be answered at the first call. While the initial volume of calls and early telephony problems have contributed to a current response rate of 71 per cent. for joint personnel administrative queries, I expect that the target will be met by the end of the financial year.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on joint personnel administration; and what the overall costs of the programme are expected to be. [88161]

Mr. Watson: As at 30 June 2006, £124.6 million had been spent on joint personnel administration. Based upon current forecasts, the overall cost of the programme is expected to be some £163.2 million. (The impact of adjustments to the programme to ensure alignment with the availability of defence information infrastructure is currently being assessed, but is likely to increase the forecast).

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF personnel have been *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid under the joint personnel administration system since March 2006. [88163]

Mr. Watson: The number of RAF personnel who have experienced over and underpayments under the joint personnel administration system are set out as follows:

Month	*Overpayments*	*Underpayments*
April 2006	4,647	1,992
May 2006	400	775
June 2006	227	258
July 2006	94	75

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time staff are employed on the joint personnel administration helpdesk. [88164]

Mr. Watson: Eighty four full-time equivalent staff (82 full-time and four part-time) are employed within the Enquiry Centre to cover the peak periods of enquiries from Royal Air Force personnel. Plans are well advanced to augment this number for the roll out of joint personnel administration to the Royal Navy.

Kosovo

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many designated dangerous areas the Kosovo protection corps cleared in each year since 2003; how many of the areas contained *(a)* cluster munitions and *(b)* BL-755 cluster munitions; how many designated dangerous areas remain to be cleared; and how many known locations of ordnance contamination remain to be cleared in Kosovo which are not within designated dangerous areas. [87834]

Des Browne *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The UK does not hold this information directly. Munitions clearance activity in Kosovo is monitored by the United Nations through their administrative mission in Kosovo as well as the UN Mine Action Service.

Lebanon

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the British evacuation force in Lebanon will offer assistance to other countries that wish to evacuate their citizens. [88918]

Des Browne: The UK has already offered assistance to other countries that wished to evacuate their citizens from Lebanon; the UK has assisted with the evacuation of some 4,500 people, from over 50 different nations.

Mambas

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he has carried out an evaluation of the use of Mambas formerly owned by his Department operated by Blackwater Security Consulting in Baghdad for personnel protection; and if he will make a statement; [83592]

(2) whether any *(a)* Foreign Office and *(b)* other UK officials have been transported in Mambas operated by Blackwater Security Consulting in Iraq; and whether this form of transport has been assessed as offering sufficient protection when travelling in areas where there is a risk of exposure to insurgent attack; [83593]

(3) what assessment his Department has carried out of the vulnerability of Mambas operated by Blackwater Security Consulting in Baghdad to attack by improvised explosive device; and whether any lessons learned will be applied to enhancing force protection for British troops in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [83594]

Mr. Ingram: To my knowledge, no Foreign Office or other UK Government personnel have been transported in Mambas operated by Blackwater Consulting in Baghdad, though records may not cover such detail and the possibility cannot be excluded.

We have not carried out a specific evaluation of the use of Mambas by Blackwater Security Consulting in Baghdad for personnel protection, nor have we carried out a specific assessment of their vulnerability to improvised explosive device (IED) attack.

We do, though, make regular assessments of the threats facing UK forces (including that from IEDs) and of the potential vehicles available from manufacturers around the world that might help us defeat those threats. We use these assessments to keep our force protection measures, including tactics, techniques and procedures and equipment, under constant review.

On 26 June my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence informed the House that the Ministry of Defence was urgently reviewing the options for protected patrol vehicles, with a view to identifying what else could be done as quickly as possible and in the longer term. The RG-31, a more modern vehicle derived from the Mamba family, was considered, alongside a number of alternatives. On 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 75WS, he announced the results of the review.

We do not comment on the relative protection of our vehicles, or those used by our Allies, as to do so would prejudice the safety of our and our allies' personnel. The additional vehicles announced by the Secretary of State on 24 July will provide more options for commanders to use as they see fit to best meet the mission and counter the threat.

Military Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to *(a)* procure more helicopters for and *(b)* employ more pilots in the Army. [88807]

Mr. Ingram: The future rotorcraft capability programme is considering how best to structure our helicopter fleets for the future. As part of this, we announced in January a capability sustainment programme for the upgrading of the Royal Navy's Merlin helicopters. We also announced in June an order for 70 new Future Lynx helicopters for use by the Royal Navy and Army.

There is currently no plan to increase the number of pilots in the Army.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of the Snatch Land Rover in protecting troops in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement; [81600]

(2) what plans he has *(a)* to upgrade and *(b)* to replace Snatch Land Rovers operated by the Army in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [81601]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the cost of replacing the Snatch Land Rover used by the British Army with the RG-31; [83107]

(2) what plans he has to replace the Snatch Land Rover with another form of transport for the British Army. [83108]

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he will purchase a quantity of BAE Land Systems RG-31s for deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan to provide enhanced protection for Army patrols pending a longer-term review of more suitable vehicles. [82516]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Members to the Statement my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence made on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 74-76WS. As he announced, the review recommended we buy around 100 Forces Protection Inc. Cougar, in addition to increasing the number of VECTOR vehicles being procured, and uparmouring and upgrading further FV430 vehicles. The Cougar is the vehicle best able to meet our requirement. It will provide an additional option for commanders to use as they see fit to best meet the mission and counter the threat. It will not replace the SNATCH land rover which will remain the most appropriate vehicle for some tasks.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what evaluation his Department has carried out of the *(a)* ADI Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicle and *(b)* BAE systems Iraqi Light Armoured Vehicle in respect of the protection afforded from improvised explosive devices and other explosive devices; and how these vehicles compare with the Armoured Pinzgauer on order for British troops in Afghanistan; [82520]

(2) whether his Department has evaluated the potential role of the Force Protection Inc. Buffalo Mine Clearance Vehicle in operations in Southern Iraq; and what assessment he has made of the possible role these vehicles have in developing proactive measures to reduce the improvised explosive devices threat to British Army patrols in the region; [82521]

(3) what level of protection is afforded from mines and other explosive devices by the BAE Systems/OMC RG-31 when exploded *(a)* under any wheel and *(b)* under the cabin; and how this compares with the protection afforded by the Iveco Panther FCLV; [82522]

(4) what evaluations have been carried out by his Department of the BAE Systems Scarab Armoured Patrol Vehicle; and what level of protection is afforded by this vehicle from mines and other explosive devices when exploded *(a)* under any wheel and *(b)* under the cabin; [82523]

(5) whether his Department has carried out an evaluation of the protection offered by the US Navy Ultra concept vehicle project from the threat of *(a)* improvised explosive devices and *(b)* rocket-propelled grenade 7s. [82568]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary gave on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 75WS. Among other vehicles, the review considered the BAES OMC RG-31, the ADI Bushmaster, the US Ultra Armoured Patrol concept vehicle and the Force Protection Inc Buffalo. As the Defence Secretary announced, the review recommended that we buy around 100 Force Protection Inc Cougar as the vehicle best able to meet our requirements.

In light of the review, it was also announced that we will be increasing the number of VECTOR vehicles being procured (a Pinzgauer-based protected patrol vehicle) to supplement SNATCH. We will be up-armouring and upgrading a further 70 FV430 vehicles beyond those already on order. To safeguard our and our allies' troops we do not comment on the detail of our vehicles' protection levels. However, the

need to provide enhanced protection against the key threats currently faced in Iraq and Afghanistan was a key factor in our decisions.

The BAES Scarab Armoured Patrol Vehicle was evaluated during the competition for the PANTHER Command and Liaison vehicle but was unsuccessful in that competition.

Ministerial Hospital Visits

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many visits by Cabinet colleagues to soldiers in hospital as a result of injuries sustained in overseas missions his Department facilitated in 2006. [87973]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence facilitates visits by the Prime Minister to soldiers injured on operations. These are treated as private occasions and we do not release details of such visits.

The MOD facilitated a visit by the Secretary of State for Health (Ms Hewitt) to injured soldiers at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine in Birmingham in June 2006. This was part of a wider visit to Selly Oak NHS hospital.

The MOD has not facilitated any such visits by other Cabinet colleagues in 2006.

Nuclear Deterrents

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the memorandum on the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent provided by his Department to the Defence Committee in November 2005, whether his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials are in a position to agree to the Defence Committee's request for them to give evidence to their inquiry, "The Future of the UK's Strategic Nuclear Deterrent: The Strategic Context". [61294]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence has done all it can support the work of the Defence Committee on the future of the strategic nuclear deterrent. We produced an initial memorandum, which was published on 20 January 2006. My predecessor also discussed this issue with the Defence Committee in some detail on 1 November 2005, as did I during my oral evidence session on 11 July this year. We have provided a detailed and substantive response to the Committee's first report, which was published on 26 July this year, and also made arrangements for the Committee to visit key nuclear establishments over the summer recess. We will continue to do all that we can to support future inquiries by the Committee in this area.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requests he has received to give evidence to the Defence Committee on Trident replacement; and if he will make a statement. [65318]

Des Browne: We have received three requests from the House of Commons Defence Committee for information and evidence on the future of the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent. In response, we produced an initial memorandum, which was published on 20 January 2006. My predecessor also discussed this issue with the Defence Committee in some detail on 1 November 2005, as did I during my introductory session on 11 July this year. We have provided a detailed and substantive response to the Committee's first report, which was published on 26 July this year, and will continue to do all that we can to support future inquiries by the Committee in this area.

No decisions on any replacement for Trident have yet been taken, either in principle or in detail, but these will be taken later this year.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [84024]

Des Browne: The number of visits to the regions by Defence Ministers between 1 July 2005 and 10 July 2006 are shown in the following table:

	Secretary of State	*Minister for the Armed Forces*	*Minister for Defence Procurement*	*Under-Secretary of State*
South East	3	5	5	6
London	3	6	2	7
South West	5	6	12	2
East of England	1	1	1	3
West Midlands	1	0	2	7
East Midlands	0	—	2	1
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	1	0	2
North West	0	0	2	4
North East	0	0	0	0

Ordnance Expenditure

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on ordnance in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [73125]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 May 2006]*: The total spend in financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 by the Defence Logistics Organisation on general munitions was £228 million and £199 million respectively.

Overseas Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the British armed forces is serving on operations overseas. [83115]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 350-52W.

Phone Cards

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will *(a)* increase the value and *(b)* extend the time of phone cards issued to armed forces personnel stationed overseas. [75905]

Mr. Ingram: As part of the operational welfare package, personnel serving on operations overseas are allowed 20 minutes of free telephone calls each week to anyone anywhere in the world. The financial allowance for people serving in non-operational locations overseas includes an element that is intended to cover the difference between the cost of 20 minutes of telephone calls in their location and the cost in UK.

Publicly funded telephone calls are only one component of both the operational welfare package and the calculation of local overseas allowance. While accepting that more time would be welcome, there is a balance to be struck against expenditure on other elements of support. The complete operational welfare package has recently been reviewed and the operational commanders do not see a need to re-balance it.

Piracy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many seaborne attacks by armed gangs there were *(a)* in the Persian gulf, *(b)* in the vicinity of Umm Qast and *(c)* near the Basra oil terminal in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [87704]

Mr. Ingram: I am unable to answer the question in the format requested. However, coalition statistics on the number of maritime criminal incidents that occurred in the north Arabian gulf in 2005 and 2006 are set out in the following table. Information relating to the number of incidents in 2004 is not held.

	Year	
Month	*2005*	*2006*
January	1	5
February	0	5
March	2	10
April	0	12
May	3	11
June	3	7
July	10	4
August	10	—
September	10	—
October	5	—
November	9	—
December	15	—

Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether defence integrity pacts are applied to all defence procurements. [88106]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has encountered a relatively low number of cases of corruption in relation to the volume and value of its contractual activity. The MOD does not use defence integrity pacts as an anti-corruption device because it considers that its existing, well established processes have served it well (see the 'Guideline for Industry—Code of Procurement Ethics' and the Defence Condition 520—'Corrupt Gifts and Payments of Commission', both available through the commercial toolkit at www.ams.mod.uk).

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83186]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence sponsors 32 public bodies: six executive non-departmental public bodies; 24 advisory non-departmental public bodies; one public corporation and one independent monitoring board. In total, these Bodies comprise 424 public appointments. These 32 public bodies include the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee which was formed in 1999 and the Central Advisory Committee on War Pensions, plus 13 War Pension Committees, which moved over to the Ministry of Defence from what is now the Department for Work and Pensions in 2001.

Details of the public appointments to the public bodies sponsored by the Ministry of Defence can be found in 'Public Bodies', copies of which are in the Library of the House. 'Public Bodies' has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of 'Public Bodies' contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. Comparable information for 1976 in respect of Ministry of Defence could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Between 1980 and 2001 'Public Bodies' published remuneration figures for both chairs and members of public bodies. This practice ceased in 2002 when the remuneration figures for Members were not included in the publication. The most recent details of remuneration for chairs (as at 31 March 2005) is published in 'Public Bodies'. Details are set out below in respect of the eight Ministry of Defence public bodies who remunerate its members; the remaining 24 do not.

Advisory Group on Medical Countermeasures

Member: £210 per meeting

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Member: £200 per day

Armed Forces Pay Review Body

Member: £300 per meeting/visit

Defence Nuclear Safety Committee

Member: £210 per day

Defence Scientific Advisory Council

Deputy Chair: £265 per day

Member: £210 per day

Nuclear Research Advisory Council

Member: £210 per day

Review Board for Government Contracts

Member: £7,370 per annum

Oil and Pipelines Agency

Member: £7,500 per annum

No public appointments to bodies sponsored by the Ministry of Defence attract emoluments beyond the remuneration referred to above.

QinetiQ

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations and warranties his Department has given to the QinetiQ joint bookrunners in the underwriting agreement; and if he will place a copy of the agreement in the Library. [47268]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence gave certain limited warranties and representations to the joint bookrunners in the underwriting agreement. These were normal for a transaction such as the QinetiQ IPO. Broadly, they related to:

(i) the MOD's ownership of the shares;

(ii) the MOD's ability, as a matter of law, to sell the shares and to perform its other legal obligations in relation to the process;

(iii) the accuracy of certain prospectus statements relating to the policies, plans, views or expectations of the MOD, or to the terms of specific arrangements between the MOD and QinetiQ.

The Underwriting Agreement is a commercially confidential agreement and I am therefore unable to place a copy in the Library. However, a detailed summary of its key terms appears on pages 300-303 of the QinetiQ prospectus, a copy of which was placed in the Library of the House on 26 January.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department or public bodies for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83187]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Regma Biotechnologies

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what basis and on whose authority Regma Biotechnologies was allowed *(a)* access to facilities and *(b)* to set up a laboratory at Porton Down; and if he will make a statement. [88366]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* Regma Biotechnologies was founded in December 1999 and commenced a three-year tenancy on the Porton Down science park on 17 July 2000.

The Porton Down science park was founded in October 1997 as a result of the defence diversification White Paper of November 1998. The aim was to work in partnership with other local research and development organisations to promote Porton Down, and to act as an incubator unit for small start-up biotechnology companies by allowing them access to the support infrastructure. The tenancy agreement with Regma was the same as for any other small start-up biotechnology company.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Wouter Basson has been given access to Porton Down to visit Regma Biotechnologies; and if he will make a statement. [88367]

Des Browne *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* Wouter Basson has not been given access to Porton Down to visit Regma Biotechnologies.

Reservists

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army reservists have been deployed on active service overseas in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the total number of Army reserve forces that figure represented in each year. [88105]

Mr. Watson: Numbers and percentages of regular and volunteer Army reservists mobilised each year since 1995 are shown in the following table:

	Reserves mobilised			*Proportion of reserve forces*		
	Regular	*TA*	*Total*[1]	*Regular*	*TA*	*Total*[2]
1995	240	450	690	0.5	0.9	0.7
1996	320	1,160	1,480	0.7	2.2	1.6
1997	230	650	880	0.6	1.3	1.0
1998	280	620	910	0.8	1.3	1.1
1999	340	840	1,180	1.0	2.1	1.6
2000	270	520	790	0.8	1.4	1.1
2001	300	620	920	0.9	1.8	1.3
2002	240	680	920	0.7	2.0	1.4
2003	150	8,220	8,370	0.5	25.1	13.1
2004	120	2,370	2,490	0.4	7.5	4.0
2005	50	1,300	1,350	0.2	4.1	2.1

[1] Total number of regular and volunteer (TA) reserves mobilised by 31 December of that year.

[2] Percentage of reserves mobilised as a proportion of the total strength of regular and volunteer (TA) reserve forces, excluding full-time reserve service (FTRS), non-regular permanent staff (NPRS) and officer training corps (OTC).

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. The sum of the parts may not therefore equal the total.

It is not possible to identify from central sources the exact number of mobilised reservists who deployed overseas. The table shows all mobilised reservists, irrespective of their deployment.

Science Applications International Corporation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the total value was of contracts entered into by his Department with Science Applications International Corporation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [87569]

(2) what meetings took place between *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department and representatives of Science Applications International Corporation between January 2003 and December 2004. [87570]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Scottish First Minister

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last met the Scottish First Minister; and what subjects were discussed. [88775]

Mr. Watson: Ministers have regular dialogues with ministerial colleagues in the Scottish Executive, discussing a wide range of issues of mutual interest. It is not our practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department by year since February 2004. [88563]

Mr. Watson: In the Ministry of Defence, all service personnel are issued with a service identity card, which is also used as a security pass to confirm identity for site access purposes. The following number of service identity cards have been reported as either lost or stolen since February 2004:

	Total
February to December 2004	10,266
January to December 2005	7,849
January to June 2006	4,616

It is not possible, without disproportionate effort, to separate the figures into sub-totals for those lost and stolen, due to the way the data are collated by the agency responsible for identity card production. Identity cards carry a photograph of the holder and have other features that inhibit their fraudulent replication.

MOD civilians are not routinely issued with identity cards, but provided with a site-specific security pass. Like the service identity card, the security pass carries a photograph and other features to inhibit fraudulent replication; unlike the service identity card the security pass is not readily identifiable as associated with the MOD. While the loss or theft of civilian security passes is reported at unit/establishment level, statistics are not collated centrally and therefore details of totals lost or stolen could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Service Personnel

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many service personnel recruited in Dunfermline and West Fife are serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [88704]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally and cannot be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel serving in Iraq have been diagnosed with a mental health condition since British forces were committed to the country; [88042]

(2) how many service personnel who have served in Iraq have been invalided out of the forces on grounds of mental illness; [88043]

(3) how many service personnel are receiving treatment for mental illness in *(a)* independent, *(b)* NHS and *(c)* Ministry of Defence medical establishments. [88044]

Mr. Watson: It can be difficult to determine the underlying causes of some mental health problems, some of which could be caused by a combination of other life events that occurred before or after service in any operational theatre.

A total of 1,541 personnel were referred to the Ministry of Defence departments of community mental health (DCMH) with possible mental health problems and subsequently identified as having a psychiatric disorder related to their service in Iraq in the years 2003 to 2005.

The following table shows the total number of personnel admitted for any cause under the agreement MOD has with the Priory Group for mental health in-patient care. The numbers are not specific to deployment on Operation Telic in the Iraq region:

Date from	*Date to*	*Number admitted*
1 December 2003	31 March 2004	58
1 April 2004	31 March 2005	321
1 April 2005	31 March 2006	351
1 April 2006	30 June 2006	71
Total		801

In 2003 and 2004, the following number of personnel were discharged from each Service due to mental and behavioural disorders:

Service	*Total discharged*[1]	*No. of those who had previously been deployed on Operation TELIC*[2]
Navy	62	5
Army	202	18
RAF	88	4

[1] These figures update those provided in a previous answer dated 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 2117W.
[2] This does not imply that discharge was directly or solely attributable to Operation TELIC.

The number of current and former service personnel treated by the NHS for mental health conditions since the beginning of the operation in Iraq is not known. Similarly, details of personnel who have been discharged as a result of a mental health condition that can be attributed specifically to service in Iraq and whose continued medical care has therefore been transferred to the NHS is not held centrally and to obtain it would require the examination of the individual medical records of every patient. These can only be viewed for non-clinical reasons with the express consent of the individual concerned, to protect patient confidentiality. To seek permission, and then to extract the information from the records, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Service Records

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications for release of service records from the second world war his Department has received since 1997; and how many such applications have been successful. [89083]

Mr. Watson: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures are in place to ensure consistency in decision making when considering whether to release service records following an application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [89106]

Mr. Watson: The Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel staffs who answer such requests work to the same guidance and criteria in discharging MOD's duty to process personal data fairly and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Key issues include whether the subject of the record is alive; whether the next of kin are making or are aware of the request; and the precise nature of the information held and requested. This inevitably involves case by case consideration of often complex circumstances. A number of reports of apparently inconsistent outcomes have led officials to launch a review with the aim of providing more detailed guidance on the release of information from service records. I will write to the hon. Member when that work is complete, which I expect to be before the end of the year.

Soldiers' Pensions

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average annual pension payment was received by Gurkhas in each year since 1997. [88795]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average annual pension payment was received by retired British soldiers in each year since 1997. [88796]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the average total pension payments received by *(a)* a Gurkha soldier and *(b)* a retired British soldier during his lifetime. [88797]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff surveys have been conducted in his Department in each of the last three years. [70819]

Mr. Watson: Details of survey research conducted by the Ministry of Defence and its agencies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Submarine Operations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest proportion of time was which submarine personnel spent on operations in the last three years. [87020]

Mr. Watson: The proportion of time that fleet submarines (SSNs) not in refit have spent away from their base ports on operations over the past three years is as follows:

Highest: 43 per cent.

Lowest: 6 per cent.

Average: 33.5 per cent.

The proportion of time submarine personnel spent on operations over the past three years will not exceed this range.

Submarine Sales (Canada)

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK Government have paid any reparation to the Canadian Government following the fire aboard the HMCS Chicoutimi and the subsequent rescue mission. [88705]

Mr. Watson: No. The Board of Enquiry convened by Canada into the HMCS Chicoutimi incident attached no blame to the UK Government.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK Government have paid any reparation to the Canadian Government in relation to the four Upholder class submarines that were found to be damaged upon delivery to the Canadian Forces Maritime Command. [88706]

Mr. Watson: No. The four upholder class submarines were not damaged when they were handed over to, and accepted by, Canada.

Sudan

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of UK troops making up part of the proposed UN force in Sudan. [88614]

Des Browne: Her Majesty's Government welcomed the signing on 5 May 2006 of the Darfur peace agreement by the Government of Sudan and the Minni Minawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army. We are urging all partners to support fully the implementation of the agreement, and the strengthening of the African mission in Sudan (AMIS) to meet the tasks contained within it.

To date, the UK has committed £52 million in financial support to AMIS. Additionally, through the European Union and at the request of the African Union, the MOD has provided two military advisers.

Separately, the UK has provided three staff officers, including the chief of staff, to the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), mandated to support the implementation of the north-south comprehensive peace agreement.

If approved, UNMIS could be expanded to assume peacekeeping responsibilities in Darfur, taking over from AMIS. In preparation, and at the request of the UN, the MOD has deployed one military officer to the department of peace keeping operations in New York to assist with planning support.

We have no plans to deploy any further military personnel to Sudan.

Surface Ship Support

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in *(a)* exploring alternative contracting arrangements and *(b)* establishing the way ahead for contracting for surface ship support. [86661]

Mr. Ingram: A review of surface ship support arrangements concluded that the best way of achieving a sustainable, efficient and affordable surface ship support market for the future would be through the formation of an alliance. This was announced on 14 February 2006 and we are now working to take this forward. Agreement was reached in principle shortly after the announcement with the prospective Surface Ship Support Alliance (SSSA) partners (Devonport Management Ltd., Babcock International Group and Fleet Support Ltd.) on the work-share for the autumn 2006 upkeep packages. These packages of work will not be contracted under the yet-to-be-agreed alliance umbrella, but will instead form part of an initial test of principle for the alliance concept. Subject to affordability and this work continuing to offer best value when set against the Department's other priorities, it is intended to enter into contracts within the next few months.

Surplus Military Equipment

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the regulations relating to the disposal of drop tanks fitted to surplus military aircraft have been amended since 2000. [88741]

Mr. Ingram: No.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military aircraft have been disposed of since 1999; and what action was taken to de-militarise the unit in each case. [88742]

Mr. Ingram: Surplus aircraft sold by the Disposal Services Agency since 1999 are set out in the following table.

In accordance with current regulations all aircraft are declassified prior to disposal and have their weapon systems removed. The precise action followed will vary case-by-case.

	Number
Jet Provost	19
Jetstream	13
Schleicher Valiant Glider	4
BAC1-11	1
BAE 146	1
Buccaneer	6
Bulldog	107
Chipmunk	5
Canberra	5
Gnat	1
HS125	1
Harrier	44
Hunter	13
Jaguar	32
Schempp-Hirth Janus-C	1
Gazelle	65
Lynx	6
Sioux	2
Wessex	24
Whirlwind	5
VC10	2
Tornado	35
Puma	1
Hercules	4
Sea King	1
Viking Glider	4
Phantom	16
Scout	1
Hawk	1
Meteor	1
Andover	1
Tucano	2

This does not include aircraft disposed of as scrap.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information he has received on the extent to which surplus military equipment disposed of to non-governmental purchasers has been *(a)* exported and *(b)* used in hostilities overseas. [88743]

Mr. Ingram: None.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the rules relating to the disposal of military equipment to non-Government purchasers. [88744]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence disposes of a wide range of surplus military equipment and extensive rules and regulations govern the disposal of specific items. There is no single set of general rules relating to the disposal of equipment to non-government purchasers.

It is, however, departmental policy that the contract of sale for any item will include terms and conditions covering re-use and eventual disposal as appropriate. All sensitive equipment is routinely demilitarised before sale, and any equipment that cannot be sold is disposed of or recycled in an environmentally sound manner. In addition, there are many types of military equipment that are not sold to the public as a matter of policy.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he maintains a register of non-governmental buyers of surplus military equipment. [88745]

Mr. Ingram: No.

Unfinished Projects

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list projects undertaken in the last eight years at a cost of over £1 million which were not completed. [27622]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

University Air Squadrons

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to ensure that there is no reduction in the number of university air squadrons and the level of flying training they provide. [87246]

Mr. Watson: There is no intention to reduce the number of university air squadrons. The hon. Member will be aware that a study has recently been commissioned to determine the optimum number and preferred locations of university air squadrons' air experience flights, which deliver their flying training.

UN Security Council Résolution 1325

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security; and if he will make a statement. [88350]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister of State (Mr. Ingram) gave to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Sutton (Linda Gilroy) on 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 627-28W.

Veterans

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written answer of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 506W, on veterans, what percentage of service leavers used the career Transition partnership upon leaving each of the armed services in the last period for which figures are available. [89021]

Mr. Watson: The percentage of service leavers using the career transition partnership varies from year to year, but for those discharged during the last year 2005-06, the take-up was 94.1 per cent. The equivalent figures for the previous four years are: 74.8 per cent in 2001-02; 86.5 per cent. in 2002-03; 79.6 per cent. in 2003-04 and 84.6 per cent. in 2004-05. Percentages by individual service are not available, since statistics have been collected on a tri-service basis that reflects the philosophy of delivering a common high quality resettlement provision to members of all three armed services.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written answer of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 506W, on veterans, what the employment rates were for veterans *(a)* one month, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year after leaving each of the services, broken down by age cohort in the last period for which figures are available. [89022]

Mr. Watson: Not all personnel who leave the armed forces want to continue to work. Of those service leavers who discharged in 2005 after using the career transition partnership (CTP) to prepare themselves for future employment and who have provided feedback on their post-discharge working status, nearly 57 per cent. had found employment on or before their final day of military service, and a further 13 per cent. within one month of discharge. Since CTP contract performance-related recording began in April 2000, about 95 per cent. of service leavers who accessed CTP support and wanted to work after departure from the armed forces were employed within six months of their discharge.

In keeping with the philosophy of providing a high quality resettlement service to all entitled military personnel who will be entering a common civilian job market, post-discharge employment success statistics are not maintained on leavers by service or age cohort. Also, no statistics are held on the civilian employment status of veterans beyond the six-months post-discharge point.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many criminal offences her Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88479]

Hilary Armstrong: According to available records, none.

Departmental-issued Credit Cards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office issues guidance to departments on civil servants making personal use of departmental-issued credit cards; and if she will make a statement. [87601]

Hilary Armstrong: No. Individual Departments issue guidance to their staff on the use of their corporate credit cards.

The Cabinet Office's guidance to its own staff makes clear that the Cabinet Office's corporate credit cards cannot be used for private purposes. The guidance also makes clear that misuse is a disciplinary offence.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in the Cabinet Office provide support to the Deputy Prime Minister. [85667]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Secretariat, which is part of the Cabinet Office, provides support to the Deputy Prime Minister, as it does to Chairs of all Cabinet Committees The Cabinet Office Communication Group has developed the Deputy Prime Minister's website through its own web content management system at no external cost. It has also provided occasional support to the Deputy Prime Minister's press office to cover leave arrangements.

The Cabinet Office parliamentary Branch supports the Deputy Prime Minister's office in the handling of its parliamentary business.

In addition the Department's infrastructure division provides some support services for the Deputy Prime Minister and his office since they are still based in a building which is managed by the Cabinet Office.

Disabled Staff

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of senior civil service staff are registered as disabled. [88889]

Hilary Armstrong: 2.8 per cent. of senior civil servants have declared that they are disabled (as at October 2005). Disability monitoring is conducted on a voluntary basis. We are working to improve representation of disabled people at senior levels and are committed to achieving our target of 3.2 per cent. disabled staff in the senior civil service by 2008.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what her policy is on the civil service outsourcing administrative functions overseas. [81416]

Mr. McFadden: There is no central policy to outsource administrative functions overseas. It is up to individual Departments and agencies to decide what best meets their business needs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Community Safety Partnerships

Mr. Walter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what provision there is for potential employees of community safety partnerships to declare whether they have any history of being a party to domestic violence. [82082]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

Unless the individual in question will be working with children or vulnerable adults, or will be working in one of the occupations (e.g. teachers) that requires such disclosure, there are no centrally mandated provisions for potential employees to declare whether or not they may have been party to domestic violence. Where an individual does fall into one of these categories details of previous convictions, cautions, reprimands and warning that are held on the police national computer are disclosable. In the event the person will be regularly caring for, training, or otherwise responsible for a young or vulnerable person then it may be appropriate to disclose information held by the police, but only where it would be proportionate and relevant.

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in her Department in each month since March 2005. [88757]

Bridget Prentice: My Department purchased 12,758 desktop computers and 1,773 laptops during the period April 2005-June 2006. My Department does not hold central records for all other items requested and figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Councillors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average councillor to elector ratio was in the *(a)* richest and *(b)* poorest council wards in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland, (iii) England and (iv) Northern Ireland in the most recent year for which figures are available. [87732]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Local government councillor:elector ratios are a matter for the Electoral Commission in England, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the devolved administrations in Wales and Scotland.

We are not able to provide information in the form of the richest and poorest wards. However the Indices of Deprivation published by each country provide details of the most deprived areas for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. They are based on a geography generally small than wards (Super Output areas or Data Zones in Scotland) and measure deprivation not affluence. For England, using 2004 Indices, the most deprived area is in Breckfield ward, Liverpool and the least deprived In Oakley and North Waltham ward, Basingstoke and Deane.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the recommended ratio of councillor to electors is in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [87748]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

Local government councillor:elector ratios are a matter for the Electoral Commission in England, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the devolved administrations in Wales and Scotland.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which 100 wards had the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest elector to councillor ratio in (i) Wales, (ii) England, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland in the most recent year for which figures are available. [87749]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

Local government councillor:elector ratios are a matter for the Electoral Commission in England, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the devolved administrations in Wales and Scotland.

Courts Service

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will defer the proposed restructuring of the Courts Service in Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire to take account of the new policy relating to restructuring of police forces. [87758]

Ms Harman: It is the intention of HM Courts Service to proceed with the restructuring of its administrative and courts boards areas, including Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, by April 2007 and as agreed by the Lord Chancellor.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many criminal offences her Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88477]

Vera Baird: The information requested is not collected and to obtain it would incur a disproportionate cost.

Custody Plus

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs by which date the Government plan fully to implement proposals for Custody Plus. [88711]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

In the Review of the Criminal Justice System published on 20 July we said that Custody Plus will not go ahead in autumn 2006 as previously planned. We shall not implement Custody Plus until we are satisfied that sufficient resources are available to allow this to proceed.

Deaf Services

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to protect the professional title of people qualified to work as language service professionals for deaf people. [86914]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply as the Minister responsible for Further Education and Higher Education.

There is no recognised "professional title" for people working as language service professionals for deaf people. The Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People (CACDP) is the registration body for professional British Sign Language/English Interpreters (for England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and UK wide for Lipspeakers, Speech to Text Reporters and Deafblind Manual Interpreters. For service providers who wish to obtain support for deaf people to access their services, CACDP produces a directory of registered interpreters and other language service professionals. The Government have no plans to regulate in this area.

Departmental Staff

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many of her Department's employees have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997. [88456]

Bridget Prentice: Figures are available only to show those who were dismissed following disciplinary proceedings for gross misconduct resulting from involvement in criminal activity, since June 2003, as follows:

	Number
2003	1
2004	1
2005	2
2006	2

Figures are not available to show the numbers of employees who were suspended, although suspension would usually follow a charge of gross misconduct and has been mandatory in this type of case since April 2005.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many staff members in her Department have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted following fraud charges since 1997. [88443]

Bridget Prentice: Information prior to June 2003 was not collected. Since June 2003, statistics have been collected showing those dismissed for gross misconduct and these would include those prosecuted and convicted of fraud. These statistics show that no staff have been dismissed as a result of a prosecution or conviction of fraud.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was paid to her Department from the Access to Work Scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget she plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government Departments; and if she will make a statement. [89012]

Vera Baird: The DCA has a team of dedicated local disability advisers, based in the regions, who assist in ensuring that the required reasonable adjustments, including specialist equipment and support, for people with disabilities are provided.

It is not possible to confirm the precise contributions made to the Department under the Access to Work Scheme over the last year without incurring disproportionate costs, as there is no central record held within DCA.

With effect from 1 October 2006, with the withdrawal of funding by Access to Work to employees of Central Government Departments, the DCA intends to continue its responsibility for financing and supporting any required reasonable adjustments for its own employees from the relevant budgets of DCA's internal service providers.

The Office of Disability Issues (ODI) will be monitoring the situation to ensure that there is no detriment to current and future employees who are disabled.

Hutton Inquiry

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1268W, on the Hutton Inquiry, on what basis the Lord Chancellor decided that the formal powers of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1921 were not necessary; and how and when it was made clear to Lord Hutton that he could ask for more powers. [80203]

Ms Harman: The Lord Chancellor decided that the formal powers of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1921 were not necessary in order to allow the inquiry to proceed quickly. It was made clear to Lord Hutton when he was appointed that he could ask for more powers.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the value was of each IT contract awarded by her Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [89001]

Bridget Prentice: My Department holds IT contracts with Fujitsu Services; Sound Technologies Ltd. (STL); Accenture; Cable and Wireless; Oracle; and Microsoft.

The value of each contract is as follows:

Fujitsu Services (magistrates courts IT systems) in 2002 for £232 million over 8.5 years;

STL (magistrates courts IT systems) in 2003 for £38.5 million;

Accenture (magistrates courts IT systems) in 2003 for £36 million;

Cable and Wireless (for web-hosting) in 2002 for £1.5 million. Current value is £2.5 million because of increase to capacity to host additional services;

Oracle (providing licensing for staff to use Oracle software products). Total expenditure since 2003, when the contract was awarded, is £9.7 million;

Microsoft (Enterprise Licensing Agreement for all Microsoft products used within the Department as well as future versions released during contract period) in 2006 for £8.072 million over three years.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which IT contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [89002]

Vera Baird: There have been no IT contracts abandoned by my Department in the last five years.

Magistrates

Dr. Vis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures are in place to monitor the sentencing practices of individual magistrates to ensure that they do not discriminate against black and minority ethnic people. [68124]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply

The Home Office's five-year strategy for protecting the public and reducing reoffending, published in February 2006, outlined the commitment to work with judges, magistrates and other agencies to improve the quality of recording of ethnic monitoring data. This information will be used to ensure all those involved use that data to take action to ensure that black and minority ethnic offenders are being treated fairly by the system.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs has no specific measures to monitor the sentencing practices of individual magistrates. However, the Judicial Studies Board (JSB) through a variety of mechanisms ensures that diversity is addressed at all stages of a magistrate's development to ensure that they do not discriminate against black and minority ethnic people. The Magistrates National Training Initiative competence framework contains a number of knowledge and performance elements requiring magistrates to demonstrate an understanding of

"diversity and fair treatment issues, including the use of non-discriminatory language"

and magistrates are regularly appraised against these competences.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many and what percentage of magistrates recruited in each year since 1997 were *(a)* women, *(b)* black or from another ethnic minority, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* under 30 in each Courts Service region in (i) Wales and (ii) England. [88505]

Ms Harman: The tables provide a breakdown. Figures are provided subject to:

Information on disability is not available. This has been collected systematically for approximately 18 months for new applicants only, and is therefore incomplete.

We collect information on magistrates' age in the bands under 40, 40 to 49, 50 to 59 and 60 to 69. Figures for those that were under 40 are not available for the years up to 2004.

The figures are not broken down by area because figures less than five are not quoted following established Government statistics guidelines for protecting the confidentiality of data subjects.

		BME		Female	
	Total number of appointees	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1997[1]	1,682	110	6.53	852	50.65
1998[1]	1,573	95	6.03	809	51.43
1999[1]	1,609	105	6.52	793	49.28
2000[1]	1,743	133	7.63	859	49.28
2001[2]	1,618	137	8.46	784	48.45
2002[2]	1,786	148	8.29	859	48.1
2003[2]	1,623	132	8.1	785	48.4

[1] Figures as at 1 January each year.
[2] Figures as at 31 March each year.

		BME		Female		Age under 40	
	Total number of appointees	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2004[1]	1,768	155	8.34	829	46.9	273	15.4
2005[1]	1,766	143	8.1	857	48.5	277	15.69
2006[1]	2,212	225	10.18	1080	48.83	336	15.19

[1] Figures as at 31 March each year.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the Secretary of State last met the Scottish First Minister; and what subjects were discussed. [88773]

Vera Baird: Ministers have regular dialogues with ministerial colleagues in the Scottish Executive, discussing a wide range of issues of mutual interest. It is not our practice to disclose details of such meetings.

New Courts

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which *(a)* magistrates courts, *(b)* Crown courts and *(c)* county courts have opened since 1995 in each parliamentary constituency. [88506]

Ms Harman: The following courts have been opened since 1995:

(a) Magistrates courts

	Year opened	Parliamentary constituency
Nottingham	1995	Nottingham South
Bromley	1996	Bromley and Chislehurst
Mansfield	1996	Mansfield
West London	1998	Hammersmith and Fulham
Hereford	2001	Hereford
Kidderminster	2001	Wyre Forest
Beverley	2001	Beverley and Holderness
Bridlington	2001	East Yorkshire
Worcester	2002	Worcester
Southampton	2002	Southampton, Itchen
Hull	2002	Kingston-upon-Hull West and Hessle
Haverford West	2003	Preseli Pembrokeshire
Redditch	2003	Redditch
Manchester City	2004	Manchester Central
Derby	2004	Derby North
Chesterfield	2004	Chesterfield
Warwick	2004	Nuneaton
North Somerset (Worle)	2006	Weston-super-mare

(b) Crown courts

	Year opened	Parliamentary constituency
Sheffield	1995	Sheffield Central
Kingston-upon-Thames	1997	Kingston and Surbiton
Reading	1997	Reading East
Ipswich	2004	Ipswich
Cambridge	2004	Cambridge

(c) Combined courts (Crown and County)

	Year opened	Parliamentary constituency
Canterbury	1995	Canterbury
Bournemouth	1996	Bournemouth East
Basildon	1996	Basildon
Exeter	2004	Exeter

(d) County courts

	Year opened	Parliamentary constituency
Yeovil	1995	Yeovil
Conwy and Colwyn	1995	Clwyd West
Torquay and Newton Abbott	1995	Torbay
Oldham	1997	Oldham West and Royton
Sheffield (family)	2004	Sheffield Central
Cambridge	2006	Cambridge
Liverpool Civil Justice Centre	2006	Liverpool Riverside
Shoreditch and Clerkenwell	2006	Islington South and Finsbury

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many

(a) questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by her Department or public bodies for which she is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83189]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

"From Improvement to Transformation"

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he will take to ensure that the new non-executive directors identified under proposals in the document "From Improvement to Transformation" include representatives from Wales. [88259]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* We are seeking non-executive directors who will add value to the Department by offering external advice and expertise in association with independence of thought to inform the decision-making process. To ensure openness, transparency and selection on merit, our non-executive director vacancies are being filled through open competition and we have welcomed applications from any candidate with the right mix of skills and experience, which includes an understanding of the sectors in which the Home Office operates.

Abduction Prosecutions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for abduction in London in 2004 in each London borough, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age and *(c)* nationality. [88508]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty in courts in London for offences of abduction in 2004 are provided in the following table, broken down as requested. Data on the nationality of people convicted of an offence is not held centrally. This is because there is currently no legal obligation on people who are suspected, charged or convicted to declare their nationality and no sanction against them if they refuse to co-operate or they declare a nationality falsely. In a written ministerial statement of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 29WS my hon. Friend the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr. Byrne) set out the progress the Department is making to address this problem.

Number of defendants proceeded against in magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in London for abduction offences[1] by age, sex and London court area, 2004[2,3,4]

	Male					
	10 to 17		18 to 20		21 and over	
London court area	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Inner London courts						
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	—	—	1	—	—	—
Highbury Corner	—	—	—	—	1	—
Horseferry Road	—	—	—	—	—	1
South Western	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other London courts						
Brent	—	—	—	—	1	—
Bromley	—	—	—	—	1	—
Croydon	—	—	1	1	1	1
Ealing	—	—	1	1	1	—
Enfield	—	—	—	—	1	—
Havering	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	2	—
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	—	2	1
Total Greater London	—	—	3	2	11	5

	Female					
	10 to 17		18 to 20		21 and over	
London court area	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Inner London courts						
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	—	—	—	—	2	1
Highbury Corner	—	—	—	—	1	—
Horseferry Road	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Western	—	—	1	1	1	1

	Female					
	10 to 17		18 to 20		21 and over	
London court area	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Other London courts						
Brent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bromley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croydon	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ealing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enfield	—	—	—	—	—	—
Havering	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total Greater London	—	—	1	1	5	2

	Person					
	10 to 17		18 to 20		21 and over	
London court area	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Inner London courts						
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	—	—	1	—	2	1
Highbury Corner	—	—	—	—	2	—
Horseferry Road	—	—	—	—	—	1
South Western	—	—	1	1	2	2
Other London courts						
Brent	—	—	—	—	1	—
Bromley	—	—	—	—	1	—
Croydon	—	—	1	1	1	1
Ealing	—	—	1	1	1	—
Enfield	—	—	—	—	1	—
Havering	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	2	—
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	—	3	1
Total Greater London	—	—	4	3	16	7

[1] Includes offences related to 'abduction of children' and general abduction offences.
[2] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] There were no reported cases of abduction in City of London courts.

Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many free air miles have been earned by senior civil servants in his Department in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [72881]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Senior civil servants' travel is conducted in accordance with the Home Office guidance which makes clear that Air Miles should be used only for official purposes or else foregone. However, if it is impracticable to use the benefits for Government travel, there is no objection to senior civil servants donating them to charity if this is permissible under the terms of the airline's scheme and the charity is one chosen by the airline.

Actual Bodily Harm

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of actual bodily harm were police cautions imposed in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such cases were first offences. [82525]

Mr. McNulty: Data on the number of people cautioned for offences relating to actual bodily harm (which covers minor injuries such as grazes, scratches and minor bruising), in England and Wales from 2000 to 2004, can be found in the following table. Information on whether or not such cases were first offences is not held centrally.

Number of persons cautioned for offences relating to actual bodily harm, in England and Wales[1,2], 2000-04

Statute	Offence description	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 47 (in part).	Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (malicious wounding).	12,283	11,963	15,663	20,268	25,538
Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S47 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(1)(b) and (2).	Racially or religiously aggravated ABH[3].	85	72	110	129	169
Total		12,368	12,035	15,773	20,397	25,707

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] This includes the following offences: racially aggravated malicious wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm, religiously aggravated ABH and racially or religiously aggravated ABH.

Notes:
1. Our reference PQ 166-06.
2. House of Commons number (82525).

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign; and if he will make a statement. [88649]

Mr. McNulty: The fourth national Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC 4) ran from 8 May to 8 June. The results from this campaign will be released shortly. Previous AMECs have been shown to be very effective in dealing with alcohol-fuelled crime and disorder, including town-centre violence and under-age sales of alcohol. Early indications are that AMEC4 saw the highest-yet level of activity by the police and trading standards officers. One of the purposes of AMEC4 was to set the tone of acceptable behaviour during the World Cup competition, and the relatively low level of disorder seen during the competition is testimony to its effectiveness.

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders, *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts, *(c)* warnings, *(d)* individual support plans, *(e)* action plan orders, *(f)* child safety orders, *(g)* referral orders, *(h)* parenting orders, *(i)* parenting contracts, *(j)* local child curfew schemes, *(k)* dispersal powers, *(l)* fixed penalty notices for disorderly behaviour, *(m)* detention and training orders, *(n)* seizure of vehicles used antisocially, *(o)* closure of licensed premises, *(p)* confiscation of alcohol from young people and *(q)* designated public places orders have been used in (i) each local authority and (ii) each police authority, broken down by basic command unit, in each region of England and Wales in each year since the introduction of the powers. [83766]

Mr. McNulty: Figures reported to the Home Office on *(a)* antisocial behaviour orders, *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts, *(c)* final warnings, *(d)* individual support plans, *(e)* action plan orders, *(f)* child safety orders, *(g)* referral orders, *(h)* parenting orders, *(i)* parenting contracts, *(j)* local child curfew schemes, *(k)* dispersal powers, *(l)* fixed penalty notices for disorderly behaviour, *(m)* detention and training orders, and *(q)* designated public places orders by individual petty sessional area or police authority basic command unit are small and their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. However, information is available, either for England and Wales or at a local level or can be found on the web, as follows:

(a) Antisocial behaviour orders. A table giving a breakdown by the criminal justice system area and local government authority area in which prohibitions are imposed within antisocial behaviour orders is available on the Crime Reduction website at:http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/asbos2(1a)sept05.xls. This table gives data by year since ASBOs were introduced up to 30 September 2005 (latest available).

(b) Acceptable behaviour contracts. The data are not available in the form requested. However, for the last two years the Home Office Anti-social Behaviour Unit has carried out a survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England and Community safety Partnerships in Wales asking about their actions taken to tackle antisocial behaviour. From those who responded to the surveys the results are as follows:

Acceptable behaviour contracts

	Number
1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004	5,094
1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005	8,654

(c) Final warnings. Data on the number of final warnings given to juveniles are in Criminal statistics, Table 3B and available via the following web link: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimstats04.html.

(d) Individual support plans. Data on individual support plans are not collected centrally, but seven individual support orders were made at magistrates courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, from 1 April 2004 to 31 December 2004 and 24 from January 2005 to 30 September 2005 (latest available).

(e), *(g)* and *(m)* Action plan orders, referral orders and detention and training orders. Tables S3.2A and S3.4A of Volume three of the Criminal Statistics Supplementary Tables show for magistrates courts and the Crown court respectively, the number of persons sentenced for indictable offences to action plan orders, referral orders and detention and training orders by

police force area. These can be found on the Home Office website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/cs2004vol3pt2.xls and http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/cs2004vol3pt4.xls.

(f) Child safety orders. Two child safety orders were made during piloting in 1999 and two more were reported during 2003. New arrangements for the collection of historic and ongoing statistics about child safety orders are being considered in conjunction with the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

(h) Parenting orders. Parenting orders were piloted between 30 Sept 1998 and 31 March 2000 during which period 284 parenting orders were made of which 174 were made during criminal proceedings for offences committed by the child or young person but data showing the breakdown by area are not available. Parenting orders were commenced in England and Wales in June 2000. The Youth Justice Board (the YJB) collects the number of parenting orders by youth offending team area as reported to it by youth offending teams. (Table 1) which highlights the number of parenting orders made in England and Wales April 2000-March 2004 will be placed in the Library.

(i) Parenting contracts. The YJB collects the number of parenting contracts related to youth offending or antisocial behaviour by youth offending team area as reported to it by youth offending teams. Table 2 which highlights the number of Parenting Contracts made in England and Wales April 2000-March 2004 will be placed in the Library.

(j) Local child curfew schemes. No applications have been made to the Home Secretary for the approval of local child curfew schemes.

(k) Dispersal orders. Information about the use of dispersal powers can be found in the document "Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour: The Story So Far and The Move to Respect" on the Respect website at: http://www.respect.gov.uk/whats-being-done/Respect_Tackling_anti-social_behaviour_the_story_so_far_and_the_move_to_Respect.pdf

(l) Penalty notices for disorder. Data on the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in 2004 broken down by police force area can be found at the following web link: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/spnd.html.

(q) Designated public place orders. Information on the number of designated public places orders that have been introduced in each local authority area can be found at the following web link: www.crimereduction.gov.uk/alcoholorders01.htm.

We have started a programme of work in the Home Office looking at the quality of existing data and how this might be improved.

Statistics on *(n)* seizure of vehicles used anti-socially, *(o)* closure of licensed premises and *(p)* confiscation of alcohol from young people are not collected by the Home Office.

Note

Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile these figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. These data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces and other organisations. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is given to the national probation service on requests by accredited media for the release of visual images of those on whom an antisocial behaviour order is served; and if he will make a statement. [55614]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 March 2006]:* A key part of each crime and disorder reduction partnership's (CDRP) antisocial behaviour strategy is promoting the community's awareness of actions taken to tackle specific problems. This includes ensuring that victims, witnesses and the community are aware of any ASBOs in force in their area. Publicity also helps the community to police such orders, acts as a deterrent to other potential offenders, and increases public confidence that local agencies are able to deal effectively with this type of problem. Publicity has to be proportionate to the achievement of these objectives, and is therefore the norm, not the exception.

CDRPs have access to guidance about ASBO publicity on the www.together website, which reflects the judgment given in R. (on application of Stanley, Marshall and Kelly) *v.* Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and chief executive of London borough of Brent (2004) EWHC 2229 (admin), commonly referred to as Stanley *v.* Brent.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 537W, on antisocial behaviour orders, how many antisocial behaviour orders have been breached in each criminal justice area in each year since their introduction. [88391]

John Reid: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBO) breach data are currently available for the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003. Available information by Criminal Justice System (CJS) area is given in the following table. More up to date data are being validated before publication and will be published in due course.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) breached as reported to the Home Office from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003

CJS area	Number of ASBOs breached
Avon and Somerset	17
Bedfordshire	12
Cambridgeshire	8
Cheshire	15
Cleveland	17
Cumbria	17
Derbyshire	11
Devon and Cornwall	8
Dorset	2
Durham	26
Essex	2
Gloucestershire	5
Greater London	46
Greater Manchester	138
Hampshire	20
Hertfordshire	9
Humberside	10
Kent	7
Lancashire	37
Leicestershire	4

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) breached as reported to the Home Office from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003

CJS area	Number of ASBOs breached
Lincolnshire	5
Merseyside	22
Norfolk	11
Northamptonshire	1
Northumbria	15
North Yorkshire	8
Nottinghamshire	13
South Yorkshire	24
Staffordshire	15
Suffolk	9
Surrey	4
Sussex	18
Thames Valley	8
Warwickshire	14
West Mercia	48
West Midlands	81
West Yorkshire	49
Wiltshire	3
England	759
Dyfed Powys	5
Gwent	5
North Wales	11
South Wales	13
Wales	34
Total England and Wales	793

[1] Breaches are counted in this table on a persons basis, i.e. multiple breaches (occurring at the same time), or where the order has been breached on more than one occasion, are all counted as one breach.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued by Kirklees council in each year since their introduction. [88636]

Mr. McNulty: Antisocial behaviour orders are issued by the courts. Relevant authorities may apply for an order to be issued at the magistrates court, acting in its civil capacity, or the county court, where there are existing proceedings. The available information is given in the table.

Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, where prohibitions have been imposed in Kirklees metropolitan council local government authority area, by applicant, where applicable[1], and period, from 1 June 2000[2] up to 30 September 2005 (latest available)

	Kirklees metropolitan council	West Yorkshire police	Order on conviction[3]	Total
1 June 2000 to 31 December 2000				
2001	4	—	—	4
2002	3	2	—	5
2003	11	—	1	12
2004	6	—	17	23
1 January 2005 to 30 September 2005	9	—	8	17
Total	33	2	26	61

[1] Applicant details are collected on those orders issued in the civil courts on application.
[2] From commencement (1 April 1999) to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area.
[3] Following introduction of the Police Reform Act (2002) ASBOs are available to the courts following conviction of a criminal offence.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued since their introduction; how many have been breached; and how many breaches have resulted in a custodial sentence. [88718]

Mr. McNulty: From commencement, 1 April 1999 to 30 September 2005 (latest available) the number of antisocial behavior orders (ASBOs) issued within England and Wales was 7,356.

ASBO breach data only ever cover breach proceedings where there has been a conviction. Those data are currently available for the period 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2003 for ASBOs issued since 1 June 2000. During this period, of the 793 persons convicted for breaching their ASBO, on one or more occasions, 186 received a custodial sentence for breach of ASBO only.

More up to date breach data are being validated before publication and will be published in due course.

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued by *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* Nottingham city council in each of the last three years. [82303]

Mr. McNulty: Antisocial behaviour orders are issued by the courts. Relevant authorities may apply for an order to be issued at the magistrates court, acting in its civil capacity, or the county court, where there are existing proceedings. The available information is given in the table.

Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, where prohibitions have been imposed in specified local government authority (lga) areas, by applicant, where applicable[1], and period

Lga area/type of applicant	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[2]*	*Total*
Stoke-on-Trent City council	8	21	20	49
of which				
Local authority applicant	—	2	3	5
Other applicant	—	2	—	2
Order on conviction	8	17	17	42
Birmingham city council	25	72	76	173
of which				
Local authority applicant	2	10	23	35
Other applicant	4	1	3	8
Order on conviction	19	61	50	130
Nottingham city council	9	48	50	107
of which				
Local authority applicant	2	1	19	22
Other applicant				
Order on conviction	7	47	31	85

[1] Applicant details are collected on those orders issued in the civil courts on application.
[2] From 1 January to 30 September 2005 (latest available).

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in each London borough in each of the last five years to *(a)* under 12 year olds, *(b)* 12 year olds, *(c)* 13 year olds, *(d)* 14 year olds, *(e)* 15 year olds, *(f)* 16 year olds, *(g)* 17 year olds and *(h)* 18 years and over, broken down by *(i)* sex and (ii) ethnicity. [87706]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the table, a copy of which will be placed in the Library. Ethnicity is not collected centrally as part of the data collection of antisocial behaviour orders issued.

Counter-terrorism

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of his Department's progress in implementing the 12-point anti-terrorism plan announced by the Prime Minister on 5 August 2005. [54923]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement which I made on 15 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 167-171WS which gave a full progress report on the 12-point plan outlined by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 5 August 2005.

There has been significant progress in the period since 15 December 2005. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Lebanon and the Terrorism and the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bills, which will enable us to give effect to a number of elements of the plan, are well advanced in their parliamentary passage.

As indicated in my written ministerial statement, a further comprehensive report on progress will be given before the summer recess

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans his Department has implemented to prevent a future terrorist attack in the UK. [74265]

Mr. McNulty: The Government's counter terrorism strategy—known as CONTEST—was published on 10 July and explains the framework we have implemented to prevent a future terrorist attack in the UK. The Government are necessarily limited in what they can say about our counter-terrorism measures but the publication does give information about specific initiatives where it is possible to do so.

The strategy is wide-ranging involving the whole of Government, international partners and agencies, including the police and intelligence agencies and our citizens in the UK from all communities. It is structured around four principal strands which are closely linked and together form an integrated and balanced approach. The strands focus on preventing terrorism through tackling the radicalisation of individuals; pursuing terrorists by disrupting their operations; protecting the UK's key assets at home and abroad; and ensuring that the UK is prepared to deal with the consequences of a terrorist attack.

Application Registration Cards

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people given conditional temporary admissions to the UK had their Application Registration Card removed because of failure to meet the specified conditions between 1 January and 30 June. [85346]

Mr. Byrne: Current policy is that an ARC should only be taken from an applicant upon a grant of leave, prior to removal, or where there are grounds to suspect that the card has been falsified. Data on impounded Application Registration Cards (ARC) are not routinely kept.

Approved Premises

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many approved premises there are in England and Wales; and how many places there are in such premises. [87793]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are 104 Approved Premises in England and Wales. On 28 February, the latest date for which figures are available, 2,273 bed spaces were approved by the Secretary of State under Section 9 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 for use by residents.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bail hostels there are in England and Wales; where they are located; and what

his Department's criteria are for admission as a resident by *(a)* offenders and *(b)* defendants on remand. [88812]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 July 2006]*: There are 104 Approved Premises (formerly known as bail and probation hostels) located throughout England and Wales.

Under section 9 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, Approved Premises may admit defendants on bail in criminal proceedings, offenders serving community sentences and offenders on post-custodial licences. In addition, with the approval of the Secretary of State, some voluntary residents may be accommodated for public protection, supervision or treatment reasons.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents there are at the Ryecroft Bail Hostel, Gloucester; what offences have been committed by each; how many are on *(a)* life sentence licence and *(b)* other post-custody licences having committed offences of (i) murder or manslaughter and (ii) rape or other sexual offences against (A) adults and (B) children; how many are on the sex offenders' register; how many are on tags or curfews; how many supervising staff are employed at the hostel; what their qualifications are; and what discussions he and his officials have had and on which dates with (1) their counterparts from the Department for Education and Skills, (2) hon. Members and (3) members and officials of (x) Gloucester city council and (y) Gloucestershire county council about the residents of the hostel. [88813]

Mr. McNulty: Ryecroft is approved by the Secretary of State to accommodate a maximum of 16 residents. Actual occupancy will vary on a day to day basis. Statistical information about the type of offences committed by offenders residing at an approved premises and the licence conditions to which they are subject at any one time is not collected centrally. Certain offenders are placed in approved premises, where they can be closely monitored by offender managers and by staff in approved premises. Since offenders are managed locally, it is appropriate that local offender managers should have comprehensive information on offenders, including the type of offence they have committed. Information about the numbers of staff at individual approved premises and their qualifications is not collected by the Home Office.

A meeting to discuss proposals to vary the admissions criteria at Ryecroft approved premises was held in August 2005. This was attended by the local MP, a Home Office official and representatives of the Gloucestershire probation area. The latter have had ongoing discussions about the proposals with representatives of the city and county councils.

Arabic Interpreters

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Arabic interpreters are available to the police, broken down by police authority area. [86812]

Mr. McNulty: We do not hold information on the supply of interpreters in particular languages to individual police forces. Code C issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 states (at paragraph 13.1) that chief officers of police are responsible for ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place for people who cannot speak English and provides that interpreters should be drawn from the National Register of Public Service Interpreters. There exists more detailed national guidance regarding interpreters in the criminal justice system and this is currently under review by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, with the Association of Chief Police Officers and other interested parties. The National Register of Public Service Interpreters is maintained by a not-for-profit limited company, which is a subsidiary of the Chartered Institute of Linguists. I understand that there are 120 Arabic interpreters on the current Register and that many of these are available to work in more than one police area.

Arrests (Firearm Smuggling)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for attempting to smuggle a firearm into the UK in each of the last five years; and what average sentence was imposed on those convicted. [86790]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on arrests collected centrally in England and Wales is based on persons arrested for "notifiable" offences by main offence group only and does not identify individual offences.

It is not possible to identify from the Home Office Court Proceedings Database (which relates to England and Wales) the offence of attempting to smuggle a firearm into the country.

Information relating to Northern Ireland and Scotland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office and the Scottish Executive respectively.

Assaults

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attacks there have been on *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* probation officers in each (i) prison and (ii) probation service area in each of the last five years. [89149]

John Reid: The following table details the number of assaults on staff by prisoners for the last five years as reported on the central incident reporting system for prisons in England and Wales. It is not possible to differentiate the grades of staff assaulted from these central records. There are no central records on the number of assaults that take place on probation officers in probation service areas.

Number of assaults on staff by prisoners for the last five years in prisons in England and Wales

	Prisoner on prison staff assaults
2001	2,468
2002	2,587
2003	2,604
2004	2,887
2005	3,209
Total	13,755

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* essential needs and *(b)* minimum weekly costs of unsuccessful asylum seekers his Department is required to meet; and if he will make a statement. [64109]

Mr. McNulty: Destitute unsuccessful asylum seeking families with minor dependants normally continue to receive support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The average cost of section 95 support, including accommodation and subsistence, from un-audited April 2005 to November 2005 financial information, is estimated at £141 per person per week. Other destitute unsuccessful asylum applicants who meet the eligibility criteria may be supported under section four of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Support is normally provided in self-catering accommodation with vouchers provided for the purchase of food and essential toiletries. The average cost of section four support for the period April 2005 to November 2005 is estimated at £129 per person per week.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Russian nationals have been granted political asylum since 1 January 2005; and how many of them *(a)* were facing criminal charges in Russia and *(b)* have been subject to requests for extradition by the Russian authorities. [84172]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* 25 (rounded to the nearest five) Russian nationals have been granted asylum between 1 January 2005 and 31 March 2006. According to management information figures, four of those have also been the subjects of requests by the Russian Federation for extradition.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of processing an asylum application, including support, is according to the most recently available figures. [84812]

Mr. Byrne: The most recently audited figure for the average cost of processing an asylum application in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, including support, is £3,050. This figure represents the average cost for asylum screening and initial decision but excludes legal aid and is derived from the National Audit Office report "Improving the Speed and Quality of Asylum Decisions", HC535 Session 2003-04, publication date 23 June 2004.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications were received from Somalia in each of the last five years; how many have been in 2006-07; how many of these have been (i) approved, (ii) rejected and (iii) not determined; and how many Somali people have been returned under immigration law. [85003]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* Available information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Somalia are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html. The next publication covering the second quarter of 2006 will be published on the 22 August 2006.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the daily food budget is per person for asylum seekers in asylum seeker detention centres. [85101]

Mr. Byrne: The average daily cost of detaining a person in an immigration removal centre is £116. This includes the cost of providing three meals a day for each detainee.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers whose cases failed had an address in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne at the point of failure in each year from 2000 to 2005. [86567]

Mr. Byrne: Available statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives. The numbers of asylum seekers supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) are published on a quarterly and annual basis, broken down by local authority. Data on asylum seekers supported by NASS broken down by parliamentary constituency are also available from the Library of the House.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications were received from *(a)* Sierra Leone, *(b)* Indonesia, *(c)* the Democratic Republic of Congo and *(d)* Angola in each of last five years; how many have been received from each country in 2006-07; how many have (i) been approved, (ii) been rejected and (iii) not been determined in each case; and how many people from each country have been returned under immigration law. [86884]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The information requested is not available. Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals by nationality are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html. The next publication covering the second quarter of 2006 will be published on the 22 August 2006.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removals of failed asylum applicants have been made in the last *(a)* one, *(b)* three and *(c)* 12 months. [85747]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* Information relating to the number of removals of asylum applicants is available from the Quarterly Asylum Statistics bulletin published in May 2006. At present the latest figures available correspond to the first quarter of 2006. Statistics on immigration and asylum, including the Quarterly Asylum bulletin,

are available on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the difference has been between the number of failed asylum seekers removed and the number of new applications for asylum in each of the last 12 months. [85749]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* Information on the number of failed asylum seekers removed and the number of new applications for asylum has been published as part of the public performance target: removing more failed asylum seekers than new anticipated unfounded applications. Copies of this report are available at the IND website: http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/tippingpointsresults.pdf

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any person granted family indefinite leave to remain since October 2003 had at the time of approval *(a)* a criminal conviction and *(b)* been the subject of (i) an antisocial behaviour order and (ii) a sex offender order. [85750]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* I am advised that from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate internal records we are aware that we have, due to the exceptional nature of their cases indefinite leave to remain was granted to three families, where the applicant had an unspent criminal conviction for a recordable offence. None of these people were the subject of an antisocial behaviour or a sex offender order. In addition, four cases involving unspent convictions for non-recordable offences were also granted on a discretionary basis due to exceptional circumstances.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been granted family indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in each *(a)* month, *(b)* quarter and *(c)* year since the family ILR exercise began. [85751]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* Information on the Family ILR Exercise is published quarterly and annually. Copies are available from the Library and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

Month	*Indefinite leave to enter (ILE)*	*Indefinite leave to remain (ILR)*	*Grand total*
2004			
January	5	60	65
February	65	635	700
March	870	1,060	1,930
April	610	565	1,175
May	405	530	935
June	580	395	975
July	240	245	485
August	265	265	530
September	180	165	345
October	115	140	255
November	290	370	660
December	230	335	565
2005			
January	230	390	620
February	280	390	670
March	225	345	570
April	295	410	705
May	290	390	680
June	300	475	775
July	450	490	940
August	580	910	1,490
September	615	780	1,395
October	585	715	1,300
November	560	745	1,305
December	360	475	835
2006			
January	365	525	890
February	320	460	780
March	570	780	1,350
Grand Total	9,880	13,045	22,925

Quarter	*Indefinite leave to enter (ILE)*	*Indefinite leave to remain (ILR)*	*Grand total*
2004			
Q1	940	1,755	2,695
Q2	1,595	1,490	3,085
Q3	685	675	1,360
Q4	635	845	1,480
2005			
Q1	735	1,125	1,860
Q2	885	1,275	2,160
Q3	1,645	2,180	3,825
Q4	1,505	1,935	3,440
2006			
Q1	1,255	1,765	3,020
Grand Total	9,880	13,045	22,925

	Indefinite leave to enter (ILE)	*Indefinite leave to remain (ILR)*	*Grand total*
2004	3,855	4,765	8,620
2005	4,770	6,515	11,285
2006 (to 31/3)	1,255	1,765	3,020
Grand Total	9,880	13,045	22,925

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former members of the armed forces from *(a)* Commonwealth and *(b)* other countries subsequently applied to become British citizens in each year since 1997. [85805]

Mr. Byrne: An applicant's former or current occupation is not separately recorded and these statistics could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of asylum seekers who are not complying with reporting requirements to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [85865]

Mr. Byrne: Since April 2005 we have been monitoring the level of compliance with reporting requirements. Individuals who are placed on a reporting restriction are required to report at a reporting centre or a police station at regular intervals. This interval will vary from a daily reporting event up to reporting each month depending upon individual circumstances. Information we have indicates that four out of five of all planned reporting events in 2005-06 took place.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees held under immigration powers are on hunger strike in each institution. [85397]

John Reid: We record detainees who have refused to eat the meals provided. Records indicate that on 12 July there were three detainees who had refused to take the meals provided for three days or more. I am advised that one person is detained at Colnbrook and two are detained at Harmondsworth. All three are taking fluids and two are known to be buying food from the centre's shop.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been detained for 21 days or more in immigration detention centres in each of the last 10 years. [75518]

Mr. Byrne: Period statistics covering October to December 2005 have been published in the latest Quarterly Asylum bulletin. Published editions of this bulletin and other information on immigration and asylum are available on the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of Regulation *(a)* 364, *(b)* 365, *(c)* 366, *(d)* 367 and *(e)* 368 of the Immigration Rules; what recent representations he has received about the operation of rules; and whether he plans to amend these rules. [70361]

Mr. Byrne: In all cases the Immigration Rules (paragraph 364) require that the Secretary of State will take into account all relevant factors, including those listed in paragraph 364, known to him before a decision to deport is taken.

Where a spouse, civil partner, or dependent child under the age of 18 of a person who is or has been deported are themselves liable to deportation, the case must, in addition, be considered in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 365-68 of the Immigration Rules.

On 19 July my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary laid a statement of change to the Immigration Rules. This amends paragraph 364 of the rules to set out that where an individual is liable to deportation the presumption will be that the public interest requires deportation. While the Secretary of State will consider all relevant factors in deciding whether this presumption is outweighed in any particular case it will only be in exceptional circumstances that the public interest will be outweighed in a case where it would not be contrary to our international obligations to deport.

Paragraphs 365 to 368 of the rules, which relate to spouses, civil partners and children of persons against whom a deportation order has been made, are not being substantively amended at this time but paragraph 367 is being amended to reflect the changes to paragraph 364.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary also reported to the House on the progress of the eight priority areas for management action to improve the way the Department deals with the deportation of foreign national prisoners. We will keep the Immigration Rules relating to deportation under review in the light of that work.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Immigration Service staff were employed at UK *(a)* seaports and *(b)* airports in each of the last five years. [87297]

John Reid: Overall, numbers of Border Control staff have risen.

In 2001 the figure for full-time equivalent immigration control staff was 1,830.2, in 2002 the figure was 2,194, in 2003 the figure was 2,322.7, in 2004 the figure was 2,474.7, in 2005 the figure was 2,501.4 and in 2006 the figure is currently 3,594.6.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been made under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. [88653]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on prosecutions is taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The most recent year for which data are available is 2004. Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006, and data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Some sections of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 came into force in June this year and the other sections are being progressively commenced over time. Information on prosecutions under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 is therefore not yet available.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the Ministers with responsibility for immigration and asylum have been since May 1997; and what responsibilities each Minister had. [73802]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the Ministers that had responsibility for Immigration and Asylum since May 1997 is provided in the attached table. A publication called the List of Ministerial Responsibilities which provides details of departmental and ministerial responsibilities and contact details for Minister's offices is available on line at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilities/index.asp

Responsibility for Immigration and Asylum

	1997
Mike O'Brien: May 1997 to July 1999	Immigration and nationality;
	community relations;
	Passport agency; and also deals with House of Commons business on constitutional issues.
	1998 (October) - 1999
	immigration and nationality;
	asylum;
	community relations; and
	Passport agency.
Mrs Barbara Roche: July 1999 to June 2001	Immigration and asylum;
	Nationality;
	Passport Agency; and EU matters.
Jeff Rooker: June 2001 to May 2002	Responsible for all Home Office business in the House of Lords.
	Immigration and asylum;
	Nationality;
	Work Permits; and
	Passport Agency.
Ms Beverley Hughes: May 2002-2004	Citizenship;
	Immigration; and
	Community Cohesion.
	2003 (July)
	Nationality, Immigration and Asylum, including work permits;
	Nationality, including coherent citizenship and inward migration policies;
	UK Passport Agency;
	Identity Cards;
	Counter-terrorism and resilience;
	Strategic oversight of policy on civil renewal; and
	Responsibility for women's issues.
Des Browne: April 2004 to May 2005	Nationality, Immigration and Asylum, including work permits;
	Nationality, including coherent citizenship and inward migration policies;
	People trafficking; and UK Passport Agency and identity cards.
Tony McNulty: 2005-06	Immigration;
	Asylum; and
	Nationality, naturalisation and citizenship.
Liam Byrne: May 2006	Nationality, naturalisation and citizenship;
	Immigration;
	Asylum.
	He also has cross-departmental responsibility for delivery.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to change the management structure in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [77402]

Mr. Byrne: As part of the fundamental review of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate currently underway we are further considering the future management structure of the organisation. Ministers reported their findings on 25 July. The report can be found at www.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Automatic Gait Recognition Technology

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the *(a)* reliability and *(b)* effectiveness of automatic gait recognition technology in tackling crime; if he will make resources available to make this technology more widely available to the police; and if he will make a statement. [85960]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 July 2006]:* The Home Office continues to explore the application of new authentication and identification technologies through the Biometric Centre of Expertise at the Home Office Scientific Development Branch. The Centre has tracked research in this field and has been in discussion with the National Offender Management Service on potential applications for gait recognition.

Gait recognition is one of a group of biometric technologies which are predominantly behavioural in character, in contrast with the mainly physiologically determined technologies such as facial recognition, fingerprint identification and iris biometrics, where there is more performance data and a longer history of research, development and deployment. Work on development of robust solutions using gait recognition is relatively recent and the Home Office is aware that one of the premier centres of research in the field is in the UK at Southampton University. It is recognised that automatic gait recognition has potential to support systems that protect the public, but this technology needs further development and validation before it can be considered for deployment on a routine basis.

Biometric Cards

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many immigrants had been issued with a biometric card under the RepARC system on 30 April; [75777]

(2) by what date he expects all immigrants reporting to centres using the RepARC system to be issued with a biometric card; [75781]

(3) what the average time taken was to process biometric cards given to immigrants using the RepARC system; and if he will make a statement. [75778]

Joan Ryan: I hope that, as the subject matter of the above questions are closely linked, it will be helpful if I deal with them in one reply. The Reporting Application Registration Card (RepARC) Project was introduced in 2004 to create an automated link between compliance with reporting restrictions attached to temporary admission and access to asylum support payments. All asylum applicants are issued with an Application Registration Card (ARC), which is a biometric card containing fingerprint data and is also used as the method of collection for asylum support payments. In the RepARC system, ARCs are electronically revalidated at reporting events. Such events take 3-4 minutes including the process of checking identity and revalidation. Failure to report on two consecutive occasions leads to expiry of the card, and presentation of an expired card at a post office leads to denial of asylum support payments. This supports our policy of having in place a link between compliance with all aspects of the asylum process and access to support. If payment is suspended as described above, the remedy for the applicant is to resume reporting. If this does not happen, the case is referred to enforcement officers to locate the applicant; formal discontinuation of support may follow after eight weeks. Rollout of the RepARC process to all 11 IND reporting centres commenced in October 2005, in conjunction with the implementation of section 69 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (the payment of travel expenses for reporting). Key external stakeholders have been kept fully informed of the rollout timetable, which has so far delivered the system to the reporting centres in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Croydon, Glasgow, Solihull and two London centres. Rollout to the remaining reporting centres (north London, North Shields and Folkestone) will be complete by 31 July 2006, by which date it is expected that all NASS-supported applicants reporting to these sites will be reporting with an ARC. Non NASS-supported applicants are not covered by the RepARC scheme, although all asylum applicants are issued with ARCs. As of 30 April, 4250 asylum seekers with biometric ARCS, the total of all NASS supported asylum seekers who report to RepARC-enabled centres, were reporting within the RepARC system. Non NASS-supported applicants do not fall within the RepARC system but are still issued with ARCs, which are frequently used at reporting events to verify identity.

British Crime Survey

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people participated in the 2005-06 British Crime Survey. [88539]

Mr. McNulty: The British Crime Survey comprises a core sample of the general population of adults resident in private households in England and Wales and separate boost samples of young people (aged 16 to 24 years) and adults from black and minority ethnic groups.

Between April 2005 and March 2006, 47,796 adults were interviewed as part of the core sample, 2,259 as part of the youth boost sample and 3,176 as part of the BME boost sample; giving a total of 53,231 adults interviewed.

British Sign Language

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines are laid down by his Department to govern the procedures for accessing British Sign Language interpreters and lipspeakers on a 24 hour basis for deaf people requiring assistance at police stations. [86913]

Mr. McNulty: Code C issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 states (at paragraph 13.1) that chief officers of police are responsible for ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place for people who are deaf. The Code provides that sign language interpreters should be drawn from the Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People Directory of British Sign Language/English Interpreters. The Code also makes it clear that if a person appears to be deaf or there is doubt about their hearing or speaking ability, they must not be interviewed in the absence of an interpreter unless they agree in writing to being interviewed without one. There exists more detailed national guidance regarding interpreters in the criminal justice system and that is currently under review by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, with the Association of Chief Police Officers and other interested parties.

Burglars (Custodial Sentences)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of burglars convicted for a third offence received a custodial sentence in the most recent year for which information is available; and what the average length of sentence was for those sentenced to custody. [89150]

John Reid: This is a complex piece of analysis last undertaken in 2005 for Parliamentary Question 216331 the results of which are repeated as follows. Since then, the main data source for criminal information has changed from the Offenders Index to the Police National Computer. No similar sample or programs are currently available for us to conduct more up to date analysis. The table gives the numbers sentenced for their third burglary offence. The numbers are for a four week period in 2001, derived from the Offenders Index. The figures include attempted burglaries, as it is not possible to distinguish between an actual and attempted burglary on the Offenders Index.

Burglars convicted for their third offence (by type of burglary)

	[1] *Burglary in a dwelling*	[2] *Burglary not in a dwelling*
Number sentenced (for the third offence)	99	89
Number sentenced to custody	75	42
Proportion sentenced to custody (%)	76	47

Burglars convicted for their third offence (by type of burglary)

	[1] *Burglary in a dwelling*	[2] *Burglary not in a dwelling*
Average sentence length (months)	17.7	10

[1] Includes only previous convictions for burglary in a dwelling. Please note that definition and coverage is different from s111 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.
[2] Includes only previous convictions for burglary not in a dwelling

Thermal Imaging

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of thermal imaging cameras *(a)* in the detection of cannabis factories and *(b)* in detecting other crimes; whether he plans to ensure that this equipment is available to all police forces; and if he will make a statement. [85997]

Joan Ryan: No scientific assessment has been made by HOSDB of the merits of using thermal imaging cameras for the detection of cannabis factories. The ability to detect cannabis factories was first recognised in the 1990s with the introduction of thermal imaging equipment to police air support craft. Small hand-held thermal imagers have more recently become available to the UK law enforcement community leading to the recent increase in ground use.

In detecting other crimes, assessments are being made of the technology for detecting prison escape and breaches of security barriers. Assessments are being made of the technology in a variety of other circumstances, however revealing the exact nature of the offences or the results could compromise the effectiveness of the technique. No formal scientific assessment has been made for detecting property crimes (e.g. vehicle theft, burglary) but these are frequently detected by the use of thermal imaging equipment from police operated aircraft and helicopters.

The vast majority of police forces in England and Wales have access to an air support unit and these are all fitted with thermal imaging technology. No formal purchasing arrangement is in place for police forces to procure hand-held thermal imagers and thermal imaging equipment is still perceived as an expensive technology by the service (typically £6,000 to £8,000 per unit).

The Home Office Scientific Development Branch owns five different types (over twenty items) of thermal imager, which can be used for a variety of activities including the detection of cannabis factories. These are available to all police forces in England and Wales to borrow free-of-charge for specific operations.

Cash Handling Centres

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 743W, on cash handling centres, what assessment he has made of whether appropriate action was taken following 20 December 2004 to review security arrangements at major cash handling centres in England and Wales. [63582]

Mr. McNulty: The annual National Threat Assessment (NTA) prepared by National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) in conjunction with other police forces, provides the intelligence which allows cash handling centres to review, with police forces, the appropriateness of their security arrangements.

The last published assessment by NCIS for the period 2004-05 to 2005-06 took account of major incidents over the past year and concluded that this did not amount to an overall increased level of risk at this time. Officials are continuing to work with the private security industry to identify ways to update and disseminate good practice.

CCTV

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* grants and *(b)* other sources of revenue are available to install and maintain CCTV surveillance cameras in small towns and villages in rural England; and if he will make a statement. [81119]

Mr. McNulty: Between 1999 and 2003, major investment was made in CCTV through the Crime Reduction Programme (CRP). A total of £170 million of Home Office capital funding was made available to local authorities following a bidding round. Through this, more than 680 CCTV schemes were installed in town centres. The end of the Crime Reduction Programme signalled the end of a dedicated central funding regime for CCTV. After the conclusion of the CRP, crime reduction funding moved to a structure that saw it being directly allocated to local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Basic Command Units to enable them to tackle local crime priorities using a number of interventions including CCTV.

In 2006-07 the Safer Stronger Communities Fund, totalling at least £220 million is available to Local Area Partnerships including local authorities and CDRPs who can decide, from within this envelope, how much to allocate to the installation of CCTV.

Child Sex Offences

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many perpetrators of child abuse are known to his Department, broken down by age group; and how many in each age group have received treatment for their offending. [82375]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* There is no specific offence of child abuse. It is not possible to identify the number of offences of assault and harassment offences which were committed against children. There are, however, a number of offences specifically relating to child victims for which data are available from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The number of defendants found guilty of these offences in 2004 is provided in the following table. Information on whether these offenders are receiving treatment is not centrally collected, however the current target is for 1,240 sex offenders to complete treatment in custody and a further 1,200 to complete treatment in the community during 2006-07.

Number of defendants found guilty of offences related to child abuse, by age group of offender England and Wales 2004[1,2]

Offence class and principal statute	*Offence description*	*10 to 17*	*18 to 20*	*21 and over*	*All ages*
Cruelty to or neglect of children					
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 Sec 1.	Cruelty or neglect of children	3	55	482	540
Buggery					
Sexual Offences .Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Sec 143, 144	Buggery or attempted buggery by a male of a male under 16	5	—	47	52
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 143,144.	Buggery or attempted buggery by a male with a female under 16	—	1	5	6
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Sec 143.144.	Buggery or attempted buggery by a male aged 21 or over with a female aged 16 or 17	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 S1	Buggery or attempted buggery by a male aged 18 to 20 with a female aged under 16	—	1	—	1
Indecent assault on a male					
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 15.	Indecent assault on male person under 16 years	45	15	217	277
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.6	Assault of a male child under 13 by penetration	1	—	1	2
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 7	Sexual assault of a male child under 13	4	—	3	7
Indecency between males					
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Secs 12, 13 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 144.	Gross indecency by a male aged 21 or over with a male aged under 18	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 13 as amended by Sexual Offences(Amendment) Act 2000 S.1	Gross indecency or indecency by a male aged 21 or over with male aged under 16	—	—	1	1
Rape					
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Rape of a female aged under 16	14	9	252	275
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Rape of a male aged under 16	7	1	20	28
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Attempted rape of a female aged under 16	5	1	35	41
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Attempted rape of a male aged under 16	5	—	2	7
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	Rape of a female child under 13 by a male	1	1	3	5
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	1	—	—	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	Attempted rape of a male child under 13 by a male	1	—	—	1
Indecent assault on a female					
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 14 as amended by Indecency with Children Act 1960 Sec 2.	Indecent assault on females under 16 years of age	193	58	974	1,225
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.6	Assault of a female child under 13 by penetration	2	—	5	7
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 7	Sexual assault of a female child under 13	9	1	24	34
Unlawful sexual intercourse with a child under 13					
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 5.	Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 13	8	—	1	9
Sexual offences Act 1956 S.5	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	8	9	36	53
Sexual Offences Act 2003 3.8(1X2)	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity—penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.8(1)(3)	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity—no penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.8 (1)(2)	Causing or inciting a male child under 13 to engage in sexual activity—penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b.cii)(2)	Sexual activity with a female child under 13—offender aged 18 or over—penetration	—	—	2	2

Number of defendants found guilty of offences related to child abuse, by age group of offender England and Wales 2004[1,2]

Offence class and principal statute	*Offence description*	*10 to 17*	*18 to 20*	*21 and over*	*All ages*
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(2)	Sexual activity with a male child under 13—offender aged 18 or over—penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 10(1,a,b,c(ii))(2)	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity offender aged 18 or over—penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 11(1 a,b,c,d(ii))(2)	Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 13(offender aged 18 or over)	—	—	6	6
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S12 (1 a,b,c(ii)X2)	Causing a child under 13 to watch a sexual act(offender aged 18 or over)	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b.cii)(2) and S13	Sexual activity with a female child under 13—offender aged under 18	2	—	1	3
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a.b,cii)(2) and S13	Sexual activity with a male child under 13—offender aged under 18	1	—	—	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 11(1 a,b,c.d(ii))(2) and S13	Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 13—offender under 18	1	—	—	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(3)	Sexual activity with a female child under 13—offender aged 18 or over—no penetration	—	1	4	5
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b.cii)(3) and 13	Sexual activity with a male child under 13—offender aged under 18—no penetration	3	—	—	3
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 10(1.a.b.c(ii)X3) and 13	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity offender aged under 18—no penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 10(1,a,b,c(ii))(3) and 13	Causing or inciting a male child under 13 to engage in sexual activity offender aged under 18—no penetration	2	—	—	2
Unlawful sexual intercourse with a child					
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 6.	Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 16.	12	15	43	70
Sexual offences Act 1956 S.6	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16	9	31	118	158
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.4(1-4)	Causing a female person to engage in sexual activity without consent—penetration	1	—	—	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.4(1-4)	Causing a male person to engage in sexual activity without consent—penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 3.4(1-3.5)	Causing a female person to engage in sexual activity without consent—no penetration	—	—	2	2
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1,a,b,ci)(2)	Sexual activity with a female child under 16 (offender aged 18 or over)—penetration	—	9	29	38
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1,a.b.ci)(2)	Sexual activity with a male child under 16 (offender aged 18 or over)—penetration	—	—	2	2
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.10(1a,b,ci)(2)	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity(offender aged 18 or over)—penetration	—	—	3	3
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 10(1a,b.ci)(2)	Causing or inciting a male child under 16 to engage in sexual activity(offender aged 18 or over)—penetration	—	—	2	2
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 11(1 a.b.c.d(i))(2)	Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 16(offender aged 18 or over)	—	—	5	5
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S12 (1 a,b,c(i))(2)	Causing a child under 16 to watch a sexual act(offender aged 18 or over)	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.91,a,b,ciX2) and S.13	Sexual activity with a female child under 16—offender under 18	8	—	—	8
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 10(1,a,b,c(i))(2) and S.13	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity—offender under 18	1	—	—	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1.a,b,ci)(3)	Sexual activity with a female child under 16 offender aged 18 or over—no penetration	—	—	10	10
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.10(1a.b,ci)(3)	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity(offender aged 18 or over)—no penetration	—	—	3	3
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1,a.b.ci)(3) and 13	Sexual activity with a female child under 16 (offender aged under18)—no penetration	1	—	—	1
Incest					
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 10, 11.	Incest with girl under 13 years old	3	1	6	10
Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 10. 11.	Other incest	—	—	14	14

Number of defendants found guilty of offences related to child abuse, by age group of offender England and Wales 2004[1,2]

Offence class and principal statute	*Offence description*	*10 to 17*	*18 to 20*	*21 and over*	*All ages*
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1ei.2-3.5)	Sexual activity with a female child family member—offender not 18 or over at time of offence and victim 13 to 17—no penetration	2	—	—	2
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1eii,2-4a,6)	Sexual activity with a female child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1ei,2-4b)	Sexual activity with a female child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim 13 to 17—no penetration	—	—	4	4
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1eii.2-4b)	Sexual activity with a female child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—no penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1eii,2-4b)	Sexual activity with a male child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—no penetration	—	—	1	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S26 (1eii,2-4b)	Inciting a female child family member to engage in sexual activity—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—no penetration	—	—	1	1
Abuse of trust—sexual offences					
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S16(1ei,2-5)	Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with a female child. (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is 13 to 17)	—	—	3	3
Miscellaneous sexual offences					
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S15	Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc. (offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16)	—	—	3	3

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many living persons have been convicted of child sex offences under *(a)* the Sexual Offences Act 1956 in the last 30 years and *(b)* part one of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. [82218]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to identify the number of living persons convicted of child sex offences. The Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform holds information about convictions but it does not hold information about whether or not the offender is still alive.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices have been issued by Luton council under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [56548]

Mr. McNulty: The powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 commenced in April this year. Data on the number of fixed penalties issued by local authorities in England will not be collected until the end of the financial year.

Colombia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on whose authority decisions are made about the *(a)* deployment and *(b)* nature of duties of (i) police and (ii) Serious Organised Crime Agency staff deployed to Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [88185]

Mr. Coaker: The operational deployment of SOCA staff is a matter for the Director General.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost was of the Serious Organised Crime Agency's operations in Colombia in 2006; what the projected budget is for 2007; and if he will make a statement. [88186]

Mr. Coaker: This is an operational matter for the Director General of SOCA.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2020W, on Colombia, what instructions were given to British police officers prior to secondment to Colombia with regards to the limits of their work in that country. [88235]

Mr. McNulty: Police officers from forces in England and Wales who travel overseas to provide advice and assistance to an international organisation or other body engaged in policing activities must be authorised to do so by the Home Secretary under section 26 of the Police Act 1996. No such authorisations have been issued in 2006 for officers to deploy to Colombia.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what comments his Department has made regarding the deployment of UK police officers in Colombia to *(a) The Guardian* newspaper and *(b) The Observer* newspaper. [88238]

Mr. McNulty: None.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what basis the Serious Organised Crime Agency staff are deployed in Colombia; and what the consequent liability for their activities in that country is for the Government. [88351]

Mr. Coaker: SOCA staff are deployed overseas on the basis of an assessment of the harm posed to the UK from serious organised crime in that region, and on an understanding of where the best opportunities lie for tackling that harm. Such deployment is with the full knowledge of the host Government. SOCA staff deployed overseas have diplomatic accreditation and are therefore entitled to immunity from criminal, and within certain limited exceptions, jurisdictions of the receiving state.

Communications Officers

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many communications officers were employed on 1 July 2006 by *(a)* the Home Office and *(b)* the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [88148]

John Reid: There are 204 employees within Communications Directorate, 95 of whom are GCN (Government Communications Network) staff.

As at February 2006 there were 84 posts (81 full time equivalents when taking into account part time working patterns) within Immigration and Nationality Directorate where staff were dedicated to undertaking communications roles. This figure includes but is not limited to press officers.

Community Call for Action

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources will be provided to *(a)* local councils and *(b)* local councillors to implement the Community Call for Action. [83018]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Community Call for Action available on the Home Office website at: http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-publications/publication/police-reform/2006-01-17-Community_Call_f1.pdf

Community Cohesion

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why there has been slippage in reducing race inequalities and building community cohesion in relation to Strategic Objective PSA7. [88668]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

Perceptions of discrimination by key public services

The public service agreement examines an aggregate target; it seeks to decrease the percentage of BME people who believe that *one or more* of the eight key public services (the five criminal justice system agencies (Police Service, Prison Service, Courts, CPS and Probation), local GPs, local schools and council housing / housing associations) would discriminate against them and the percentage of BME people feeling they would be treated worse than people of other races by *one or more* of eight public service organisations has remained unchanged since 2001.

These data are disappointing but it is positive to note that individually perceptions of discrimination among BME people across the range of key public services have fallen since 2001, with the exception of council housing/housing associations where the figure remains the same.

We are keen to learn what the key factors are which influence people's views of prejudice and have commissioned research into the drivers of perception which will report this autumn. We are hopeful that final report from this research will enhance our knowledge in this area and our ability to assess what more might be done.

Perceptions of discrimination in the labour market

On the labour market side, HOCS 2005 provided the first milestone since the 2003 baseline. Although there is no significant change on 2003, movement is in the right direction for one of the elements (refused a job). The percentage of people perceiving that they have been discriminated against because of their race when applying for a promotion did not change significantly although it has not moved positively in the direction we would have hoped.

We recognise the need to address issues of progression in the work place for ethnic minorities The CRE's new "Code of Practice on Racial Equality in Employment" took effect from 6 April and will help business to promote diversity, by providing case studies, best practice and other practical guidance. In addition, the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force, led by my hon. Friend the Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform is coordinating work to improve employment chances for ethnic minorities.

Perceptions of community cohesion

As the data for this element of the target were only baselined in the Citizenship Survey 2005, there is no current slippage here.

General

A perceptions based target, this objective is extremely challenging. It requires not just working towards ensuring that the experiences that people have are fair and can be seen to be fair, but also tackling the inequalities which still exist for many groups and being open about the progress we are making and the work which remains to be done.

This work is a long term objective and the impact that any progress made has on changing perceptions broadly, may take time to be seen in the data collected for this PSA. The PSA forms part of the Government's strategy to increase race equality and community

cohesion, "Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society", and the first annual progress report on this will be published this summer.

Convicted Irish Nationals

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation took place before the decision was authorised to deport lifelong UK resident Irish nationals who have completed prison sentences. [75167]

Mr. Byrne: Under section 7 of the Immigration Act 1971, Irish citizens who were ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom on 1 January 1973 (the date of the coming into force of the that Act) and who have been ordinarily resident five years prior to a court recommendation or decision to make a deportation order are exempt from deportation. Those Irish nationals who do not fall into this category may be removed under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 if it is decided that removal is justified on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health.

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rights of appeal exist for Irish nationals under notification of imminent removal to Ireland on completion of prison sentences. [75171]

Mr. Byrne: Under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, Irish nationals have an in-country right of appeal against a decision to remove them.

Corporate Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions he has accepted corporate hospitality in the last 12 months. [67523]

Mr. McNulty: Paragraph 5.28 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what corporate hospitality Ministers in his Department have received in each month since January 2004. [73674]

Mr. McNulty: Paragraph 5.28 of the Ministerial Code sets out the rules on the registration of hospitality.

Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, of 12 January regarding UK policy on returning asylum seekers to Zimbabwe on behalf of Dr. Margaret Sherratt (acknowledgement reference 185435/05). [29147]

Mr. McNulty: My hon. Friend the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality replied on 1 December 2005.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 1 March from the hon. Member for Aylesbury about the case of Mr. N.T.H. of Aylesbury (Home Office reference P417261, LR1875033114 and B6093/6). [86003]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The Director General of the immigration and nationality directorate replied to the hon. Member's letter on 20 July 2006.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the immigration and nationality directorate will reply to the letter of 10 May 2006 from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on behalf of Sylvia Cumberbatch (Home Office reference C1145804, acknowledgment reference B1228116). [87159]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration and nationality directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 July 2006.

Credit Cards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will assess the merits of placing a limit on the number of credit cards an individual may own at one time. [73019]

Mr. Coaker: Most consumers use credit in a productive and prudent way, however a small minority of individuals show signs of financial distress. The Government needs to strike the right balance between enabling a competitive consumer credit market, and protecting those at risk of over-indebtedness. It is the Government's view that the amount an individual can borrow is a matter between the individual and the lender concerned. Government, however, are working with lenders to promote responsible lending through increased data sharing and industry codes of practice.

Crime and Disorder Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; if he will list the statutory instruments that have been made under this Act; and what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Act. [82558]

Mr. McNulty: The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 contained a wide range of different measures designed to improve the protection of the public and the operation of the criminal justice system. Some of the main areas included the establishment of crime reduction partnership arrangements, the introduction

of antisocial behaviour orders and of sex offender orders, the establishment of the Youth Justice Board, sentencing for both adults and juveniles, the establishment of the Sentencing Advisory Panel and the creation of specific racially aggravated offences. Although the measures in the Act have worked well, we have kept them under review and in the light of experience and of specific reviews we have made a number of changes to further improve them. In particular we have strengthened and improved upon the arrangements for antisocial behaviour orders and have built upon sex offender orders to create sexual offences prevention orders; we have extended racially aggravated offences to include religious aggravation; we have reviewed the whole of the sentencing framework for adults and introduced new arrangements in the Criminal Justice Act 2003; the youth justice arrangements have also been reviewed and proposals for change published in March 2004; and we have reviewed the partnership arrangements, with proposals for change being introduced in the Police and Justice Bill while others are subject to further consultation. The Government attaches a very high priority to public protection, the reduction of crime and to ensuring that the criminal justice system works effectively. We set out, in our document 'Rebalancing the Criminal Justice System in favour of the Law Abiding Majority', which we published on 20 July, further proposals for improvements across a range of areas. Representations are made from time to time in relation to individual provisions in the Act. The statutory instruments made under the Act are in the following list.

Orders made under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

S5

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Responsible Authorities) Order 2005, SI 2005/1789.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Responsible Authorities) (No 2) Order 2005, SI 2005/3343

Crime and Disorder Strategies (Prescribed Descriptions) (England) Order 2004, SI 2004/118, as amended by SI 2004/696, SI 2004/865

Crime and Disorder Strategies (Prescribed Descriptions) Order 1998, SI 1998/2452, as amended by SI 1998/2513. SI 1999/483, SI 2000/300, SI 2004/118 (revoking the Order in relation to England), SI 2005/617

S41

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales Order 2000, SI 2000/1160.

S116

Secure Training Order (Transitory Provisions) Order 1998, SI 1998/1928.

S121 (Commencement orders)

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 1) Order 1998, SI 1998/1883.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 2 and Transitional Provisions) Order 1998, SI 1998/2327.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 2 and Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) Order 1998, SI 1998/2412.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 2 and Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) (No 2) Order 1998, SI 1998/2906.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 3 and Appointed Day) Order 1998, SI 1998/3263.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 4) Order 1999, SI 1999/1279.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 5) Order 1999, SI 1999/2976.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 6) Order 1999, SI 1999/3426.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 7) Order 2000, SI 2000/924.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Commencement No 8) Order 2000, SI 2000/3283.

Crime Reduction Initiatives

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what vehicle crime reduction initiatives the Home Office has participated in since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [88644]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office established the Vehicle Crime Reduction Action Team (VCRAT) in September 1998 to develop and oversee implementation of a strategy to reduce vehicle crime. The strategy was published in 1999 and contributed to the reduction of 1,780,000 incidents of vehicle crime (51 per cent.) estimated by the British Crime Survey between 1997 and interviews in 2005-06. The main initiatives the Home Office has participated in since 1997 have included: supporting improved vehicle security through publication of security guidance documents aimed at manufacturers and publication of Car and Bike Theft Indices; spreading good practice, for example through the vehicle crime toolkit on the website www.crimereduction.gov.uk; improving car park security through support for the Safer Parking Scheme (owned by the Association of Chief Police Officers and managed by the British Parking Association).

This includes financial support amounting to £1,409,000 over the period 2001-02 to 2005-06; making the motor salvage industry subject to statutory regulation under powers contained in the Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001; and raising motorists' awareness of the steps they can take to prevent themselves becoming victims of car crime through national communications campaigns (with funding of £28.6 million over the period 1999-2000 to 2005-06) and other communications initiatives.

Crime Statistics

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Eastleigh borough, *(c)* Hampshire, *(d)* Portsmouth and *(e)* Southampton involving (i) knives, (ii) guns and (iii) other offensive weapons in each year since 1995. [84662]

Mr. Coaker: Available data for firearms offences (excluding air weapons) relate only to police force area. Information for England and Wales and Hampshire is given in the following tables.

Although the homicide figures record where a sharp or blunt instrument has been used, it is not possible to identify from recorded crime statistics whether other crimes involve the use of a knife or other offensive weapon.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Because of this figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table (A): Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used,1995 to 2001-02

	England and Wales	*Hampshire*
1995	5,866	39
1996	6,063	48
1997	4,904	29
1998-99[1]	5,209	38
1999-2000	6,843	52
2000-01[2]	7,470	49
2001-02	10,023	58

[1] There was a change in counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[2] Numbers of some recorded crimes may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

Table (B): Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used, 2002-03 to 2004-05

	England and Wales	*Hampshire*
2002-03[1]	10,248	97
2003-04	10,338	130
2004-05	10,964	148

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Because of this figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* the Sunderland city council area. [87362]

Mr. McNulty: Information for the Houghton and Washington East constituency is not available centrally. The available information relates to the Sunderland Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and is given in the tables. Data were collected at CDRP level for six key offences only for 1999 and for all crime from 2000-01.

Table 1: Recorded offences in the Sunderland Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

	Number of offences
1999-2000	n/a
2001-01	30,407
2001-02	33,259

n/a = not available

Table 2: Recorded offences in the Sunderland Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Number of offences
2002-03	38,196
2003-04	34,612
2004-05	30,447
2005-06	28,429

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* burglaries and *(b)* robberies there were in Brent in each year since 1997. [87711]

Mr. McNulty: Brent is a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. Data at CDRP level are only available from 1999-2000 and the available information is given in the following tables.

Table 1: Recorded offences of burglary and robbery in Brent, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

	Burglary	*Robbery*
1999-2000	3,320	2,014
2000-01	4,441	1,941
2001-02	4,099	2,359

Notes:
1. Figures for 1999-2000 are for domestic burglaries only.
2. Expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules came into effect on 1 April 1998. The figures in this table are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 2: Recorded offences of burglary and robbery in Brent, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Burglary	*Robbery*
2002-03	3,859	1,795
2003-04	4,062	1,807
2004-05	3,987	2,084
2005-06	3,904	2,355

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* charges and *(c)* convictions for (i) sexual offences and (ii) theft of cars there have been in each of the last five years. [88655]

Mr. McNulty: Information requested on arrests for sexual offences can be found in the annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Arrests for Recorded Crime (notifiable offences) and the Operation of Certain Police Powers under PACE, England and Wales—Table AA refers. Copies are available from the Library.

The information requested on arrests for theft of cars is not available centrally. Information on arrests is

based on persons arrested for recorded crime "notifiable" offences by main offence group (i.e. theft and handling stolen goods, sexual offences, violence against the person and burglary etc.) and therefore does not identify individual offences.

Data on charges are not held centrally. However data from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates court, and convicted of (i) sexual and (ii) theft of cars offences in England and Wales, 2000 to 2004, are contained in the following table.

2004 data show the inclusion of a new list of offences brought under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into effect on 1 May 2004.

Statistics for 2005 court proceedings will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for sexual offences[1], England and Wales, 2000 to 2004[2, 3]

	Prosecuted	*Guilty*
2000	7,141	3,894
2001	8,424	4,043
2002	9,102	4,384
2003	9,121	4,355
2004[4]	9,579	4,785

[1] This includes Sexual Offences Act 1956, Mental Health Act 1959, Sexual Offences Act 2003, Offences Against the Person Act 1861 s.57, Sex Offenders Act 1997 s.3(1) (a) and (b), Indecency with Children Act 1960 s.1.

[2] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] 2004 data show the inclusion of a new list of offences brought under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into effect on 1 May 2004.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences have been brought to justice in each of the last five years. [88659]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is contained in Chapter 5 of "Criminal Statistics 2004" which can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1905.pdf

Table 5.1 on page 96 gives figures for the number of offences brought to justice in England and Wales between 1998/99 and 2004/05. The Departmental Report for 2005-06 has just been published, please use the following link; http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/annual-report-06.pdf?view=Binary

The provisional offences brought to justice figures for 2005 can be found on page 29, and reference is also made on pages 28, 75 and 94.

Figures for 2005-06 will be published in the autumn of 2006.

Lynne Featherstone: (1) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (1) how many convictions for *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape, *(c)* sexual assault, *(d)* manslaughter and *(e)* robbery have been (i) overturned, (ii) reduced and (iii) increased after appeal in each of the last five years; [88500]

(2) how many convictions for *(a)* murder, *(b)* rape, *(c)* sexual assault, *(d)* manslaughter and *(e)* robbery have been overturned in the last three years; and in how many cases of each type the sentence was reduced. [88665]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

The following table sets out, for the past five years, the number of conviction appeals allowed, sentence appeals allowed and references by the Attorney General where the Court of Appeal Criminal Division decided to increase the sentence following review.

All figures relate to cases where the named offence (including inchoate offences) was the main offence under consideration by the Court. However, some results may reflect circumstances where the court also reviewed other offences committed by the same applicant.

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Murder						
Conviction appeal allowed[1]	15	17	20	31	28	20
Sentence appeal allowed[2]	—	—	—	—	16	49
Sentence increased following review	0	1	2	2	2	1
Manslaughter						
Conviction appeal allowed[1]	4	1	5	3	5	5
Sentence appeal allowed[2]	20	22	28	33	17	24
Sentence increased following review	1	4	3	3	1	1
Rape						
Conviction appeal allowed[2]	28	21	26	23	35	18
Sentence appeal allowed[2]	40	39	28	37	42	53
Sentence increased following review	4	2	7	10	2	4
Robbery						
Conviction appeal allowed[1]	23	16	7	19	26	14

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Sentence appeal allowed[1]	113	109	125	172	159	130
Sentence increased following review	11	11	16	14	9	11
Sexual assault[3]						
Conviction appeal allowed[1]	22	19	24	25	28	26
Sentence appeal allowed[2]	77	71	78	117	80	77
Sentence increased following review	5	7	6	14	10	4

[1] Includes cases where a retrial was ordered or where any aspect of the appeal was allowed.
[2] Includes all cases where there was any reduction to sentence, including reduction in tariff or to a non-custodial element.
[3] Includes indecent assault but not convictions for similar offences assault by penetration, indecency with a child.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested in the last year for which figures are available. [88945]

John Reid: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) during 2004-05 (latest available) is 1.35 million.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of *(a)* drunkenness, *(b)* driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs and *(c)* causing death by dangerous driving when under the influence of drink or drugs in each year since 2003 in (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) each London borough. [88957]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, on the number of people convicted of *(a)* drunkenness, *(b)* driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs and *(c)* causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) each London Court Area from 2003 to 2004 can be found in the following tables, a copy of which I will place in the House Library. Note that the offence stated in part (iii) of the question relates to 'careless' driving rather than 'dangerous' driving. Because regional boundaries and court area boundaries differ slightly, totals for London may differ between tables when both breakdowns are used.

Court proceeding statistics for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

In addition to this, the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was brought into effect in all police forces in England and Wales in 2004. Under the scheme the police are able to issue persons committing specified minor offences including being drunk in a highway and drunk and disorderly, with a fixed penalty notice. No admission of guilt is required and payment of the penalty discharges all liability for the offence. Data on the number of PNDs issued for these offences in each police force area in England in 2004 and 2005 (provisional) can also be found in the following tables. It is not possible to identify the number of PNDs which were issued in each London borough as the data are not collected at that level of detail centrally.

Number of persons convicted at all courts for offences relating to 'drunkenness' and 'drunkenness with aggravation' by region, England 2003 to 2004[1, 2, 3]

	Drunkenness, simple		Drunkenness, with aggravation	
Region	*2003*	*2004*	*2003*	*2004*
North East	88	94	4,553	4,437
North West	149	106	5,174	3,130
Yorkshire and Humberside	222	166	2,670	1,625
East Midlands	78	64	1,233	960
West Midlands	123	132	1,029	1,128
East of England	293	242	1,434	1,138
London	210	162	2,141	1,055
South East	486	418	3,661	2,791
South West	350	290	1,998	1,286
England	1,999	1,674	23,893	17,550

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the offence of "drunk and disorderly" [Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec.91] and other miscellaneous offences of drunkenness with aggravation.
Drunkenness, simple includes offences under S.12 Licensing Act 1872, Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 SS.1(4), 1A(4), 2.(2) and S.12 Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Number of persons convicted at all courts for offences relating to driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by region, England 2003 and 2004[1, 2]

Region	*2003*	*2004*
North East	4,177	4,366
North West	11,327	11,822
Yorkshire and Humberside	7,555	7,862
East Midlands	6,138	6,621
West Midlands	8,566	8,886
East of England	8,177	8,605

Number of persons convicted at all courts for offences relating to driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, by region, England 2003 and 2004[1, 2]

Region	2003	2004
London	11,613	12,040
South East	13,040	13,122
South West	7,697	7,662
England	78,290	80,986

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Number of people convicted at all courts for offences relating to causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, by region England 2003 to 2004[1, 2, 3]

Region	2003	2004
North East	2	2
North West	5	6
Yorkshire and Humberside	5	7
East Midlands	9	12
West Midlands	6	6
East of England	7	7
London	4	8
South East	9	7
South West	7	6
Regions Total and Figure for England	54	61

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 3A as added by the Road Traffic Act 1991 Sec 3 and amended by CJA 1993, Sec 67.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal Assets

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what value of criminal assets were recovered in each of the last five years. [88654]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the Table.

Recovered criminal assets (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

	Total recovered (£ million)
2001-02	25.2
2002-03	47.0
2003-04	54.5
2004-05	84.4
2005-06	96.8

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what sums from recovered criminal assets were allocated to police forces in each of the last five years. [88660]

Mr. McNulty: The allocation of recovered criminal assets to police forces was first introduced in 2004-05 under a new incentive scheme. A total of £13 million was distributed to police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on the basis each force's asset recovery performance in that year. A further £26 million was allocated to forces on the basis of performance in 2005-06.

Criminal Justice Boards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets have been set for local criminal justice boards. [88661]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The targets that the Lord Chancellor, the Attorney-General and I have agreed with local criminal justice boards (LCJBs) for 2006-07 are set out in the Criminal Justice System Business Plan 2006-07. Each LCJB has targets to: improve confidence in the CJS; increase victim and witness satisfaction; bring more offences to justice; improve the enforcement of fines, failure to appear warrants, community penalties and confiscation orders; and meet the Persistent Young Offender pledge. The CJS Business Plan 2006-07 can be accessed at http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk/downloads/application/pdf/CJSpercent20Businesspercent20Planpercent202006-7.pdf

Criminal Justice IT Programme

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of the criminal justice IT programme. [58652]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The organisations that make up the Criminal Justice System use a variety of information systems designed to meet their local needs, but which were not originally designed to share information with colleagues working in other criminal justice organisations.

This is why, in response to the "Justice for All" Government White Paper, the Criminal Justice System Information Technology (CJS IT) programme was established in 2002 with the following vision: "By March 31 2008, anyone involved in the CJS—users of it or people working within it—should have access from any browser enabled device, to a seamless, coherent set of computer systems and information to cover the breadth of their dealings".

The overall cost of the CJS IT programme, across both SR2002 and SR2004, is £1.95 billion. This funding is ring-fenced, with spending controlled by five key-holders: the Home Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Lord Chancellor, the Minister with responsibility for the CJS and the Director of Criminal Justice IT (CJIT).

The programme sits under its own NCJB (National Criminal Justice Board) Sub-Group, chaired by the Minister with responsibility for the CJS—a role that

has been delegated to me—dedicated to tracking progress and assisting in the resolution of cross-cutting issues.

The programme also reports to the Operational Board of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform—a cross-departmental organisation that supports all criminal justice agencies in working together to provide an improved service to the public and which reports on an equal basis to the Home Office, Department for Constitutional Affairs and Law Officers' Department.

Criminal Justice IT (CJIT), which was created to co-ordinate the CJS IT programme, is working with the criminal justice organisations to identify and implement ways to join up the individual processes, systems and services.

CJIT has developed a set of key tools, techniques and repeatable processes to ensure successful delivery of this large-scale IT programme, many of which are creating best practice. These include evidence-based CJS IT portfolio prioritisation/investment appraisal, active benefits realisation, performance management, and full open, factual and transparent reporting to all stakeholders.

Expenditure and deliverables for the CJS IT programme are approved annually by the five key-holders and monthly progress reports are provided to various governance bodies (including the Operational Board of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform) and key stakeholders (including Her Majesty's Treasury).

Criminal Records Bureau

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications were made to the Criminal Records Bureau for *(a)* enhanced and *(b)* standard checks in the last year for which figures are available. [48697]

Joan Ryan: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given on 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1268W. In 2005, the Bureau received 293,615 standard disclosures and 2,443,207 enhanced disclosures.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average an applicant to the Criminal Records Bureau in *(a)* November 2005 and *(b)* February 2006 waited for a reply. [88623]

Joan Ryan: I refer my right hon. Friend to my written answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1325W.

Custody

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* name, *(b)* age, *(c)* date, and *(d)* place of death was of each child and young adult that died in custody in each of the last 30 years. [86207]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As publishing such details can cause distress to the families of those bereaved by a death in custody, I will write separately to the hon. Member with the information available.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional resources have been made available to the Probation Service to implement Custody Plus under the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [88487]

John Reid: In the Review of the Criminal Justice System published on 20 July we said that Custody Plus will not go ahead in autumn 2006 as previously planned.

Preparatory work for Custody Plus was not accounted for separately from funding provided for the implementation of other sentencing provisions in the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many custody suites there are in each constituency in Wales; where they are located; and if he will make a statement. [89023]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for chief constables.

Constituency	*Location*
Dyfed-Powys police	
Preseli Pembrokeshire	Haverfordwest
Llanelli	Llanelli
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	Carmarthen
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	Ammanford
Ceredigion	Aberystwyth
Ceredigion	Cardigan
Brecon and Radnorshire	Brecon
Montgomeryshire	Newtown
Montgomeryshire	Welshpool[1]
Brecon and Radnorshire	Llandrindod Wells[1]
Gwent police	
Newport West	Newport Central
Newport East	Maindee
Newport East	Caldicot
Torfaen	Cwmbran
Torfaen	Pontypool
Monmouth	Monmouth
Monmouth	Abergavenny
Islwyn	Blackwood
Islwyn	Risca
Caerphilly	Caerphilly
Caerphilly	Bargoed
Caerphilly	Ystrad Mynach
Blaenau Gwent	Ebbw Vale
Blaenau Gwent	Abertillery
Blaenau Gwent	Llanhilleth
Blaenau Gwent	Brynmawr
Blaenau Gwent	Tredegar
North Wales police	
Caernarfon	Pwllheli
Caernarfon	Caernarfon
Ynys Mon	Holyhead
Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	Dolgellau
Vale of Cwyd	St. Asaph
Delyn	Mold
Wrexham	Wrexham

Constituency	Location
South Wales police	
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	Merthyr Tydfil
Cynon Valley	Aberdare
Pontypridd	Pontypridd
Rhondda	Pentre
Cardiff Central	Cardiff Central
Cardiff Central	Roath
Cardiff West	Canton
Cardiff West	Fairwater
Cardiff North	Llanishen
Cardiff South and Penarth	Rumney
Vale of Glamorgan	Barry
Bridgend	Bridgend
Bridgend	Porthcawl
Neath	Neath
Aberavon	Port Talbot
Swansea West	Swansea
Swansea West	Cockett

[1] Not used—no exercise facility

Damages

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 875W, on damages, what the cost is of obtaining the information requested; how many of his Department's lawyers worked on such cases of damages against his Department in the last period for which figures are available; how damages payments are accounted for in his Department's accounts; what steps he takes to minimise future claims; which Minister is responsible for monitoring such claims; and if he will make a statement. [87734]

Mr. Byrne: No central record is kept by either the Home Department or the Treasury Solicitors department of the number of cases in which damages were paid or what the total sum paid out was. This information could be obtained only by searching through some 10,000 transaction sheets and then identifying the damages elements of these payments. This would involve a disproportionate cost. Detailed figures are not kept on how many lawyers are or have been involved in claims against the Home Office. Such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The way that damages payments are accounted for in the departmental accounts is seen in section 29, Losses and Special Payments, of the annual Resource Accounts. Also in the 2004-05 accounts there is a record in section 25, Contingent Liabilities, concerning the claims for compensation received by the Criminal Records Bureau. Ministers take responsibility for their own areas. Therefore ministerial responsibility for claims against the Home Office will depend on the particular area of the Department that the claim is made against.

Data Sharing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government have *(a)* to link and *(b)* to enable data-sharing between the Children's Information Sharing Index and the National Identity Register. [86847]

Joan Ryan: The National Identity Register will not be linked to the Children's Information Sharing Index, nor are there plans for data-sharing between them.

Defendants' Anonymity

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received regarding anonymity for defendants in certain cases. [87942]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As of 25 July we had received seven items of correspondence since the beginning of this year, all of which concern defendant anonymity in sexual offences cases.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in 2004-05 in (i) each (A) nation and (B) region of the UK and (ii) London; [35945]

(2) what the *(a)* subject matter and *(b)* dates were of opinion survey research undertaken by the Department and its agencies in the last 12 months; if he will place copies of the results of each survey in the Library; which companies were used in conducting the research; and how much each was paid. [14815]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office undertakes a wide range of research activities that support the development of information-led policy, including surveys of public opinion that consider Home Office issues and its related areas of responsibility. The Department commissions such work only when it is justified by the specific needs of a particular policy or programme and when this is the most economic, efficient and effective way to achieve the purpose. Consulting and informing the public helps inform both policy formulation and the delivery of better quality public services. A table showing the available information on the subject matter of market and opinion research undertaken in 2004-05 has been placed in the Library. Where this is for a specific region this has been indicated in the table, otherwise the coverage is for England and Wales (except for immigration topics). Information on the costs of individual market and opinion research projects is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Home Office has used external public relations companies to help deliver messages and advice to the public in press and magazines as part of integrated communication campaigns, often with a local focus. Campaigns include Year of the Volunteer, Holocaust Memorial Day, Sexual Offences Act, Crime and Anti Social Behaviour. A table showing spend on a monthly basis between September 2004 and October 2005 has also been placed in the Library.

Table to be placed in the House of Commons Library

Table—market and opinion research commissioned by the Home Office in 2004-05.

A number of market and opinion research projects were ongoing in 2004-05 and were included in the table that was placed in the House of Commons Library in answer to the PQ from the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable), *Official Report*, 28 January 2004, column 441W.

In addition, market and opinion research has been undertaken on the following subject matter in 2004-05

1. The Experiences of victims and witnesses;
2. Criminal Justice System Stakeholder Opinions;
3. Quarterly monitoring of volunteering;
4. Barriers and Motivations—Citizen Governance;
5. Organisational discrimination;
6. Expectations and experiences of victims and offenders;
7. Policing Reassurance;
8. Opinions of the use of Community Support Officers;
9. People's perception of the Licensing Act;
10. Prisoners employment issues;
11. Perceptions and Experiences of the North West Offender management Pathways (North West only);
12. Forensic science issues.

In addition the Home Office's communications directorate conduct market research to help develop and evaluate public information campaigns. The research is not peer reviewed and therefore has not been considered appropriate for 'official' publication.

Market research quantitative studies for campaign evaluations commissioned by the Home Office communication directorate are as follows:

Surveys of opinions of Holocaust Memorial Day/Year of Volunteer/Rights and Responsibilities;

Crime Reduction issues;

Vehicle Crime/Police tracking;

Drugs FRANK campaigns and Cannabis;

Police reform and internal issues;

Single Emergency Number;

Identity Cards;

Community cohesion;

Immigration

Research, Development and Statistics Directorate Projects

All published RDS research is available on the Home Office website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsintro1.html.

All Youth Justice Board surveys are available on the YJB website at www.youth-justice-board. gov.uk/publications.

Table: Amount spent by the Home Office on external media relations during the period from September 2004 to October 2005

	£
September 2004	73,420
October 2004	88,660
November 2004	106,341.70
December 2004	106,324.36
January 2005	162,806.40
February 2005	160,023.11
March 2005	195,283.87
April 2005	91,574.60
May 2005	86,525.90
June 2005	85,455
July 2005	91,135
August 2005	101,828
September 2005	104,630
October 2005	103,005

Departmental Costs

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* salary bill was and *(b)* administrative costs were for his Department in (i) each (A) nation and (B) region of the UK and (ii) London in 2004-05. [35872]

Mr. Byrne: The total 2004-05 administration salary bill for the Department was £401 million, while total net 2004-05 administration costs came to £567 million. The Department does not monitor administrative costs by individual nation, or region or identify that incurred in London separately. The Department does however, monitor total identifiable expenditure on services, by function, country and region and this is set out in the 2006 Departmental Report (Cm 6818).

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost was of *(a)* ministerial salaries and private offices and *(b)* the three top tiers of officials and their offices in his Department in 2005-06. [67455]

Mr. Byrne: The total cost of ministerial salaries and private offices and the top three tiers and their offices in the Home Office in 2005-06 form part of the departmental resource accounts. When finalised, I will write to the right hon. Member with the information he requests.

Departmental Credit Card

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what facility is available for senior civil servants in his Department to use credit cards supplied by the Department. [72880]

Mr. Byrne: There are no special purchasing card arrangements specifically for senior civil servants. However, the Department has adopted OGCbuying.solutions pre-tendered national frameworks for the Government Procurement Card (GPC) and Government Fuel Card facilities in line with best practice.

Departmental Databases (Security)

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* suspected and *(b)* confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years. [88496]

John Reid: All incidents listed are confirmed security breaches. No areas have reported suspected security breaches.

	Incidents
2001-02	1
2002-03	1
2003-04	—
2004-05	1
2005-06	2

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent in each year since 1997 by his Department on salaries paid to civil servants. [41588]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that since 2002-03 the Department has published Resource Accounts, detailing gross salaries for the Home Department, which cover the core Department, Immigration and Nationality Directorate, HM Prison Service, UK Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau. Non-departmental public bodies and other public bodies are not included. The gross salary costs from resource accounts, for the last three available financial years, are in the following table. The costs comprise wages and salaries, social security costs and pension costs. These figures are taken from the Home Office resource accounts 2004-05, published on 31 January 2006.

	£000
2004-05	2,728,309
2003-04	485,861
2002-03	2,239,197

Note:
Figures for previous financial years are not available on the same basis.

Departmental Finance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual expenditure on training and development by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body, (ii) Executive agency and (iii) other public body for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2005-06. [39977]

Mr. Byrne: The information in the following table has been extracted from the accounting systems of the Home Office and its sponsored bodies. Actual data are shown for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 with a forecast of out-turn shown for 2005-06. These costs do not cover activities such as mentoring and desk-side training, or the cost of IT training which is bought as part of a PFI arrangement.

It is not possible to produce an analysis of spend by region as the information is not held in this way in the accounting systems of all the bodies covered by this reply.

£000

Department, Agency, NPPB Etc.	*Out-turn*			*Forecast*
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Core Home Office	[1]73,200	17,745	[2]74,752	25,585
Executive Agencies	25,342	24,753	24,688	31,565
Non Ministerial Departments	424	[3]1,248	1,909	2,184
Non Departmental Public Bodies	83,292	[4]112,488	104,483	108,578
Public Corporation	3,142	3,136	3,450	[5]2,164
Other Public Body	42,600	[6]59,299	66,944	[7]52,047
Grand Total	228,234	218,914	276,529	227,863

[1] This includes £54,827,000 that was spent on training the police in the use of DNA.
[2] £47,531,000 was spent on the police training reform.
[3] From this year expenditure by the Assets Recovery Agency is included.
[4] The main reason of the increase is that Centrex's recruitment was slow for 2002-03 and there was a substantial increase in their 2003-04 budget.
[5] The expenditure is from 1 April to 4 December 2005 when the Forensic Science Service ceased to be a trading fund and became a private limited company wholly owned by the Government.
[6] There were increased numbers of trainee probation officers and from 2003-04 their university fees could be accounted for separately.
[7] The year-by-year changes in expenditure reflect changes in the number of trainee probation officers.

Departmental Grants

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations received grants or other income from his Department in the last 12 months, broken down by amount. [88931]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is currently preparing its 2005-06 accounts for audit. Information on grant payments will be contained within the published Home Office Resource Accounts.

Departmental IT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71763]

Mr. Byrne: Details of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by the Department inclusive of its executive agencies over the last five

years are as shown. The outturn costs show sums actually paid under the contract during its lifetime, or so far paid for ongoing contracts.

£ million

Contract	Original estimated value	Most recent estimated value	Outturn cost
Criminal Records Bureau PFP Agreement: Capita	400	400	[1]195.2
NOMS Offender Management National Infrastructure (OMNI): Steria	250	250	[2]—
IND Procurement of Infrastructure, Development and Support (IPIDS): Atos	[3]—	[4]—	[1]37
NPD STEPS: Steria	84.8	[5]—	[6]95
CIS Exchange and Hosting, Fujitsu	17.5	26	[1]8.5

[1] To date.
[2] Nil to date.
[3] £200 over six years from November 2004.
[4] Estimate currently unchanged. [5] Ended 31 December 2005. [6] Complete.

Departmental Organisation

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will instruct his officials to develop a criminal justice, immigration and mental health flow chart to identify the different routes that offenders follow and to assist in identifying and resolving gaps in the system. [83893]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made clear in his written statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 78-81WS, there have never been systematic arrangements in place for collecting information on the nationality of mentally disordered offenders, referring them to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and considering them for deportation. He has tasked officials to construct arrangements for considering deportation where appropriate for people in this group taking account of their very specific circumstances. This work is ongoing and as part of this, appropriate pathways are being developed for the management of mentally disordered offenders.

Departmental Pay and Pensions

Mr. Benton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's Pay and Pensions Service staff *(a)* are attending and *(b)* are due to attend the Dale Carnegie training courses, broken down by grade. [84732]

Mr. Byrne: The Investment in Teamworking Programme is run on behalf of HOPPS by Dale Carnegie Training. The programme is compulsory for all HOPPS staff. HOPPS is spilt in to three business areas; Pay Service, Pensions Service and Business Support Section. Staff from Pay Service and Business Support have either already attended the programme or have been allocated to the next round of sessions which begin on 20 July.Staff from Pensions Service will be allocated places on the Programme in the autumn. The breakdown of past and anticipated future attendance is as follows.

Grade	Attended	Due to attend
Administrative Assistant	9	21
SGB1	1	0
Typist	0	1
Administrative Officer	40	79
Executive Officer	31	39
Higher Executive Officer	11	21
Senior Executive Officer	6	8
Grade seven	0	3

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75278]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to Her Majesty's Treasury technical Note, which was placed in the Library following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90.

Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual departments, but are estimated for individual pension schemes. The breakdown of liabilities for individual schemes is shown in Table 1 of the technical Note.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81310]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is in the following table.

Green and White Papers produced since October 2005

Title	Date issued
Preventing Extremism Together—Places of Worship	6 October 2005
Restructuring Probation to Reduce Re-offending	20 October 2005
Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2004 (Cm 6690)	22 November 2005
Rebuilding Lives—Supporting Victims of Crime (Cm 6705)	7 December 2005
Bribery—Reform of the Prevention of Corruption Acts and SFO Powers in Cases of Bribery of Foreign Officials	8 December 2005
Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals: Great Britain 2004 (Cm 6713)	8 December 2005
Home Office Targets Autumn Performance Report 2005 (Cm 6707)	19 December 2005
Tackling Human Trafficking—Consultation on Proposals for a UK Action Plan	5 January 2006
A Five Year Strategy for Protecting the Public and Reducing Re-Offending (Cm 6717)	9 February 2006
New Code of Professional Standards for Police Officers	27 February 2006
A Points-Based System: Making Migration Work for Britain (Cm 6741)	7 March 2006
Government Reply to the First Joint Report from the Home Affairs and Work and Pensions Committees, Session 2005-06, on the Draft Corporate Manslaughter Bill (Cm 6755)	8 March 2006
Prison Service Pay Review Body—Fifth Report on England and Wales 2006 (Cm 6745)	31 March 2006
Countering International Terrorism: The United Kingdom's Strategy (Cm 6888)	10 July 2006
New Powers Against Organised and Financial Crime (Cm 6875)	17 July 2006

Green and White Papers produced since October 2005

Title	*Date issued*
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales Annual Report 2005-2006 (Cm 6873)	18 July 2006
Home Office Departmental Report 2006 (Cm 6818)	20 July 2006
Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals: Great Britain 2005 (Cm 6877)	24 July 2006
Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2005 (Cm 6904)	22 August 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the unnumbered Command papers produced by his Department in each session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81320]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my Department on 18 July 2005. No unnumbered Command Papers have been produced since the end of June 2005 although the Department has published a number of departmental publications as well as several numbered Command Papers through TSO. The list on the website of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), www.opsi.gov.uk, of Command Papers from 2001 onwards continues to be updated and allows searching by Department or numerically. All Command Papers presented to the House are recorded in the Commons Journal and are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental publications that are still in print in paper form may be obtained through the Home Office public inquiry unit. TSO bookshops sell Command Papers and other priced publications. The Home Office website www.homeoffice.gov.uk provides access to many recent publications in electronic formats.

Copies of most Home Office departmental publications since 1976 have been sent to the deposit libraries under the legislation in force at the time and will be available to hon. Members and the public in accordance with the conditions of use of each library. Many public library authorities are able to obtain copies of Home Office publications that they do not already stock through long-established inter-lending arrangements.

Departmental Report

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Home Office 2006 Departmental Report, how the £97 million of criminal assets was distributed. [88651]

Mr. Coaker: £26 million was allocated to police forces under the police asset recovery incentive scheme. £9.1 million was allocated to the Crown Prosecution Service for proceeds of crime work. £13.5 million was provided to increase front line asset recovery capacity and activity, including £9.4 million for five multi-agency Regional Asset Recovery Teams. A further £2.6 million was made available to fund additional financial investigators in police forces. In addition, £1.5 million was used to fund a Confiscation Enforcement Task Force. The remainder was used by the Home Office in recognition of its broader responsibility for crime reduction, and contributing towards delivery of our crime and community safety objectives.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department at *(a)* executive officer level or equivalent and *(b)* higher executive officer level or equivalent are employed on temporary contracts. [59911]

Mr. Byrne: The available figures are in the following table.

	Executive officer level on temporary contracts	*Higher executive officer level or equivalent on temporary contracts*
Immigration and Nationality Department (includes Immigration Officers)		
Casual	12	19
Agency	75	37
Other	2	26
Core (including National Offenders Managements HQ)		
Casual	10	16
Agency	70	25
Other	14	[1]44
HM Prison Service		
Casual	63	20
Agency	26	4
UK Passport Agency	13	31
Total	285	222

[1] The definition of temporary contract which has been used is the ONS 'non-permanent' category and includes staff on fixed term appointments.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73022]

Mr. Byrne: A total of 552 Home Office staff currently contribute to Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) schemes to supplement their Civil Service Pension. This represents 0.65 per cent. of all employees on the Home Office payroll.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people, and at what grades, are employed in his Department to work on criminal justice aspects of drugs and alcohol misuse. [83923]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 308W.

The breakdown by grade is set out in the following table. These are the most recent available data and differ from the information provided in March.

Grades	Drugs	Alcohol
Senior Civil Service	6	0
Grade 6	10	3
Grade 7	29	5
Senior Executive Officer	27	2
Higher Executive Officer	28	2
Executive Officer	26	2
Administrative Officer	22	0
Administrative Assistant	1	0
Senior Personal Secretary	1	0
Personal Secretary	6	1
Grade not recorded centrally[1]	7	0
June 2006	164	15
February 2006[2]	181	15

[1] Staff joining recently or in transit.
[2] Figure used in 15 March PQ difference is due to time.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of senior managers within the *(a)* Serious Organised Crime Agency, *(b)* National Offender Management Service, *(c)* Immigration and Nationality Directorate, *(d)* Identity and Passport Service, *(e)* Criminal Records Bureau and *(f)* Forensic Science Service are (i) female and (ii) male; and if he will make a statement. [88648]

Mr. Byrne: The available figures are set out in the table. The definitions of senior management differs in some areas and figures are for Senior Civil Service grades except for the Prison Service, and Serious Organised Crime Agency where they list senior managers at Grade seven and above, and for Criminal Records Bureau which list their senior managers at Senior Executive Officer and above. Data is at 30 June 2006 except for National Offender Management Service staff in HQ and for the Immigration and Nationality Directorate which is for 31 March 2006. In addition the data for the National Probation Service was only available as at the end of 2005. As a result it has not been possible to provide a consistent figure for the total staff in NOMS. Forensic Science Service ceased to be a Home Office Agency and became a government limited company (Govco) in December 2006. Its figures are for the five SCS equivalent staff.

	Percentage	
	Female	Male
(a) Serious Organised Crime Agency	10.61	89.87
(b) National Offender Management Service (NOMS) comprising:		
HM Prison Service	31.80	68.19
National Probation Service	16.67	83.33
NOMS HQ	34.48	65.5
(c) Immigration and Nationality Directorate	32.56	67.44
(d) Identity and Passport Service	40	60
(e) Criminal Records Bureau	46	47
(f) Forensic Science Service	0	100

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff vacancies there are in *(a)* the probation service, *(b)* the Prison Service and *(c)* the immigration and nationality directorate. [88951]

John Reid: The number of staff vacancies for the probation service, the Prison Service and the immigration and nationality directorate are detailed as follows.

(a) In the probation service on the 31 March 2006 there were 977.32 full-time equivalent (FTE) active vacancies in the NPS, and active vacancies accounted for 5.30 per cent. of the available posts in the organisation.

(b) In the Prison Service on 30 June 2006 within the public sector Prison Service there was a variation of 874 between operational staffing requirement and staffing availability. Staffing availability includes the contribution made by officers working contract supplementary hours and agency workers as well as permanent and casual members of staff.

(c) In the immigration and nationality directorate there is no precise figure for vacancies, the level of which will vary depending on a number of factors including volumes of business, forecasts of future staff turnover and assessments of affordability. As an indication, the difference between the number of staff in post at the end of March and the planned average strength for 2006-07 was around 400.

Departmental Website

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department's website was last updated to make it more user-friendly; and if the Department will take steps to ensure that audio-visual material is used in addition to text. [88386]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office website was redeveloped throughout 2005 and a more user-friendly version was published in October that year, aimed specifically at the general public. The new site was developed according to principles of user-centred design and was recognised in a recent independent report published by Porter & Precedent as being the best of the 32 UK public sector websites they assessed. Particular praise was given to the accessible, user-friendly site design and navigation. The Home Office will publish audio-visual material on the site if it is appropriate to do so and if there is relevant material. Audio-visual content is already published on some parts of the Home Office website.

Deportation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost was of deportation evaluations of foreign prisoners carried out by his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [70100]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account is taken of whether Irish nationals have been resident in the UK from birth when considering cases for deportation from the UK to Ireland. [75388]

Mr. Byrne: Under section 7 of the Immigration Act 1971, Irish citizens who were ordinarily resident in the

United Kingdom on 1 January 1973 (the date of the coming into force of the that Act) and who have been ordinarily resident five years prior to a court recommendation or decision to make a deportation order are exempt from deportation. Those Irish nationals who do not fall into this category may be removed under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 if it is decided that removal is justified on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were deported from the UK in each year since 1997, broken down by nationality. [73675]

Mr. Byrne: The total number of deportations from the UK broken down by nationality is not available.

The Immigration and Nationality Directorate is currently putting in place new processes to improve its data collection systems for the future in this area.

Detection Rates

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate was in 2005-06 for *(a)* theft and handling stolen goods, *(b)* fraud and forgery, *(c)* criminal damage, *(d)* violence against the person, *(e)* sexual offences, *(f)* robbery and *(g)* all violent crime calculated by the methodology used to calculate the figures presented in Table 7.03 of Crime in England and Wales 2004-05. [89151]

John Reid: The information requested is given in the following table:

Overall detection rates for crime in England and Wales 2005-06

Offence group	*Percentage detected*
Theft and handling stolen goods	18
Fraud and forgery	29
Criminal damage	15
Violence against the person	54
Sexual offences	35
Robbery	18
All violent crime	50

DNA Database

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA profiles are held of individuals who are *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 21 and *(d)* over 21 years, broken down by police force area. [86528]

John Reid: The information requested for the police forces in England and Wales is shown in the following table. The figures given are the number of DNA subject sample profiles held on the National DNA Database as at 18 July 2006 and not the number of individuals. Some individuals may have more than one profile on the Database due to replicate sampling. It is estimated that the current level of replication on the Database is about 10 per cent.

Number of DNA subject profiles on the National DNA Database

Force	*Under 16s*	*16-18*	*19 to 21*	*Over 21 years*
Avon and Somerset	2,272	3,202	5,088	61,488
Bedfordshire	1,349	1,791	2,464	28,342
British Transport	946	1,813	2,779	24,577
Cambridgeshire	1,740	2,194	3,134	31,294
Cheshire	2,411	3,083	4,530	50,256
City of London police	44	144	370	17,963
Cleveland	1,858	2,114	3,290	31,055
Cumbria	1,656	1,939	2,603	27,887
Derbyshire	3,082	3,342	4,531	52,703
Devon and Cornwall	3,186	4,202	6,006	68,133
Dorset	1,525	2,128	3,078	30,732
Durham	2,162	2,368	3,113	32,278
Dyfed- Powys	1,422	1,721	2,717	32,986
Essex	4,698	5,658	7,363	72,940
Gloucestershire	1,443	1,725	2,489	28,379
Greater Manchester police	9,801	11,338	14,895	151,884
Gwent	1,441	1,982	3,195	33,966
Hampshire	4,992	6,355	8,798	88,570
Hertfordshire	2,540	3,349	4,659	44,863
Humberside	2,502	2,971	4,446	54,490
Kent	5,175	6,265	8,619	87,488
Lancashire	4,205	5,528	8,435	87,652
Leicestershire	2,152	2,762	3,660	42,632
Lincolnshire	1,441	1,738	2,708	28,635
Merseyside	2,657	4,111	6,996	82,147
Metropolitan Police	13,174	24,179	38,631	502,917
Norfolk	1,593	2,097	3,255	43,580
North Yorkshire	1,687	2,283	3,363	34,124
Northamptonshire	792	1,124	1,950	29,562
Northumbria	7,125	7,532	10,409	101,520
Nottingham	3,327	4,034	5,496	62,791
North Wales	1,577	2,341	3,521	37,849
South Wales Constabulary	2,792	4,114	6,923	79,181
South Yorkshire	4,100	4,899	6,956	73,392
Staffordshire	2,889	3,893	5,647	60,282
Suffolk	1,879	2,296	3,023	27,732
Surrey	1,745	2,365	3,777	36,687
Sussex	3,684	4,777	6,186	67,838
Thames Valley	4,005	5,063	7,437	89,546
Warwickshire police	1,030	1,283	1,824	18,175
West Mercia	2,517	3,324	4,543	46,626
West Midlands	8,863	11,209	16,074	182,009
West Yorkshire	8,886	9,220	11,988	129,685
Wiltshire	1, 612	2,254	3,016	32,048
Total Number. of profiles	139,977	182,110	263,985	2,948,884
Grand Total		3,534,956		
Number of individuals (no of profiles x0..9)	125,979	163,899	237,587	2,653,996
Grand Total		3,181,460		

Domestic Violence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for domestic violence have been made in each *(a)* London borough

and *(b)* constituency in each of the last five years, broken down by the offender's (i) age and (ii) ethnic origin; and if he will make a statement. [82958]

Mr. Coaker: The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) collect data at London borough level on domestic violence-related arrests broken down by offender's age and ethnicity (see tables). The MPS do not collect data at constituency level. The data demonstrates a steady increase in domestic violence-related arrests by the MPS. This is in line with the Home Office's objectives of increasing the reporting of domestic violence and police pro-activity in responding to domestic violence.

2001-02

Age

Borough	*1-17*	*18-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	15	61	57	21	1	1	156
Barnet	8	52	80	55	13	3	211
Bexley	20	60	81	25	5	3	194
Brent	12	85	127	41	16	4	285
Bromley	7	38	68	23	12	2	150
Camden	4	52	66	35	9	3	169
Croydon	12	129	127	54	28	2	352
Ealing	19	138	139	87	13	10	406
Enfield	9	81	84	52	19	2	247
Greenwich	22	135	125	61	14	2	359
Hackney	27	210	196	75	22	16	546
Hammersmith and Fulham	12	85	121	55	14	9	296
Haringey	15	92	114	52	6	8	287
Harrow	21	102	113	56	16	2	310
Havering	13	61	63	32	11	3	183
Heathrow	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Hillingdon	6	64	99	45	22	6	242
Hounslow	20	132	91	52	10	5	310
Islington	11	112	158	64	14	14	373
Kensington and Chelsea	1	34	40	24	12	1	112
Kingston upon Thames	11	43	34	29	7	1	125
Lambeth	10	76	132	49	8	5	280
Lewisham	12	168	158	74	13	4	429
Merton	14	50	41	25	9	3	142
Newham	10	105	116	40	7	2	280
Redbridge	3	67	59	43	9	1	182
Richmond upon Thames	14	37	55	24	4	2	136
Southwark	14	144	176	87	22	4	447
Sutton	5	33	47	18	8	0	111
Tower Hamlets	13	76	66	24	1	3	183
Waltham Forest	9	88	81	36	7	6	227
Wandsworth	8	66	86	37	11	7	215
Westminster	5	79	83	37	10	6	220
Grand total	382	2,756	3,083	1,433	373	140	8,167

2002-03

Age

Borough	*1-17*	*18-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50-59*	*60+*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	23	117	135	52	6	2	335
Barnet	7	60	89	41	11	1	209
Bexley	12	103	96	41	15	0	267
Brent	17	97	129	73	12	10	338
Bromley	9	105	130	49	23	5	321
Camden	8	73	114	55	20	7	277
Croydon	20	109	127	51	11	6	324
Ealing	25	168	228	121	31	14	587
Enfield	16	91	114	50	20	6	297
Greenwich	25	148	153	70	15	3	414
Hackney	29	157	181	88	30	10	495
Hammersmith and Fulham	9	79	118	47	14	9	276

				2002-03			Age
Borough	1-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
Haringey	29	109	115	60	14	7	334
Harrow	25	132	146	75	21	7	406
Havering	10	101	107	69	19	3	309
Heathrow	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hillingdon	5	79	90	42	15	7	238
Hounslow	23	112	121	65	19	6	346
Islington	12	83	103	35	9	1	243
Kensington and Chelsea	4	63	80	50	13	2	212
Kingston upon Thames	6	51	52	21	11	1	142
Lambeth	18	144	125	83	12	7	389
Lewisham	10	146	138	52	11	9	366
Merton	9	39	50	24	11	1	134
Newham	15	166	178	72	9	6	446
Redbridge	12	77	90	30	18	3	230
Richmond upon Thames	3	35	64	31	12	6	151
Southwark	9	169	170	81	12	6	447
Sutton	18	50	78	26	9	2	183
Tower Hamlets	183	11	132	97	47	9	3
Waltham Forest	14	72	73	31	82	200	9
Wandsworth	19	89	114	63	17	4	306
Westminster	5	69	98	42	8	3	225
Grand total	457	3,225	3,703	1,738	465	159	9,747

				2003-04				Age
Borough	1-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	UIR	Total
Barking and Dagenham	38	117	115	58	11	3	0	342
Barnet	8	67	63	29	15	2	0	184
Bexley	15	87	109	38	9	2	0	260
Brent	20	79	88	51	13	3	0	254
Bromley	12	120	143	69	19	5	0	368
Camden	6	98	120	70	21	8	0	323
Croydon	19	95	167	56	30	10	0	377
Ealing	16	132	158	75	24	6	0	411
Enfield	14	103	106	54	17	5	0	299
Greenwich	24	162	110	79	12	2	1	390
Hackney	10	129	106	73	11	4	0	333
Hammersmith and Fulham	19	95	74	54	22	8	0	272
Haringey	17	99	107	47	7	7	0	284
Harrow	14	98	101	78	21	2	0	314
Havering	7	55	77	27	11	5	0	182
Heathrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	12	72	68	39	6	4	0	201
Hounslow	26	98	92	53	13	3	0	285
Islington	19	95	103	48	19	4	0	288
Kensington and Chelsea	3	47	52	42	5	4	0	153
Kingston upon Thames	8	41	42	28	3	0	0	122
Lambeth	14	168	163	77	28	5	0	455
Lewisham	17	148	183	64	18	9	0	439
Merton	24	91	119	42	18	6	0	300
Newham	18	109	111	52	13	3	0	306
Redbridge	5	76	90	39	9	2	0	221
Richmond upon Thames	3	44	55	30	12	8	0	152
Southwark	10	105	136	54	11	7	0	323
Sutton	10	51	62	32	15	2	0	172
Tower Hamlets	299	7	94	111	62	17	6	0

2003-04

Age

Borough	1-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	UIR	Total
Waltham Forest	9	96	95	45	10	6	0	261
Wandsworth	5	58	79	30	5	3	0	180
Westminster	8	101	115	52	9	12	0	297
Grand total	437	3,030	3,320	1,647	454	156	1	9,045

2004-05

Age

Borough	1-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	UIR	Total
Barking and Dagenham	33	116	95	47	9	3	0	303
Barnet	13	82	103	59	15	3	0	275
Bexley	24	84	81	57	17	0	0	263
Brent	25	134	135	102	26	9	0	431
Bromley	17	121	127	59	21	4	0	349
Camden	17	151	154	91	43	7	0	463
Croydon	38	162	155	91	23	6	0	475
Ealing	26	166	184	103	27	11	0	517
Enfield	27	104	127	67	11	1	0	337
Greenwich	20	176	119	59	22	1	0	397
Hackney	12	136	155	93	13	7	0	416
Hammersmith and Fulham	15	60	39	38	12	5	0	169
Haringey	22	119	129	74	22	5	0	371
Harrow	9	112	103	76	11	9	0	320
Havering	12	69	90	57	14	6	0	248
Heathrow	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hillingdon	16	90	85	58	8	4	0	261
Hounslow	24	133	93	62	19	6	0	337
Islington	19	106	97	70	17	3	0	312
Kensington and Chelsea	4	37	40	19	9	1	0	110
Kingston upon Thames	13	54	54	35	6	0	0	162
Lambeth	25	150	155	74	16	5	0	425
Lewisham	21	167	170	92	22	7	0	479
Merton	21	61	60	39	4	3	0	188
Newham	24	117	119	76	6	4	0	346
Redbridge	8	78	62	43	18	4	0	213
Richmond upon Thames	15	46	39	21	9	3	0	133
Southwark	27	122	101	64	19	3	1	337
Sutton	7	65	55	49	14	8	0	198
Tower Hamlets	27	182	143	65	14	6	0	437
Waltham Forest	19	104	121	63	23	8	1	339
Wandsworth	6	65	71	39	8	7	0	196
Westminster	8	87	106	62	15	4	0	282
Grand total	594	3,457	3,367	2,004	513	153	2	10,090

2005-06

Age

Borough	1-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	UIR	Total
Barking and Dagenham	31	126	109	82	12	3	0	363
Barnet	13	126	123	61	16	6	0	345
Bexley	3	99	106	57	19	5	0	289
Brent	7	95	80	50	18	9	0	259
Bromley	4	98	100	59	20	7	0	288
Cam en	20	198	177	104	34	6	0	539
Croydon	3	160	144	94	23	3	0	427
Ealing	23	140	128	81	34	7	1	414
Enfield	34	124	112	84	25	4	0	383
Greenwich	4	178	171	91	37	7	0	488
Hackney	23	163	160	98	23	8	0	475
Hammersmith and Fulham	14	46	56	40	7	5	0	168

Age

2005-06

Borough	1-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+	U/R	Total
Haringey	21	131	129	78	18	3	0	380
Harrow	7	96	86	68	14	4	0	275
Havering	12	149	151	94	36	6	0	448
Heathrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	30	144	91	69	19	7	0	360
Hounslow	20	143	109	69	27	6	0	374
Islington	8	158	141	63	10	3	0	383
Kensington and Chelsea	5	72	68	46	20	2	0	213
Kingston upon Thames	24	51	48	26	6	6	0	161
Lambeth	14	155	151	103	22	5	0	450
Lewisham	12	272	229	159	31	8	0	711
Merton	15	87	113	43	9	5	0	272
Newham	4	166	159	76	21	5	0	431
Red bridge	7	94	87	52	20	3	0	263
Richmond upon Thames	4	50	58	38	17	4	0	171
Southwark	16	200	172	91	32	5	1	517
Sutton	11	75	83	52	11	3	0	235
Tower Hamlets	20	240	184	83	38	6	0	571
Waltham Forest	4	163	178	112	27	10	0	494
Wandsworth	8	124	96	71	27	10	0	336
Westminster	7	83	83	59	23	8	0	263
Grand Total	428	4,206	3,882	2,353	696	179	2	11,746

U/R = Unrecorded

Ethnicity

2001-02

Borough	White European	Dark European	African/Caribbean	Indian/Pakistani
Barking and Dagenham	121	4	22	9
Barnet	127	17	43	23
Bexley	160	8	18	8
Brent	88	15	141	34
Bromley	128	4	14	2
Camden	101	10	38	17
Croydon	186	9	135	17
Ealing	181	8	97	103
Enfield	140	46	51	5
Greenwich	263	7	71	12
Hackney	178	60	285	19
Hammersmith and Fulham	183	10	93	4
Haringey	123	41	105	16
Harrow	173	6	74	45
Havering	167	4	12	0
Heathrow	0	0	1	1
Hillingdon	172	10	24	30
Hounslow	173	8	30	94
Islington	218	51	94	9
Kensington and Chelsea	56	3	30	9
Kingston upon Thames	97	3	11	7
Lambeth	113	10	141	8
Lewisham	200	26	182	13
Merton	101	1	28	10
Newham	109	2	101	65
Redbridge	87	13	37	40
Richmond upon Thames	111	2	10	9
Southwark	190	16	217	13
Sutton	95	5	10	1
Tower Hamlets	96	3	28	53
Waltham Forest	116	11	72	26
Wandsworth	107	4	95	5

Ethnicity

2001-02

Borough	White European	Dark European	African/Caribbean	Indian/Pakistani
Westminster	105	17	48	16
Grand total	4,465	434	2,358	723

Ethnicity

2001-02

Borough	Chinese/Japanese	Arabian/Egyptian	Unrecorded	Annual total
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	156
Barnet	1	0	0	211
Bexley	0	0	0	194
Brent	2	5	0	285
Bromley	1	1	0	150
Camden	1	2	0	169
Croydon	3	1	1	352
Ealing	2	15	0	406
Enfield	0	3	2	247
Greenwich	3	2	1	359
Hackney	3	0	1	546
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	4	0	296
Haringey	1	1	0	287
Harrow	2	10	0	310
Havering	0	0	0	183
Heathrow	0	0	0	2
Hillingdon	4	2	0	242
Hounslow	1	4	0	310
Islington	0	1	0	373
Kensington and Chelsea	5	9	0	112
Kingston upon Thames	1	6	0	125
Lambeth	4	4	0	280
Lewisham	6	1	1	429
Merton	0	2	0	142
Newham	2	1	0	280
Redbridge	2	2	1	182
Richmond upon Thames	2	2	0	136
Southwark	4	5	2	447
Sutton	0	0	0	111
Tower Hamlets	0	3	0	183
Waltham Forest	1	1	0	227
Wandsworth	2	2	0	215
Westminster	4	30	0	220
Grand total	59	119	9	8,167

Ethnicity

2002-03

Borough	White European	Dark European	African/Caribbean	Indian/Pakistani
Barking and Dagenham	251	4	46	28
Barnet	140	13	39	12
Bexley	230	5	19	12
Brent	90	8	189	40
Bromley	253	13	45	10
Camden	152	13	63	27
Croydon	169	11	119	23
Ealing	224	16	151	171
Enfield	135	66	74	19
Greenwich	273	16	108	14
Hackney	179	59	214	32
Hammersmith and Fulham	147	10	94	12
Haringey	123	50	144	11

Ethnicity

2002-03

Borough	White European	Dark European	African/Caribbean	Indian/Pakistani
Harrow	195	11	103	86
Havering	273	4	24	7
Heathrow	1	0	0	0
Hillingdon	171	4	19	41
Hounslow	211	8	55	69
Islington	103	29	97	6
Kensington and Chelsea	115	17	60	4
Kingston upon Thames	110	5	12	4
Lambeth	123	24	230	5
Lewisham	169	23	162	6
Merton	86	7	28	11
Newham	184	12	140	103
Redbridge	104	5	52	66
Richmond upon Thames	131	4	7	4
Southwark	198	14	210	19
Sutton	153	3	16	8
Tower Hamlets	131	10	53	103
Waltham Forest	106	13	60	20
Wandsworth	149	7	125	21
Westminster	108	12	57	23
Grand total	5,187	497	2,815	1,017

Ethnicity

2002-03

Borough	Chinese/Japanese	Arabian/Egyptian	Unrecorded	Annual total
Barking and Dagenham	0	6	0	335
Barnet	1	4	0	209
Bexley	0	0	0	267
Brent	2	7	2	338
Bromley	0	0	0	321
Camden	4	18	0	277
Croydon	0	1	1	324
Ealing	10	15	0	587
Enfield	2	1	0	297
Greenwich	1	2	0	414
Hackney	8	3	0	495
Hammersmith and Fulham	3	10	0	276
Haringey	2	4	0	334
Harrow	0	11	0	406
Havering	0	1	0	309
Heathrow	0	0	0	1
Hillingdon	2	1	0	238
Hounslow	0	2	1	346
Islington	1	4	3	243
Kensington and Chelsea	3	13	0	212
Kingston upon Thames	3	8	0	142
Lambeth	3	4	0	389
Lewisham	5	1	0	366
Merton	1	1	0	134
Newham	5	2	0	446
Redbridge	1	2	0	230
Richmond upon Thames	0	5	0	151
Southwark	1	4	1	447
Sutton	2	1	0	183
Tower Hamlets	2	0	0	299
Waltham Forest	0	0	1	200

Ethnicity

2002-03

Borough	Chinese/Japanese	Arabian/Egyptian	Unrecorded	Annual total
Wandsworth	0	3	1	306
Westminster	1	23	1	225
Grand total	63	157	11	9,747

Ethnicity

2003-04

Borough	White European	Dark European	African/Caribbean	Indian/Pakistani
Barking and Dagenham	266	7	50	19
Barnet	123	10	31	12
Bexley	218	6	27	8
Brent	73	12	117	45
Bromley	297	12	46	8
Camden	188	17	71	32
Croydon	202	11	124	34
Ealing	153	13	118	113
Enfield	123	49	93	28
Greenwich	263	14	92	15
Hackney	126	43	138	19
Hammersmith and Fulham	130	13	103	10
Haringey	89	41	133	14
Harrow	168	13	71	59
Havering	164	2	13	2
Heathrow	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	126	4	31	36
Hounslow	180	9	26	64
Islington	189	18	65	4
Kensington and Chelsea	71	12	46	5
Kingston upon Thames	97	3	13	5
Lambeth	166	33	243	10
Lewisham	192	23	210	8
Merton	202	6	61	27
Newham	120	8	124	47
Redbridge	96	6	55	63
Richmond upon Thames	122	4	13	12
Southwark	146	26	141	1
Sutton	149	1	11	9
Tower Hamlets	145	5	59	85
Waltham Forest	111	18	89	36
Wandsworth	78	14	76	8
Westminster	129	24	66	28
Grand total	4,902	477	2,556	866

Ethnicity

2003-04

Borough	Chinese/Japanese	Arabian/Egyptian	Unrecorded	Annual total
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	342
Barnet	1	7	0	184
Bexley	1	0	0	260
Brent	0	7	0	254
Bromley	1	2	2	368
Camden	6	7	2	323
Croydon	4	2	0	377
Ealing	2	11	1	411
Enfield	1	3	2	299
Greenwich	2	1	3	390
Hackney	4	2	1	333
Hammersmith and Fulham	3	13	0	272

			2003-04	Ethnicity
Borough	*Chinese/Japanese*	*Arabian/Egyptian*	*Unrecorded*	*Annual total*
Haringey	2	2	3	284
Harrow	2	1	0	314
Havering	0	0	1	182
Heathrow	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	0	2	2	201
Hounslow	0	5	1	285
Islington	9	3	0	288
Kensington and Chelsea	6	13	0	153
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	1	122
Lambeth	1	2	0	455
Lewisham	5	1	0	439
Merton	2	1	1	300
Newham	3	2	2	306
Redbridge	1	0	0	221
Richmond upon Thames	0	1	0	152
Southwark	2	6	1	323
Sutton	1	1	0	172
Tower Hamlets	1	2	0	297
Waltham Forest	4	2	1	261
Wandsworth	0	2	2	180
Westminster	6	43	1	297
Grand total	72	145	27	9,045

			2004-05	Ethnicity
Borough	*White European*	*Dark European*	*African/Caribbean*	*Indian/Pakistani*
Barking and Dagenham	198	11	73	15
Barnet	170	18	50	29
Bexley	233	5	16	6
Brent	147	24	169	83
Bromley	270	9	64	4
Camden	264	27	111	41
Croydon	225	25	182	36
Ealing	204	15	130	146
Enfield	161	59	84	31
Greenwich	273	17	85	7
Hackney	156	55	170	28
Hammersmith and Fulham	82	8	62	8
Haringey	115	56	173	19
Harrow	150	11	66	87
Havering	205	8	25	2
Heathrow	1	0	0	0
Hillingdon	187	4	26	40
Hounslow	187	12	56	74
Islington	178	32	81	15
Kensington and Chelsea	56	5	27	5
Kingston upon Thames	129	5	13	12
Lambeth	115	28	252	14
Lewisham	216	35	208	15
Merton	103	5	58	18
Newham	124	5	147	62
Redbridge	94	10	43	62
Richmond upon Thames	108	2	10	9
Southwark	160	17	142	9
Sutton	177	2	12	5
Tower Hamlets	193	27	70	137
Waltham Forest	147	21	114	53
Wandsworth	98	12	60	21

Ethnicity

2004-05

Borough	White European	Dark European	African/Caribbean	Indian/Pakistani
Westminster	133	33	63	24
Grand total	5,259	603	2,842	1,117

Ethnicity

2004-05

Borough	Chinese/Japanese	Arabian/Egyptian	Unrecorded	Annual total
Barking and Dagenham	0	2	4	303
Barnet	1	6	1	275
Bexley	0	1	2	263
Brent	3	5	0	431
Bromley	0	1	1	349
Camden	10	6	4	463
Croydon	1	4	2	475
Ealing	4	17	1	517
Enfield	0	1	1	337
Greenwich	9	4	2	397
Hackney	2	1	4	416
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	7	0	169
Haringey	3	4	1	371
Harrow	1	4	1	320
Havering	1	0	7	248
Heathrow	0	0	0	1
Hillingdon	1	2	1	261
Hounslow	1	6	1	337
Islington	0	4	2	312
Kensington and Chelsea	2	15	0	110
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	0	162
Lambeth	5	8	3	425
Lewisham	2	3	0	479
Merton	1	3	0	188
Newham	3	4	1	346
Redbridge	1	2	1	213
Richmond upon Thames	1	2	1	133
Southwark	4	0	5	337
Sutton	2	0	0	198
Tower Hamlets	5	1	4	437
Waltham Forest	3	1	0	339
Wandsworth	1	2	2	196
Westminster	4	25	0	282
Grand total	75	142	52	10,090

Ethnicity

2005-06

Borough	White European	Dark European	African/Caribbean	Indian/Pakistani
Barking and Dagenham	252	9	72	23
Barnet	212	20	68	33
Bexley	226	7	42	11
Brent	69	16	113	50
Bromley	224	8	40	9
Camden	294	34	139	53
Croydon	214	13	162	34
Ealing	167	9	116	108
Enfield	156	81	115	27
Greenwich	295	17	135	30
Hackney	167	59	203	38
Hammersmith and Fulham	82	4	71	5
Haringey	137	77	129	31

Ethnicity

2005-06

Borough	White European	Dark European	African/Caribbean	Indian/Pakistani
Harrow	139	12	49	70
Havering	399	7	32	6
Heathrow	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	232	11	57	55
Hounslow	206	11	56	89
Islington	188	42	119	20
Kensington and Chelsea	112	12	54	7
Kingston upon Thames	121	11	17	7
Lambeth	129	43	253	19
Lewisham	311	22	350	20
Merton	174	7	60	27
Newham	172	5	138	112
Redbridge	101	5	67	84
Richmond upon Thames	138	8	16	8
Southwark	237	33	219	22
Sutton	184	6	34	6
Tower Hamlets	250	19	91	202
Waltham Forest	201	31	206	52
Wandsworth	175	23	100	29
Westminster	129	18	57	27
Grand total	6,093	680	3,380	1,314

Ethnicity

2005-06

Borough	Chinese/Japanese	Arabian/Egyptian	Unrecorded	Annual total
Barking and Dagenham	1	5	1	363
Barnet	7	5	0	345
Bexley	1	0	2	289
Brent	4	7	0	259
Bromley	2	4	1	288
Camden	10	9	0	539
Croydon	3	1	0	427
Ealing	5	9	0	414
Enfield	2	1	1	383
Greenwich	9	1	1	488
Hackney	3	3	2	475
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	4	0	168
Haringey	6	0	0	380
Harrow	2	3	0	275
Havering	0	1	3	448
Heathrow	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	2	1	2	360
Hounslow	4	8	0	374
Islington	8	4	2	383
Kensington and Chelsea	7	19	2	213
Kingston upon Thames	2	1	2	161
Lambeth	2	4	0	450
Lewisham	4	1	3	711
Merton	3	0	1	272
Newham	2	1	1	431
Redbridge	3	2	1	263
Richmond upon Thames	0	1	0	171
Southwark	2	3	1	517
Sutton	3	2	0	235
Tower Hamlets	6	1	2	571
Waltham Forest	2	1	1	494
Wandsworth	6	3	0	336
Westminster	5	27	0	263
Grand total	118	132	29	11,746

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there have been for domestic violence in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [87305]

Mr. Coaker: The number of arrests for domestic violence in each London borough is only available from 2001-02. The total number of domestic violence arrests for each London borough are contained in the following table. The data demonstrate a steady increase in domestic violence-related arrests by the MPS. This is in line with the Home Office's objectives of increasing the reporting of domestic violence and police proactivity in responding to domestic violence. The CPS does not hold a historical record of domestic violence data for each London borough. The following data are for the number of domestic violence convictions as a proportion of domestic violence prosecutions in the jurisdiction of the London courts. 2005-06—2,503 convictions (51.7 per cent. of prosecutions). 2004-05—1,365 convictions (48.6 per cent. of prosecutions). Comparable figures are not held for years prior to 2004-05.

Persons accused of domestic violence broken down by borough and age range

Financial year	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Barking and Dagenham	156	335	342	303	363
Barnet	211	209	184	275	345
Bexley	194	267	260	263	289
Brent	285	338	254	431	259
Bromley	150	321	368	349	288
Camden	169	277	323	463	539
Croydon	352	324	377	475	427
Ealing	406	587	411	517	414
Enfield	247	297	299	337	383
Greenwich	359	414	390	397	488
Hackney	546	495	333	416	475
Hammersmith and Fulham	296	276	272	169	168
Haringey	287	334	284	371	380
Harrow	310	406	314	320	275
Havering	183	309	182	248	448
Heathrow	2	1	0	1	0
Hillingdon	242	238	201	261	360
Hounslow	310	346	285	337	374
Islington	373	243	288	312	383
Kensington and Chelsea	112	212	153	110	213
Kingston Upon Thames	125	142	122	162	161
Lambeth	280	389	455	425	450
Lewisham	429	366	439	479	711
Merton	142	134	300	188	272
Newham	280	446	306	346	431
Redbridge	182	230	221	213	263
Richmond Upon Thames	136	151	152	133	171
Southwark	447	447	323	337	517
Sutton	111	183	172	198	235
Tower Hamlets	183	299	297	437	571
Waltham Forest	227	200	261	339	494
Wandsworth	215	306	180	196	336
Westminster	220	225	297	282	263
Grand total	8,167	9,747	9,045	10,090	11,746

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 438W, on domestic violence, if he will publish the *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005 results on victimisation. [88513]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures victimisation against adults living in private households in England and Wales. Domestic violence is included as part of the survey's core measure of violent crime. The results from the 2004-05 and 2005-06 BCS surveys have been published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletins 11/05 "Crime in England and Wales 2004-05" and 12/06 "Crime in England and Wales 2005-06". The BCS also includes a self-completion module of questions on interpersonal violence; this covers domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The module was included in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 surveys. The results from the 2004-05 survey were published in May 2006, in Home Office Online Report 12/06. It is currently planned that the results from the 2005-06 survey will be published early 2007.The results from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey, which includes general data on the nature of personal victimisation of young people aged 10 to 25, were published on the 24 November 2005, in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/05 "Young people and crime: findings from the 2004 Offending,

Crime and Justice Survey, Appendix D". It is currently planned that the results from the 2005 survey will be published late 2006.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1252-53W, on domestic violence, what findings were made by the most recent frequency surveys conducted to gauge the level of interpersonal violence experienced by *(a)* children and *(b)* adults over 60 years. [88522]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The British Crime Survey (BCS) measures victimisation against adults living in private households in England and Wales. Domestic violence is included as part of the survey's core measure of violent crime. The results from the 2005-06 BCS were published on 20 July 2006 in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/06 "Crime in England and Wales 2005-06". The risks of victimisation by age and sex for all violence and domestic violence based on the 2005-06 BCS are included in the following table. The BCS also includes a self-completion module of questions on interpersonal violence; this covers domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The module was included in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 surveys. The results from the 2004-05 survey were published in May 2006, in Home Office Online Report 12/06. However, the results only cover those aged from 16 to 59 for methodological reasons. The results from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey, which includes general data on victimisation of young people aged 10 to 25, were published on 24 November 2005, in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 20/05 "Young people and crime: findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey, Appendix D". It is currently planned that the results from the 2005 survey will be published late 2006.

Victims (once or more) 2005-06 BCS

	All violence	*Percentage Domestic*
Men	4.3	0.2
16-24	12.6	0.3
25-34	5.5	0.2
35-44	3.9	0.3
45-54	3.1	0.3
55-64	1.1	0.0
65-74	0.5	0.0
75+	0.3	0.0
Women	2.5	0.6
16-24	7.0	1.4
25-34	2.8	0.6
35-44	3.0	1.1
45-54	2.2	0.6
55-64	1.0	0.2
65-74	0.5	0.0
75+	0.4	0.0

Drivers (Drugs)

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of field impairment tests in identifying drivers with illegal drugs in their bodies. [87484]

Mr. McNulty: The drug driving offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 is that of driving whilst unfit through a drug. Field impairment tests are intended to help an assessment of whether a driver is impaired and whether that impairment might be due to alcohol or a drug. Whether the drug is a controlled substance or obtained legally on prescription or over the counter is not relevant to the offence. There is no offence if the driver has a drug in his body but his driving ability is not impaired. We understand from the police that the tests are useful in making such an assessment. If impairment is suggested and it appears a drug may be responsible, the driver can be required to provide a specimen of blood or urine for laboratory analysis.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement about the use and effectiveness of roadside drugalysers. [87487]

Mr. McNulty: Under s 6C (1)(b) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended, a device used to test a driver for the presence of a drug in his body has to be of a type approved by the Secretary of State. There are at present no devices which have received type approval. International research has suggested that such drug screening devices as are currently available commercially are not suitable for type approval for the purposes of the Act.

Drug Intervention Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the results of the pilots in five areas of the Drug Interventions Programme. [26657]

Mr. Coaker: The hon. Member originally raised this question on 7 November 2005. Given that there were no pilots in any "five areas of the Drug Interventions Programme" it was agreed that the question would be withdrawn and re-tabled. The re-tabled question was answered on 6 February 2006 and I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 937W.

I am now pleased to give the hon. Member the latest position on numbers into treatment. Since the introduction of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) in April 2003, over 48,000 drug misusing offenders have entered treatment through DIP (May 2006). We are on track to achieve the overall target of 1,000 offenders a week into treatment by 2008 and we exceeded the interim (March 2005) target by 54 per cent.

Drug Strategies

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans his Department has made for the review of the *(a)* UK and *(b)* UN drug strategies in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [85395]

Mr. McNulty: The Government's Drug Strategy is delivering tangible improvements in communities across the country. The Drug Harm Index, which measures a range of harms caused by drug misuse, shows a 24 per cent. reduction since the introduction of the updated Drug Strategy in 2002.

In advance of 2008, a full review will be undertaken to inform the next stage of the Strategy. Departments delivering the Drug Strategy are currently participating in the comprehensive and in-depth value for money programme led by HMT as part of the preparations for the Comprehensive Review 2007, due to report next year.

With its European Union partners, the Government are seeking to ensure that the 10-year plan of action, established by the 1988 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs, is evaluated rigorously and realistically, through the best available scientific and statistical evidence; and that the results of the evaluation will lay firm foundations for realistic future UN strategies against illicit drugs.

Decisions made on the future direction and form of the post-2008 strategies will be communicated to all partners and stakeholders at the earliest opportunity.

Drug Use

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will publish the findings and evidence contained in the study into the prevalence of drug use across the 149 drug action team areas commissioned by his Department from the Centre for Research into Drug Misuse at Glasgow University in partnership with the University of Manchester. [88811]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* A publication date for this report has not been finalised yet. We intend to publish this in one collated volume with a number of other related drugs research studies.

Drugs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of possession with intent to supply *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* ecstasy, *(c)* cocaine, *(d)* crack cocaine and *(e)* heroin in each London borough in each of the last five years. [85950]

Mr. Coaker: Available data relate to court proceedings within London's City and Metropolitan police areas between 2000 and 2004. Information cannot be broken down to London borough level.

Table A: Persons found guilty for possession with intent to supply[2] drug offences[1], City of London police force area,2000 to 2004

Drug type	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cannabis[3]	0	1	3	3	0
Ecstasy	1	2	4	6	1
Cocaine	0	1	1	7	4
Crack	0	0	0	0	0
Heroin	0	1	3	0	0

[1] Excludes operations dealt with by HM Revenue and Customs.
[2] As an offence can involve more than one drug type, columns cannot be added together to produce sub-totals or totals.
[3] On 29 January 2004 cannabis was re-classified from being a class B to a class C drug.

Table B: Persons found guilty for possession with intent to supply drug offences[1], Metropolitan police area, 2000 to 2004

Drug type	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cannabis 3	333	350	352	362	295
Ecstasy	127	119	105	116	81
Cocaine	133	208	218	221	246
Crack	68	82	89	118	107
Heroin	130	170	154	213	179

[1] Excludes operations dealt with by HM Revenue and Customs.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* x-ray and *(b)* ultrasound scanners are in use by the police for dealing with those suspected of possessing class A drugs. [88950]

John Reid: Section 5 of the Drugs Act 2005 gave police forces in England and Wales the power to require a person believed to have swallowed a class A drug to undergo an x-ray or ultrasound scan in certain circumstances. The provision was commenced on 1 January 2006. Such a procedure may only be carried out by a suitably qualified person, and only at a hospital, a registered medical practitioner's surgery, or some other place used for medical purposes. It follows that no scanners are used solely by the police or solely for this purpose.

Drunk and Disorderly Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* under-age offenders were found guilty of (i) drunken and disorderly behaviour and (ii) drunken and aggravated behaviour providing figures in (A) rural and (B) non-rural areas in (1) absolute terms and (2) per 1,000 population in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [84631]

Mr. Sutcliffe: From data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, it is not possible to identify convictions in rural and non-rural areas separately as this information is not collected.

Early Release

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have been released under the early release scheme in each year since its introduction; and what assessment he has made of the scheme's effect on demand for prison places. [88849]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, those sentenced to determinate sentences of four years or more are eligible for parole halfway through their sentence. If parole is not granted then release occurs at the two-thirds point of the sentence (or at a subsequent parole review if earlier). Numbers of prisoners recommended for parole are shown at table 10.4 of the offender management caseload statistics 2004, a copy of which can be found in the Library.

Prisoners sentenced to determinate terms of under four years under the 1991 Act are generally released automatically at the halfway point of their sentence.

The Home Detention Curfew scheme (HDC) has been in operation since January 1999. Subject to

meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a careful risk assessment, prisoners serving sentences of between three months and less than four years may be released up to four and a half months (135 days) early from prison subject to an electronically monitored curfew normally between 7pm and 7am. Although not its primary purpose, HDC plays an important role in managing the prison population by reducing overcrowding at the same time as improving resettlement opportunities for less serious offenders. Information on the numbers of prisoners released under Home Detention Curfew (HDC), can be found in tables 10.3 in the offender management caseload statistics 2004.

The figures provided in the tables referred to have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced new arrangements for prison sentences. They apply only to offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. A new indeterminate public protection sentence was introduced. Those offenders judged to be dangerous, and who have committed serious sexual or violent offences, can be kept in prison until the Parole Board judges it is safe to release them. If they have committed less serious offences they may serve a determinate sentence followed by an extended period on licence after release of up to eight years for sexual offences and five years for violent offences. Other determinate sentence prisoners will be released automatically at the half-way point of their sentence.

At any one time about 2,700 people—who would otherwise be filling prison places—are serving the last part of their sentence on HDC. The other early release arrangements described above inform projections of the prison population. Projections to 2011 have been produced for a range of scenarios and are published in Home Office statistical bulletin 10/05, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. Further projections will be published shortly.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what monitoring procedures are in place for prisoners released before their sentence expiry date. [70162]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisoners sentenced to a determinate sentence of 12 months or over who fall to be released under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 are subject to probation supervision from the point at which they are released until their licence expiry date (which will extend up until the three-quarter point of their sentence). Prisoners recalled during that period are re-released at the discretion of the Parole Board and are normally subject to further probation supervision until the expiry of their sentence. Prisoners sentenced to a determinate sentence of 12 months or over under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 are subject to probation supervision from the point of release until the expiry of the sentence. Prisoners sentenced to an extended sentence are subject to probation supervision for the normal licence period as well as the extension period of the sentence. All prisoners subject to probation supervision are required to report to their supervising officer and may be required to live where directed and to comply with a range of other licence conditions which assist the Probation Service to monitor their behaviour in the community. Failure to comply can result in the offender's licence being revoked and the offender's being returned to custody. Determinate sentence prisoners serving a sentence of three months or over but less than four years may be released up to 135 days before their automatic release date on the home detention curfew scheme. These prisoners are subject to an electronically monitored curfew and liable to recall if they breach the terms of the curfew. Young offenders (those aged under 22 years upon their release) who are serving a sentence of less than 12 months and who fall to be released under the Criminal Justice Act 1991 receive a period of statutory supervision upon their release, which runs for three months (or until the offender reaches 22 years of age).

ECAA Switching Cases

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for the right of establishment in business under EU association agreements in ECAA switching cases were submitted using standard-form business plans identical or materially similar to those submitted by other such applicants. [86270]

Mr. Byrne: Information in the form requested is not available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department are aware of any applications for the right of establishment in business under EU association agreements in ECAA switching cases having been granted in error between 1 June 2003 and 30 April 2004. [86271]

Mr. Byrne: The report by Ken Sutton published on 17 June 2004, found that there was clear evidence that the ECAA category had been exploited and that applications were granted to some individuals who were unlikely to have been able to demonstrate that they could sustain themselves in business.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for the right of establishment in business under EU association agreements in ECAA switching cases were refused between 1 June 2003 and 30 April 2004, broken down by *(a)* reason for refusal and *(b)* nationality of the applicant. [86272]

Mr. Byrne: Between 1 June 2003 and 30 April 2004 1,006 applications for the right of establishment in business under EU association agreements in ECAA switching cases were refused. A breakdown of the nationalities of the refused applicants is given in the following table. There is no facility on the Management Information System to produce a breakdown of reasons for refusal.

Country of origin	Number
Bulgaria	36
Czech Republic	4
Estonia	7
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	1
Hungary	1
Latvia	72
Lithuania	184
Moldova	1
Poland	617
Romania	58
Russia	2
Slovakia	5
Turkey	13
Ukraine	5
Grand total	1,006

Notes:
This information has not been quality assured, and is not a National Statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information and may be subject to change.

Effective Trial Management Programme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the effective trial management programme. [88663]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The primary aim of the effective trial management programme is to reduce the number of ineffective trials by improving case preparation and progression from point of charge through to trial or earlier conclusion. By increasing the certainty of trial or hearing dates, the programme aims to bring more offences to justice and improve public confidence in the criminal justice system, particularly that of victims and witnesses. Effective trial management formed part of the wider criminal case management programme aimed at improving the end-to-end process, and which included the setting up of 165 Witness Support Units under the No Witness No Justice project, and the roll-out of the new charging scheme.

Implementation of the effective trial management programme, together with the other two elements of the wider criminal case management programme, has been completed in all criminal justice areas across England and Wales. The indications are that reductions in headline ineffective trial rates have been achieved. Stakeholder confidence and satisfaction in the changes remains high, with effective trial management being a priority at local and national level.

Emergency Planning Exercises

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what emergency planning exercises *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible have carried out in the last six months. [54937]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office leads the National Counter Terrorism Exercise Programme which is designed to test the preparedness of the police to respond to major terrorist incidents and to drive improvements to counter terrorist contingency planning within Government Departments. As part of this the Home Office runs three national exercises each year as well as up to 12 table-top exercises.

Two full scale national counter terrorism exercises and nine table-top exercises were held between September 2005 and August 2006.

Individual police forces also run their own counter terrorism and other civil contingencies exercises at local level. Details of these exercises are not held centrally.

In addition, the Home Office also carries out business continuity planning, disaster management and other contingency planning in order to ensure that its business can continue in the event of an incident that might otherwise affect its ability to function normally. Home Office Headquarters has not exercised these plans between September 2005 and August 2006. Details of emergency planning exercises held in individual immigration offices, immigration detention centres, immigration ports, prisons and other offices falling within the Home Office's remit, are not held centrally.

Employment Discrimination (Criminal Records Checks)

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the result has been of his Department's consideration of the merits of establishing an independent licensing authority to tackle employment discrimination related to criminal records checks. [51405]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The setting up of a central register of ex-offenders was a key recommendation of Sir Michael Bichard's report into those working with children and vulnerable adults. This particular area of policy is led by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

After considering all the options very carefully, including a licensing route, DfES introduced the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill in February 2006. This seeks to enact agreed proposals to establish a new central Vetting and Barring Scheme to ensure all those seeking jobs that give significant access to children or vulnerable adults are properly vetted. This approach has been consulted upon and endorsed by Sir Michael Bichard.

Engagements

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to be in a position to indicate to the hon. Member for North Thanet what discussions he held with representatives of The News of the World during the four weeks preceding 26 June 2006 in answer to question 79809. [87757]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The Home Secretary replied to the hon. Member on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1333W.

Entry Points

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the points of entry are into the United Kingdom. [87298]

John Reid: There are many potential entry points to the UK including small air and sea ports, marinas and

airfields. There are 35 air, sea and rail points of entry in the UK and in juxtaposed locations, which, by virtue of the nature and frequency of traffic and the numbers of passengers requiring leave to enter the port, have immigration official presence 24 hours a day or during operating hours. Other small points of entry are attended to cover scheduled services, or on a risk assessed basis, or in response to specific intelligence. The names of these points of entry cannot be disclosed as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent immigration controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of immigration offences.

European Arrest Warrants

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the letter dated 22 January 2006 from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department to the Chairman of Sub-Committee E of the House of Lords European Union Committee, what the title was of each case in 2005 where European arrest warrants were discharged by the UK courts for passage of time considerations; which court discharged each case; and what the length of time which had passed was in each case. [86414]

Joan Ryan: There were four cases discharged due to the passage of time in the UK in 2005. Three of these were dealt with by Bow Street magistrates court, which deals with all extradition requests in England and Wales, and one by the Edinburgh sheriffs court. Additionally, one case was discharged in 2005 but the case was not formally confirmed until 2006, when an appeal against the decision was withdrawn and one was discharged for two reasons, the secondary reason being passage of time. Both these cases were also dealt with by Bow Street magistrates court. The cases were: Teresa Restas, where the alleged offences took place in 1985 and the European arrest warrant (EAW) was issued in 2005. Rafal Darek, where the alleged offences took place in 1995 and the EAW was issued in 2004. Ronaldas Pakstas, where the alleged offences took place in 1998 and the EAW was issued in 2004 Richard Rockiki (Scottish case) where the alleged offences took place in 1986 and the EAW was issued in 2004. The case where the appeal was withdrawn in 2006 was Peter Lewis, where the alleged offences took place in 1996 and the EAW was issued in 2004. The case discharged principally for another reason was Ravnik Bojan, where the alleged offences took place in 1992 and the EAW was issued in 2005.

Extradition

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many US citizens have been extradited from the UK since 1997; and how many UK citizens have been extradited from the US since 1997. [89193]

Mr. McNulty: Neither the UK or US keep a permanent central record of the nationalities of those extradited between the two countries, because both countries have always been prepared to consider the extradition of its own citizens.

Statistical information is only available since 1998.

The figures do not include Scotland and Northern Ireland who have devolved powers to make or grant requests.

Total extradited (of all nationalities) to the US from England and Wales

	Number
1998	7
1999	7
2000	9
2001	8
2002	12
2003	6
2004	8
2005	13
2006 (to 21 July)	11

Note:
The 2006 figure includes one person who is counted once but was returned to the US on two requests (both under the 1989 Act and 2003 Act for separate offences in two different States).

Total extradited (of all nationalities) from the US to England and Wales:

	Number
1998	5
1999	2
2000	2
2001	3
2002	3
2003	2
2004	4
2005	1
2006 (to 21 July)	1

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for extradition *(a)* were received in 2005 and *(b)* have been received in 2006 from each of the countries that were the subject of the Part two Territories Designation Order 2003. [86761]

Joan Ryan: The figures for those countries which were designated under the Extradition Act 2003 (Designation of Part two Territories) Order 2003, and which made requests under the Extradition Act 2003 during the periods in question, are given in the table. The figures do not include requests made to Ministers in Scotland and Northern Ireland, who have devolved powers to make or grant requests.

Part two Territories	*(a) 2005*	*(b) 2006 (to 18 July 2006)*
Albania	2	4
Armenia	—	1
Australia	3	4
Azerbaijan	1	—
Canada	3	1
Croatia	2	2
Czech Republic[1]	1	—
Georgia	1	—
Germany[1]	1	—
Hong Kong SAR	—	1
India	4	—
Israel	2	—
Italy[1]	3	—
Mauritius	1	—

Part two Territories	(a) 2005	(b) 2006 (to 18 July 2006)
Norway	1	—
Romania	14	2
Russian Federation	5	4
Switzerland	—	2
Trinidad and Tobago	—	2
Turkey	1	2
USA	8	9

[1] Upon joining the European Arrest Warrant mechanism, these countries were re-designated as Part one Territories on the following dates: Czech Republic and Germany: 1 March 2005; France: 27 July 2004; Italy: 28 July 2005.

Extremism/Islamaphobia

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in setting up a national forum against *(a)* extremism and *(b)* Islamophobia as proposed in response to the 7 July bombings. [71940]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 19 May 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

Six regional forums are to be created, led by key individuals and bringing together members of local Muslim communities, law enforcement and public service agencies to discuss how to tackle extremism and Islamophobia in their area. The forums will provide a safe space for sharing views and developing new thinking and action plans for dealing with extremism. The first three forums have taken place in Leicester (18 June), Redbridge (24 June), and Dudley (3 July). A further three are planned before November.

A national forum against extremism has been formed by 12 Muslim organisations; they plan to hold a conference in the autumn.

False Passports/Identity Documents

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested in England and Wales for possession of *(a)* a false passport and *(b)* other false identity documents in each of the last five years. [86809]

Joan Ryan: Information on arrests collected centrally in England and Wales is based on persons arrested for "notifiable" offences by main offence group only and does not identify individual offences.

Firearms

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of illegal firearms in circulation; what steps he is taking to reduce the number; and if he will make a statement. [89031]

Mr. McNulty: There are no reliable estimates of the number of prohibited firearms in circulation.

We are taking action in a variety of ways to take illegal firearms off the streets:

we have introduced a five-year minimum sentence for possession of a prohibited firearm and are tightening legislation in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill with a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon;

we support dedicated and intelligence-led police enforcement operations focusing on gun crime, including the seizure of firearms, such as Operation Trident;

HM Revenue and Customs conduct operations to detect and seize illegal weapons. We also support community work aimed at helping young people who may be at risk of involvement in gun crime through the Connected Fund.

Foreign Criminals

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign mentally-disordered individuals held in special hospitals under mental health legislation were released without notification to the immigration and nationality directorate in *(a)* the last six months, *(b)* the last 12 months and *(c)* the last five years; [77405]

(2) how many foreign mentally-disordered individuals held in special hospitals under mental health legislation have been released without being considered for deportation in *(a)* the last six months, *(b)* the last 12 months and *(c)* the last five years. [77406]

John Reid: The information requested is not currently held centrally.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national offenders have been served with deportation orders in each year since 1999. [68731]

John Reid: Up until 2002, published information is available on the total number of persons against whom enforcement action was initiated, including deportation action, in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom Command Paper. Published editions of this Command Paper and other information on immigration and asylum are available on the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Information on deportation action was not available for 2003 due to data quality issues in this area. Information for 2004 has been published (as at the listed website) provisionally and may be revised in the 2005 Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom Command Paper publication.

The immigration and nationality directorate is currently putting in place new processes to improve its data collection systems for the future in this area.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether private finance initiative schemes have been used for handling the deportation of foreign national criminals since 1997. [68747]

Mr. Byrne: I can advise the hon. Member that no private finance initiative schemes have been used for handling the deportation of foreign national criminals since 1997.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of *(a)*

back-processing and *(b)* locating of foreign national prisoners released without processing for deportation; how many personnel have been deployed on these tasks; and from which other sections they have been reassigned. [68767]

Mr. Byrne: The total cost of the operation to track and detain foreign criminals is not currently available because work on the 1,013 cases released without consideration of deportation is still ongoing.

The immigration and nationality directorate's criminal casework directorate is overseeing work, staffed with over 400 full-time equivalent staff of which some are on loan on a short and long-term basis from other areas of the immigration and nationality directorate as recruitment takes place. These staff have come from a range of operational areas. Risks to business delivery associated with loaning staff to the criminal casework directorate are being closely managed.

IND is also working closely with a number of other Government Departments in locating and dealing with these individuals, in particular the police who have jointly led the intelligence gathering operation to locate these individuals.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 29 June 2006, *Official Report,* columns 641-2W, on foreign criminals, where in the written statement of 29 June 2006, *Official Report,* columns 18-19WS, on deportation and removal of foreign nationals, or in the letter from the director-general of the immigration and nationality department to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee the information sought in Question numbers 67390 and 67391 is to be found. [85900]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The immigration and nationality directorate (IND) director general's letter of 29 June provided a comprehensive breakdown at that time on the 1,013 foreign national prisoners released without deportation consideration. The information was collated centrally and quality assured by the Department and is the most accurate and robust data currently available to the Department on these individuals.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will be writing shortly to the hon. Member to address the particular point she raised with him on 17 July 2006, *Official Report,* column 3W, regarding sex offenders in oral questions to the Home Department.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases when a deportation notice has been served the Home Secretary has exercised his powers to grant bail pending termination of the appeal in each of the last three years. [86049]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not collate information in the format requested and it could be produced in the format requested only at disproportionate cost.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report,* columns 641-42W, on foreign criminals, what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure that a ministerial answer to a parliamentary question addresses the terms of the question asked. [87754]

Mr. Byrne: The hon. Member is entitled to ask a pursuant question for further clarification or detail. I am already aware that the hon. Member has tabled a pursuant question regarding the answers given on 29 June 2006 to her questions.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of activities associated with the tracking and detention of the 1,023 foreign criminals released without consideration for deportation. [73526]

Mr. Byrne: The total cost of the operation to track and detain foreign criminals is not currently available because work on the 1,013 cases released without consideration of deportation is still ongoing.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the nationality of prisoners is routinely recorded on their files; and if he will make a statement. [67473]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Yes. This information is routinely recorded on both the computerised Local Inmate Database and on the prisoner's core paper file. Where it cannot be recorded on the day of reception, it will normally be added shortly after as part of the reception process. In a written ministerial statement of 19 July 2006, *Official Report,* column 29WS my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) set out the progress the Department is making to address the fact that there is currently no requirement in law for the detainee to provide details of their identity or nationality.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (1) how many foreign nationals there are in prison in England and Wales with each type of immigration status; and what percentage of the total number of foreign nationals in prison this represents in each case; [67557]

(2) how many foreign nationals there were in prisons in England and Wales in each year since 1996; [67558]

(3) how many foreign nationals are in prisons in England and Wales, broken down by sex. [71824]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 May 2006]:* Available information for the years 1996 to 2005 on the number of foreign nationals held in prison establishments in England and Wales, broken down by sex, is given in table 8.4 and 8.4a of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, which can be found at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people granted asylum in the UK in the last 10 years committed criminal offences which attracted *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences in each year since 1997, broken down by country of origin; [68883]

(2) how many people given indefinite leave to remain in the UK within the last 10 years committed criminal offences which attracted *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences in each year since 1997; [68916]

(3) how many illegal immigrants have been convicted of criminal offences which attracted *(a)* custodial and *(b)* non-custodial sentences in each year since 1997. [68917]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available centrally as details relating to the immigration status of persons sentenced does not form part of the Home Office Court Proceedings Database. Neither does the immigration and nationality directorate hold information centrally on offences committed by or convictions and sentences imposed on persons falling within these categories.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were imprisoned in each year between 1999 and 2005; and what the average time spent in prison was by these prisoners. [69537]

Mr. Byrne: Information for the years 1999 to 2005 on the number of foreign nationals held in prison establishments in England and Wales is given in table 8.4 and 8.4a of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004. Information on the average time served in prison establishments of foreign nationals discharged from determinate sentences is given in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Average time served in prison (including remand time) in months of foreign national prisoners discharged from prison from determinate sentences on completion of sentence or on licence

Year of discharge	*Number of prisoners*
1999	9.9
2000	10.2
2001	10.2
2002	10.0
2003	10.4
2004	10.7
2005	9.3

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has carried out on the rates of recidivism among foreign national prisoners. [69540]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Office has not conducted any specific research into reoffending amongst foreign national prisoners. Reoffending rates for discharged prisoners are published annually. These include foreign national prisoners (unless marked as deported upon release from custody) but separate figures are not available for this group. The latest figures can be found in 'Adult reoffending: results from the 2002 cohort'. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 25/05'. This is available on the Home Office's website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbpubs1.html. The report shows the reoffending rate of offenders released from prison for 2002 and 2000.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-British citizens are serving prison sentences in England and Wales. [69599]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of foreign national prisoners serving an immediate custodial sentence in prison establishments in England and Wales is given in table 8.28 of the web tables of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, available at the following address: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost has been of the operation to *(a)* trace, *(b)* track, *(c)* detain and *(d)* conduct surveillance on foreign prisoners released without due deportation review process. [71208]

Mr. Byrne: The total cost of the operation to track and detain foreign criminals is not currently available because work on the 1,013 cases released without consideration of deportation is still ongoing.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question *(a)* 67587, on foreign prisoners, tabled by the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight on 26 April and *(b)* 67931, on prisoners released on licence, tabled on 27 April. [82663]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) replied to *(a)* on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 645W. The hon. Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe) replied to *(b)* on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 414W.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those foreign nationals eligible for deportation following the end of their prison sentence who have remained in the country have been in receipt of state benefits in the period following their release; and if he will make a statement. [75497]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 June 2006]:* The information requested is not collected centrally and therefore would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former foreign prisoners are claiming asylum, broken down by country of origin. [73602]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collected centrally and would require an examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Fox Hunting

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers *(a)* Scottish police forces operating close to the border have to enforce the fox hunting ban in England and *(b)* English police forces operating close to the border have to enforce the fox hunting ban in Scotland. [88220]

Mr. McNulty: Section 98 of the Police Act 1996 enables aid to be provided between police forces in the different jurisdictions within the United Kingdom. While providing mutual aid a constable is under the direction and control of the receiving force and has the powers and privileges of a constable in the receiving force.

Where cross-border aid provisions are not in effect part 10 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 provides police constables from one jurisdiction with the following enforcement powers in other jurisdictions in the UK:

Section 140 provides that where a constable in one jurisdiction has a power to arrest a person for an offence committed in their jurisdiction an officer from another jurisdiction who is present there has the same power of arrest in the jurisdiction where the offence was committed.

Section 137 provides that where a person suspected of committing an offence in one jurisdiction is in another jurisdiction an officer from the jurisdiction where the offence was committed has the power to arrest the suspect in the other jurisdiction.

The issue of mutual aid or the exercise of cross-border powers is an operational matter for the individual Chief Officers concerned.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has given to English constabularies on supporting constabularies in Scotland in enforcing the fox hunting ban. [88514]

Mr. McNulty: None. This is an operational matter for Chief Officers.

Gambling

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for gambling offences in each of the last five years. [88495]

John Reid: Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences related to gambling, in England and Wales 2000-04 are provided in the following table. Because of the large range of offences included, data have been provided at offence class level, divided between summary and indictable gambling offences. Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences related to illegal gambling, England and Wales, 2000-04[1,2]

	Betting, gaming and lotteries offences	
	Indictable offences	*Summary offences*
2000	19	13
2001	13	37
2002	10	35
2003	12	10
2004	14	5

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Note:
Includes offences related to gaming regulations, amusements, unlicensed gambling and national lottery offences.

Gun Crime

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* shotguns, *(b)* rifles and (c) handguns were stolen in (i) Southend-on-Sea, (ii) Essex, (iii) Hertfordshire, (iv) the Metropolitan Police area of London, (v) City of London Police area and (vi) England and Wales in each year since 1986; and how many were subsequently recovered and returned to the owner. [82557]

Mr. McNulty: Information on firearms stolen, subsequently recovered and returned to the owner is not collected centrally. Data on stolen weapons for England and Wales are given from 1986 to 2004-05. Breakdowns of these weapons by police force area are not available centrally for years up to and including 1998-99; therefore force level data are given only from 1999-2000 to 2004-05. There was a 52 per cent. decrease in the reported number of shotguns misappropriated in England and Wales in 2004-05 (403) compared to 1986 (842), a 32 per cent. increase in the number of rifles (140 and 106 respectively) and a 55 per cent. decrease in the number of handguns (81 and 181 respectively). There was little fluctuation in the numbers of misappropriated shotguns, rifles and handguns recorded by police in Essex, Hertfordshire and City of London between 1999-2000 and 2004-05. Although the numbers recorded by the Metropolitan Police were also relatively small, there were large percentage decreases for misappropriations of each of these weapon types: 62 per cent. decrease in the number of shotguns (from 29 in 1999-2000 to 11 in 2004-05); 100 per cent. decrease in rifles (from 33 to 0 respectively); 97 per cent. decrease in handguns (from 61 to two respectively).

Firearms Misappropriated[1] *in Crimes Recorded by the Police*

	Essex Police Force		
	Shotguns	*Rifles*	*Handguns*
1999-2000	10	0	2
2000-01	2	1	0
2001-02	11	8	1
2002-03	5	0	1
2003-04	11	0	0
2004-05	7	0	0

Hertfordshire Police Force

	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns
1999-2000	10	0	2
2000-01	5	3	2
2001-02	2	1	0
2002-03	5	1	1
2003-04	5	0	2
2004-05	7	1	1

Metropolitan Police Force

	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns
1999-2000	29	33	61
2000-01	39	20	30
2001-02	14	15	13
2002-03	13	2	12
2003-04	10	11	8
2004-05	11	0	2

City of London

	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns
1999-2000	0	0	0
2000-01	1	0	0
2001-02	0	3	0
2002-03	0	0	0
2003-04	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	0

England and Wales[2]

	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns
1986	842	106	181
1987	768	104	116
1988	614	78	123
1989	509	79	142
1990	495	116	193
1991	600	141	206
1992	590	139	282
1993	622	209	347
1994	554	130	270
1995[3]	728	232	398
1996	624	201	294
1997	539	193	305
1997-98	524	155	270
1998-99	395	179	242
1999-2000	447	200	219
2000-01	431	172	167
2001-02	423	139	79
2002-03	462	129	85
2003-04	397	130	96
2004-05	403	140	81

[1] Misappropriated is defined as stolen, obtained by fraud or forgery etc., or handled dishonestly.
[2] For years up to 1994,more than one firearm may have been misappropriated in each offence.
[3] From 1995, the figures relate to the number of firearms misappropriated.

Hezbollah

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce legislation to make it unlawful *(a)* to fundraise and *(b)* to provide support for the Hezbollah terrorist organisation; and if he will make a statement. [87214]

Mr. McNulty: The military wing of Hezbollah, the External Security Organisation, was proscribed as a terrorist organisation in the UK in February 2001. Under the proscription powers it is unlawful in the UK to be a member of Hezbollah's External Security Organisation, to fund it, recruit for it or support it in any way.

HMP Dartmoor

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on programmes addressing reoffending at HMP Dartmoor provided by *(a)* the voluntary sector and *(b)* the prison service in 2005-06. [88340]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service spent £1,210,000 on intervention programmes at Dartmoor in 2005-06. The amount spent by the voluntary sector is not known and is a matter for the voluntary sector.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the Inner Change programme at HMP Dartmoor; and if he will make a statement. [88341]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The programme was introduced as a pilot only. Following a review under Prison Service Order 4350 (Effective Regimes Interventions) the programme is currently being withdrawn. The Review Panel identified a range of concerns, the most significant being the poor quality of the manuals, which did not demonstrate a structured and coherent programme, a lack of consistency and clarity about the primary aims of the programme, a lack of understanding and appropriate sensitivity to the diversity agenda of HM Prison Service, and an absence of protocols for the management of the mentor system, making it unsafe.

Home Detention Curfews

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the reasons for the decline in the use of home detention curfews during the first five months of 2006 compared with the same period in 2005 and 2004. [87229]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are aware that the number of prisoners released on HOC has fallen since 2004 and we are monitoring the situation. We aim to release all eligible prisoners who pass the risk assessment but public safety will not be compromised; prisoners who are considered to present a risk to the public will not be released on HOC. Officials are investigating the reasons for the decreasing numbers of prisoners released on HOC. The factors that may contribute to the numbers released on HOC are complex and more work needs to be done to analyse the available information.

Human Rights Legislation

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has received recent advice on the effects on the functions of his Department of human rights legislation. [78424]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The recently published document "Rebalancing the criminal justice system in favour of the law-abiding majority" reflected the results of a review carried out inside Government, informed by experience and research and by consultation with the frontline on how the Human Rights Act impacts on the criminal justice system. This revealed that the Human Rights Act provides a powerful framework to protect the rights of individuals but secure a proper balance with the safety of the law-abiding majority. It gives effect in UK law to the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights to which we have been bound for over half a century.

The document stated that where the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg interprets the Convention in a way which prevents the proper application of this balance (in particular the 1996 Chahal case where the Court found the UK Government could not consider the protection as a balancing factor when arguing the case for the deportation of a dangerous person) we will work with European partners to challenge this.

The review also identified the need to do more to ensure that the Human Rights Act is not misinterpreted to prevent action to protect the public. In the light of recent cases such as the tragic murder of Naomi Bryant the Government are conducting a thorough review of how police, probation, parole and prison service balance public protection and individual and collective rights. If necessary we will legislate to ensure that public protection is given priority. In other cases, the review identified instances where organisations are over-cautious in their interpretation of competing rights. To combat this, we will make better practical advice available to practitioners on how rights should be balanced between offenders and the wider community and create an advice service to allow front-line practitioners to obtain fast online access to relevant legal resources.

We will also institute a routine process of review through a scrutiny panel (made up of practitioners and lawyers) reporting to the National Criminal Justice Board (which includes relevant CJS Ministers) which will scrutinise the application of rights and ensure that the approach to administration is robust and fair and propose further changes to the law and guidance where it detects problems or imbalances.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* found guilty of offences related to human trafficking, in each of the last five years. [78808]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* Reflex, the multi-agency taskforce set up to deal with organised immigration crime, reported the following arrests for human trafficking. The figures that they have available on the number of arrests for trafficking are as follows:

	Number
2004-05	102
2005-06	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Following the commencement of dedicated trafficking offences in 2004 the convictions are as follows:

	Conviction
2004	3
2005	23
2006 (To date)	3

Prior to the introduction of this dedicated legislation there was only one conviction for a trafficking offence under the Immigration Act 1971.

Operation Pentameter, a multi-agency initiative aimed at tackling the trafficking of human beings for sexual exploitation, was recently co-ordinated across the whole of the UK involving all 55 police forces and a number of NGOs. This has led to 232 arrests and 134 people charged for trafficking-related offences to date.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what organisations *(a)* he has consulted and *(b)* he plans to consult (i) as part of the public consultation on human trafficking and (ii) prior to the publication of the Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. [79230]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The consultation document "Tackling Human Trafficking - Consultation on Proposals for a UK Action Plan" was published on 5 January 2006 and concluded on 5 April 2006. The document was placed on the Home Office website and over 1,400 copies were sent to stakeholders including police, non-governmental organisations, charities, trade unions, judiciary, local councils and other Government Departments.

A summary of responses report to the consultation was published on 21 June 2006. A list of the 206 respondents to the consultation can be found at Annex A of that report and can also be found on the Home Office website.

The responses to the consultation will be considered in the course of developing the UK Action Plan to combat human trafficking. Further consultation with key stakeholders may be required prior to publication of the Action Plan in order to take forward suggestions made in the consultation process.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the practical implications of the European Convention on Trafficking Human Beings in making his decision on whether to ratify the convention. [80403]

Mr. Coaker: The UK is currently considering whether to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Human Trafficking.

In July last year a questionnaire was issued seeking information about the methods of support in place in other European Union (EU) countries. The responses to that questionnaire are now being analysed for evidence on how the automatic granting of reflection periods and residence permits to those presenting as victims of trafficking are operating in other European transit or destination countries where they have been introduced.

A case-by-case approach, as operated in the United Kingdom, does not appear to be less effective at offering targeted support, than these new approaches.

The Government are examining how the convention's approach could best be harmonised with effective immigration controls. They are also considering responses to the recent consultation paper on a proposed UK Action Plan on trafficking in humans

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of trafficking of children aged under 10 years into the UK have been recorded in each of the last five years. [87308]

Mr. Coaker: Information related to the number of incidents of trafficked children into the UK, under the age of 10 years, in each of the past five years is not available. As yet there are no centrally collated data on the numbers of trafficked victims into the country.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for human trafficking offences since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [89029]

Mr. Coaker: The crime of trafficking in human beings was put on the statute book by this Government by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003, and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004. The following figures cover the period since the introduction of the relevant Acts. There were 102 arrests for human trafficking offences under Reflex-funded operations in the year 2004-05. The figures for arrests under Reflex-funded operations in the period 2005-06 are not yet available. However, the recent Operation Pentameter led to 232 arrests of people for trafficking or trafficking-related offences.

Identity Cards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of producing identity cards; and if he will make a statement. [88948]

Joan Ryan: No assessment has been undertaken as it is not yet appropriate to make decisions regarding for example the materials and manufacturing processes which will be used to produce the cards. Any future regulatory impact assessments on the introduction of identity cards will include an assessment of environmental costs and benefits.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government have spent on developing the identity cards scheme; and if he will make a statement. [89025]

Joan Ryan: Since the start of the financial year 2003-04, £46.4 million has been spent in total on the identity cards scheme up to the end of May 2006.

Identity Fraud

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of whether the risk of identity fraud to the general public has changed since July 2005. [86648]

Joan Ryan: The Home Office works with the police and law enforcement agencies, including the Serious Organised Crime Agency, other Government Departments and the private sector to consider intelligence, information, surveys, and statistics which provide an indication of the scale of the problem of identity fraud. Evidence from CIFAS—the UK's Fraud Prevention Service—and our updated estimate of the cost of identity fraud to the UK economy, suggest that the problem has grown in recent years, but data covering the timeframe of this question are not yet available.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1116W, to the right hon. Member for Edinburgh, East (Dr. Strang), on identity fraud, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the fall in the number of detected fraudulent passport applications made using a deceased person's details. [88933]

Joan Ryan: In the view of the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) there are two principal factors for the reduction in the number of recorded cases of passport applications made in the identities of deceased persons detected. The figures for the number of passport applications detected in which a deceased identity has been used are a combination of infant and adult death cases. The IPS received the infant death data from July 2001 in a number of tranches. Retrospective checks of the index of passports issued using this data identified a number of passports issued in the identities of deceased children. These retrospective checks significantly increased the number of cases of deceased identity fraud detected and confirmed between 2001 and 2004. Since then the rate of detection is based on the number of new fraudulent applications being detected. Secondly, since IPS started using this data 184 people have been arrested for making fraudulent passport applications. 82 of these people have been convicted of offences and 34 deported. Although deterrence is very difficult to measure, it is likely that this success has deterred other criminals from submitting applications in the identities of deceased persons.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with EU governments on co-operation on identity fraud. [89107]

Joan Ryan: The Government are concerned about identity fraud and there is ongoing activity within the EU and the G8 about security of travel documents and borders that will contribute to combating the problem. This includes the work at EU level on enhancing the security of travel and identity documents, such as ePassports (also known as biometric passports) that we began issuing in March 2006. The use of biometric information to link a person to a passport helps to detect counterfeit or manipulated documents and it confirms the identity of the individual.

The G8 Lyon-Roma group has undertaken a number of projects aimed at reducing document abuse. This included a commitment, which has been implemented, to submit data on lost and stolen passports to Interpol. A best practices paper on processing travellers who present lost, stolen or cancelled travel documents has also been approved and transmitted to the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Illegal Drug Use

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of illegal drug use in *(a)* non-rural and *(b)* rural areas among those aged (i) over 18 and (ii) under 18 years in (A) absolute terms and (B) per 1,000 population; and if he will make a statement. [84629]

Mr. Coaker: Figures from the British Crime Survey 2003-04 show that use of any illicit drug in the past year was reported by 148 per 1,000 adults aged 16 to 59 residing in inner-city areas, 127 per 1,000 of those in urban areas and 99 per 1,000 in rural areas in England and Wales.

Figures for illegal drug use in rural and non-rural areas in absolute terms and specifically for under and over 18s are not available.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* cautioned by the police since 1997; how many of these were found subsequently to be illegal immigrants; and how many were deported. [71442]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been given non-custodial sentences since 1997; how many have been found to be illegal immigrants; and how many were deported. [71443]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his policy on an amnesty for illegal immigrants. [86709]

Mr. Byrne: The Government have already made clear that they have no plans for an amnesty for illegal immigrants.

Illegal Money Lending

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of illegal money lending in each of the last five years. [80838]

Mr. Coaker: Data for the number of people charged for illegal money lending are not held centrally.

Data from the courts proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform show that the number of people convicted under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 Section 39 in 2000 was six, in 2001 was seven, in 2002 was three, in 2003 was two, and in 2004 was four.

Court proceedings data for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of illegal money lending in Suffolk in each of the past five years. [85546]

Mr. McNulty: Data for the number of people charged for illegal money lending are not held centrally.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform show that there were no convictions under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 Section 39 in the Suffolk police force area between 2000 and 2004. However, in England and Wales in 2000 there were six convictions, in 2001 there were seven, in 2002 there were three, in 2003 there were two, and in 2004 there were four.

Court proceedings data for 2005 will be available in autumn of 2006.

Imams and Mosques Advisory Council

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made with proposals to set up a national advisory council of imams and mosques. [71938]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) was set up with the aim of providing central guidance and support to Mosques and Imams in the UK. This new body is intended to represent all Muslim traditions and schools of thought.

The first stage of creating MINAB was a national consultation, led by Lord Ahmed, which sought views on issues such as the accreditation of Imams, better governance of mosques and interfaith activity. The next stage, the actual setting up of MINAB, has been led by a steering group comprising representatives from the British Muslim Forum, Muslim Council of Britain, Muslim Association of Britain and the Al-Khoei Foundation.

A press conference was held on 27 June which launched MINAB and set out its implementation strategy to deliver it as a working entity. At this press conference, the Advisory Board launched a good practice guide which sets out principles and procedures Mosques and Imams should follow to effectively lead their communities.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the functions and caseload of the immigration and nationality directorate's work-in-progress hold. [61153]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 March 2006]:* Immigration and nationality directorate's work-in-progress hold is at Beddington Cross, which is designed to temporarily store case files.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in his statement of 19 July the caseload of IND, including files held at Beddington Cross.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the location is of the immigration and nationality directorate's work-in-progress hold. [61154]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 March 2006]:* The immigration and nationality directorate's work-in-progress hold is located at Beddington Cross near Croydon.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff work at the immigration and nationality directorate's work-in-progress hold. [61155]

Mr. Byrne: IND's work-in-progress hold at Beddinton Cross, near Croydon, is a storage facility, and is staffed by 28 Home Office staff and 69 contractor staff.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* casual and *(b)* temporary staff were recruited to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each of the last three financial years. [76462]

Mr. Byrne: The number of *(a)* casual and *(b)* temporary staff, who have been appointed to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each of the last three financial years, is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Casual*	*Temporary (agency)*
2003-04	n/a	873
2004-05	181	1,603
2005-06	261	2,125

n/a = not available

Note:

These figures have been drawn from manual records kept in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are employed by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [77119]

Mr. McNulty: Under the terms of the Aliens' Employment Act 1955, the Immigration and Nationality Department currently employs no foreign nationals.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by the Enforcement and Removals Directorate of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate on the use of police cells in each police authority area in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [85347]

Mr. Byrne: Spend by each police authority area is shown in the following table for the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The figures are presented in accordance with Resource Accounting and Budgeting and include accruals.

£

Police authority	*Expenditure 2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset Authority	56,514	159,617
Bedfordshire Police	47,786	22,173
British Transport	—	11,618
Cambridgeshire Police	139,403	101,171
Cheshire Police	9,125	103,849
Cleveland Police	501	201,513
Cumbria Police	169	1,161
Derbyshire Police	4,323	0
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	100,069	135,735
Dorset Police	236,939	95,247
Dumfries and Galloway Council	485	5,729
Dyfed Powys Police	48,294	43,461
Essex Police Authority	408,450	96,394
Gloucestershire Police	47,491	30,035
Grampian Joint Police	17,979	12,893
Greater Manchester Police	202,215	186,900
Gwent Police Authority	3,125	54,710
Hampshire Constabulary	201,823	199,139
Hertfordshire Police	19,516	47,336
Humberside Police	79,577	63,001
Kent Police Authority	428,692	613,515
Lancashire Police	5,400	55,361
Leicestershire Police	58,721	42,947
Lincolnshire Police	319,699	91,626
Merseyside Police	248,986	161,689
Metropolitan Police	4,695,816	2,997,059
Norfolk Police	6,848	5,647
North Wales Police	182,685	254,313
North Yorkshire Police	10,912	6,378
Northamptonshire Police	69,720	315,080
Northern Ireland Police	10,000	15,302
Northumbria Police	22,897	47,878
Nottinghamshire Police	—	18,466
South Wales Police	177,763	252,276
South Yorkshire Police	64,769	43,924
Staffordshire Police	15,133	75,938
Suffolk Police	1,882	1,118
Surrey Police	219,344	138,219
Sussex Police	526,004	441,915
Thames Valley Police	350,095	193,481
The Highland Council	7,414	5,242
Warwickshire Police	3,733	12,848
West Mercia Police	13,136	10,499
West Midlands Police	213,672	123,612
West Yorkshire Police	68,763	233,800
Wiltshire Constabulary	35,297	82,326
Total	9,381,165	7,812,138

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Best Practice recommendations made on page 59 of the Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Enforcement Final Report 2004, what improvements his Department has made to people aspects in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [85348]

Mr. Byrne: Since the publication of the Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Enforcement Final Report in September 2004 the Enforcement and Removals Directorate has implemented several changes, including:

All staff are involved in business planning to encourage 'buy in' to targets

Performance is monitored against targets and cascaded down throughout the Directorate

Training on Performance Management is available and encouraged to all staff from SEO and above

The Department is committed to building a culture where high performance is delivered, recognised and rewarded.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Best Practice recommendation made on page 58 of the Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Enforcement Final Report 2004, what improvements his Department has made to Immigration and Nationality Directorate data collection. [85349]

Mr. Byrne: Since the publication of the Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Enforcement Final Report in September 2004 the Enforcement and Removals Directorate has implemented several changes, including:

Improving data quality on our main management information databases by 11 per cent.

Reducing the number of locally created and held databases. Where appropriate incorporating their functionality into the main Immigration Nationality Directorate central Case Information Database (CID).

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of the recommendations made in the Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Final Report 2004 his Department has implemented; what the time scale is for implementing each of the remaining recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [85350]

Mr. Byrne: The Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Enforcement report made 20 recommendations. 19 are now considered to be complete, part of IND policy or no longer relevant.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Best Practice recommendations made on page 60 of the Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Enforcement Final Report 2004, what improvements his Department has made to performance management processes in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [85371]

Mr. Byrne: Since the publication of the Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Enforcement Final Report in September 2004 the Enforcement and Removals Directorate has implemented several changes, including:

Implementation of a Performance Management Framework

Linking the setting of removals targets to Local Enforcement Office (LEO) budgets

Introduction of electronic duty rostering system for all operational staff

Standardising performance reporting schedules and the introduction of an operational performance league table

Conducting a programme of quality assurance visits to Local Enforcement Offices

Information Technology

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* his Department, *(b)* MI5 and *(c)* the Metropolitan Police (i) uses and (ii) has used (A) TeraText and (B) Latent Semantic Indexing programmes. [87622]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* MI5 neither confirm nor deny their use of TeraText and Latent Semantic Indexing programmes. The Metropolitan Police does not use either of these programmes. Home Office Corporate Services report that they use Latent Semantic Indexing in Meridio as part of the Electronic Document Record Management Project. None of the other constituent parts of the Home Office uses either of these programmes.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Nomis, Visor, CRAMS and OASys IT systems are compatible. [88307]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The C-NOMIS, CRAMS, VISOR and OASys IT systems are compatible from business, user and technical perspectives. They provide complementary support for the management of offenders now and for the future. C-NOMIS is planned to replace the CRAMS case management system (which dates back to the mid-1990s) and is needed to support end-to-end offender management. Data are shared electronically between some of these systems already. Data sharing is planned to be extended as part of the development of C-NOMIS. All these systems operate according to the requirements of GSI, the government secure intranet, which provides common standards for infrastructure and security.

International Migration

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* mechanisms are in place and *(b)* methodology is employed to assess the impact of international migration on (i) cultural and community cohesion, (ii) housing demand and (iii) the economy, wage-levels and unemployment when determining *(A)* his policy on immigration and *(B)* the accepted number of migrants to this country. [85905]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* The Government set no target figure for the number of migrants to Britain, but shapes their policies regarding admission to the country on the basis of their international and humanitarian obligations and of the interests of the nation. In doing so they do not rely on any single mechanism or methodology, but draw on a wide range of statistical and other data to reach their assessments.

Internet Child Safety

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will move the information on his Department's website on internet child safety away from the section marked 'police' into a section where it can easily be found by those seeking information. [88385]

Mr. McNulty: The main Home Office website for the public—www.homeoffice.gov.uk—was redeveloped in October 2005. The information published on it follows a design and navigational structure that was heavily tested on actual public users of the website, who helped dictate its user-friendly structure. Indeed the main Home Office website was recognised in a recent independent report published by Precedent Communications as being the best of the 32 UK public sector websites they assessed.

The main information on child protection on the internet is held in the 'police' area of the site as most of it is aimed at practitioners. But, in addition to this the information aimed at the general public is cross-referred on the main site. Under the top-level navigational title 'Crime & victims', there is a section that describes what government is doing to reduce crime (which has a page dedicated specifically to internet crime) and another section that describes what members of the public can do to prevent crime (which in turn has a page on how to stay safe online).

In both of these cases there is a wealth of useful information about how to keep children safe online, as well as a link under 'Related Documents' to a document called 'Guidance on how to search safely'.

Also, using terms such as 'child protection' or 'internet safety' in the Home Office site search will readily find this key information.

In addition about 70 per cent. of traffic to most websites comes from Google and other search engines, so someone interested in child safety online is very likely to type a set of keywords to find what they are looking for. If that person is very distinctly interested in the guidance issued by the Home Office on child safety online, and typed 'internet child safety, Home Office' into Google, the ThinkUKnow website and the Home Office Child Protection pages on the police website are the first two entries delivered.

Invest to Save Funding

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance his Department plans to afford to officials of local authorities who are in receipt of Invest to Save funding prior to the withdrawal of that funding to ensure the continuation of projects supported by it; and if he will make a statement. [83821]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The Home Secretary has no plans to make a statement on Invest to Save Budget (ISB) funding. The ISB exists to provide funding to help innovative projects get off the ground. ISB funding is explicitly time-limited and is not intended to sustain a project over the long term.

IT Systems

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* VISOR, *(b)* Exhibit, *(c)* Libra and *(d)* other Home Office IT systems are accessible to disabled staff and those who regularly use assistive technology. [24448]

Mr. Byrne: ViSOR (Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register) user interface has been favourably assessed by accessibility consultants, particularly with regard to its suitability for use with screen reading software. Both xhibit (exchanging Hearing Information By Internet Technology) and Libra are Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) IT systems.

Justice and Home Affairs Meeting

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the agenda is for the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers' meeting on 1 and 2 June; and if he will make a statement. [69449]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* The agenda for the JHA Council meeting on 1 and 2 June is set out as follows. A letter was sent to the chair of the European Scrutiny Committee on the 1 June, in order for the information to reach Parliament in a timely manner. The text of the letter is also set as follows.

2732nd Meeting of the Council Of The European Union (Justice and Home Affairs)

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda.

2. Approval of the list of "A" items.

3. Proposal for a Council Framework Decision on the European Evidence Warrant (EEW) for obtaining objects, documents and data for use in proceedings in criminal matters.

4. Draft Framework Decision on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union.

5. Proposal for a Council Framework Decision on certain procedural rights in criminal proceedings throughout the European Union.

6. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Small Claims Procedure.

7. Draft Council Decision concerning arrangements for cooperation between Asset Recovery Offices of the Member States.

8. Intelligence-led law enforcement - Council conclusions setting the EU priorities for the fight against organised crime based on OCTA.

9. Counter-Terrorism: - Report on the implementation of the EU-Counter-Terrorism Strategy/Action Plan and the EU Strategy on Radicalisation and Recruitment

10. Future of Europol.

11. JHA External relations (a) Ministerial Conference on the "Role of internal security in relations between the EU and its neighbours" (4-5 May 2006, Vienna) (b) Action Oriented Papers Western Balkans and Afghanistan (c) EU-US JHA Ministerial Troika (3 May 2006, Vienna) (d) Meeting between the EU presidency, the Russian Federation and the United States of America at Ministerial level on a Tripartite Cooperation in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, four May 2006 - "Vienna Initiative".

12. Follow-up to Hampton Court: Implementation of priority actions in the area of migration. - Information from the Commission'.

13. A.O.B – Security arrangements in relation with World Cup Football Championships and other major sports events in the margins of the Council—Meeting of the Mixed Committee at Ministerial Level.

1. Level. Adoption of the provisional agenda

2. SIS II - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen information system (SIS II).

3. Common Visa Application Centres - Presentation by the Commission.

4. A.O.B

"I thought that it would be useful if I were to outline what I expect to be discussed at the JHA Council on 1 and 2 June. While the Home Secretary would normally make a written statement to the House, due to the timing of recess and the Council, and to make this most useful to you, I preferred to write after the pre-Council COREPER. There will, of course, be a written statement on discussion at the Council after recess. Due to other commitments, the Home Secretary will not be attending the Council, but Baroness Ashton, the Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith, and I will be representing the UK. There will be a debate on the future of Europol with the presidency seeking to agree Council conclusions. While we are supportive of the Conclusions and in making Europol's legal instrument more flexible, we believe there is a need to consider the implications of changing the legal instrument before taking a final decision. The presidency will seek to reach a general approach on the European Evidence Warrant. Several issues remain to be resolved, including the terms of the ground for refusal based on territoriality and the concerns of those who wish to clarify the scope of the offences for which dual criminality will not apply. We are supportive of the presidency's proposals on the territoriality clause, which would allow us to refuse an EEW where the conduct concerned took place in this country and would be legal here. The UK does not share the concern of those who wish to provide clarification in the Framework Decision of the offences for which dual criminality will not apply but we are hopeful that a solution can be reached based on compromise proposals from the presidency. There will be discussion on the Framework Decision for the Mutual Recognition of Custodial Sentences within the EU. The presidency has put forward a proposal for the circumstances in which a prisoner could be transferred without his or the executing State's consent. The Government accepts the proposal, and believes that the prisoner's consent should not be required where the prisoner was to be transferred to the State in which he had his normal permanent residence. This has clear benefits for prisoners being able to serve sentences close to their communities and families and should have an impact in terms of likelihood to re-offend. There is likely to be a political discussion on the presidency proposal for a framework. Decision on certain procedural rights. The UK would like to continue discussion and at this stage and not to close down any options for taking forward the work. The UK continues to place a strong emphasis on practical measures to benefit citizens. The presidency intends to invite Council to agree the General Approach to the proposed Regulation establishing a European Small Claims procedure. This text will provide improved and cost-effective access to justice for European citizens in small claims across borders and is an initiative which the Government has welcomed. The presidency will be seeking to achieve agreement on the Draft Conclusions on the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA). This is the first annual OCTA, which replaces the Organised Crime Situation Report. The UK welcomes the first annual OCTA and supports the priorities as currently drafted. There will be a report on the implementation of the EU Counter Terrorism Strategy/Action Plan. We expect the presidency to reach a general approach on the Council Decision on Asset Recovery Offices. The UK negotiated changes in relation to civil recovery proceedings, so that the initiative relates both to confiscation and civil recovery cases. The UK supports measures to strengthen international cooperation concerning the recovery of the proceeds of crime. The Austrian presidency will be seeking to agree a general approach on the New Financial Frameworks general funding programme "Security and Safeguarding Liberties" and to one specific programme within the general programme on "Fundamental Rights and Justice". The UK welcomes the presidency's efforts to secure agreement and considers the texts now represent a good basis for future funding activity. In the mixed committee formation, there will be a presentation on Common Visa Application Centres. Finally, there will be a political discussion on the outstanding issues on the regulation on the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) and the presidency will be hoping to resolve these. The UK does not participate in this Regulation. However we feel the text needs to be more explicit on access for asylum authorities. In the margins there will be presentations on reinforcing the EU emergency and crisis response capacities and the May 2006 external relations ministerial conference in Vienna and Sweden will raise security arrangements in relation to the World Cup and the list of safe countries for the purposes of asylum."

Kashmir

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the amount of money leaving the UK to fund terrorist groups in Kashmir, with particular reference to the activities of Lashkar-e-Taiba; and if he will make a statement. [88187]

Mr. McNulty: The Government do not comment on specific intelligence and security matters. Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were proscribed in 2001 and are one of a number of organisations whose activities are routinely monitored by the Security Service and law enforcement agencies.

Knives

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives were handed in during the recent amnesty in *(a)* Waltham Forest, *(b)* Redbridge, *(c)* London and *(d)* in total. [87697]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for the knife amnesty which ran from 24 May to 30 June have been collated by police force area. The total number of items surrendered in London to the Metropolitan police and City of London police was 9,205. On figures recorded by police forces, the total handed in in England and Wales was 89,864.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of illegal knives in circulation after the knife amnesty; and if he will make a statement. [88922]

Mr. McNulty: There are no reliable estimates for the number of knives or offensive weapons in circulation. Knives have many legitimate purposes and, with a few exceptions, can be purchased legally. It is an offence to carry an article with a blade or point in a public place without good reason.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the number of illegal knives in circulation. [88923]

Mr. McNulty: We held a nationwide knife amnesty from 24 May to the end of June during which just under 90,000 items were surrendered to police forces in England and Wales. Following the amnesty, many forces are focusing on enforcement operations, targeting those who carry knives without good reason. Operation Shield, run by the British Transport Police, continues to operate at mainline and underground stations using search technology to detect people carrying weapons on the transport network. Police, in conjunction with Trading Standards officers, have also carried out test purchase operations to identify retailers who are not abiding by the law and selling knives to young people under 16.

In addition, we are tightening legislation through the Violent Crime Reduction Bill, with new powers for Head Teachers to search pupils for knives, a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon and an increase in the age at which someone can be sold a knife from 16 to 18. We have also announced that we will increase the maximum sentence for carrying a knife in a public place without good reason from two to four years.

We are also supporting organisations such as Be Safe, which provide in-school training to young people on the dangers of carrying knives. Through our Connected Fund, we support small community-based organisations working on gun crime, knife crime and gangs issues. The fund is currently running its fifth round, with a closing date for bids of 4 August 2006.

Laptop Document Theft

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many documents on laptops within the possession of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have been stolen since 1997. [69520]

Mr. Byrne: It is not possible to determine how many documents may have been taken from Home Office laptop computers reported as stolen or lost since 1997, but none of these were in the possession of Home Office Ministers.

To minimise the risk of document theft, laptop computers containing sensitive Home Office material are encrypted in accordance with UK Government security requirements.

Life Sentences

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will limit the ability of people who pleaded guilty to murder and receive life sentences to appeal against such sentences. [40411]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No. There is no right of appeal against a life sentence imposed following a conviction for murder because this is a mandatory sentence. However, it is appropriate that there should be a right of appeal against life sentence tariffs in murder cases because they are imposed by the court, according to what it thinks is appropriate taking into account the seriousness of the offence, on the basis of its assessment of the facts of the individual case.

Magistrates Courts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of section 19 of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980. [64591]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Section 19 of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980 makes provision for the manner in which magistrates courts are to decide whether offences that are triable either way should be tried summarily or on indictment. It will be slightly modified when the new allocation arrangements in Schedule three to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 are brought into force.

Male Rape

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for the non-consensual sexual penetration of a male in each of the last five years. [86330]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of defendants convicted at all courts for offences relating to non-consensual sexual penetration of a male, in England and Wales, for 2001 to 2004 are contained in the following table. 2004 data shows the inclusion of a new list of offences brought under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into effect on 1 May 2004. 2000 data are not being provided as prior to the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 which commenced on 8 January 2001, the offence of buggery (under s.12 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 as subsequently amended) would have included instances of consensual as well as non-consensual acts. Statistics for 2005 court proceedings will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of defendants convicted at all courts for offences relating to non-consensual sexual penetration of a male in England and Wales, 2001 to 2004[1,2]

	Years[3]			
Offence description	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Buggery or attempted buggery by a male of a male. Assault on a male by penetration. Rape of a male aged under 16[4]	120	94	78	95

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3,4] Data for 2001 to 2003 include offences from the following principal statutes:
Sexual Offences Act 1956 (amended by the following amendments: Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, and the Sexual Offences Act 2000), and Sexual Offences Act 2003.
Data for 2004 include a list of new offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Malicious Damage Act 1861

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in England and Wales were (i) prosecuted for and (ii) convicted of offences under sections (A) 35 and (B) 36 of the Malicious Damage Act 1861 in 2005. [89700]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is currently unavailable. Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn.

Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many forensic psychiatrists per 100,000 population are available to assess the mental state of individuals taken into custody in each police authority area. [77115]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally. At 30 September 2005, there were 239 forensic psychiatrists working in the national health service in England.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers have (i) met and (ii) had telephone conversations with the editors of the national press to discuss Home Office policy since January 2006; and where the meetings took place. [80643]

Mr. McNulty: Ministers have meetings with the media from time to time and this includes discussions with various national press representatives.

Ministerial Posts

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria he used in making the decision to transfer the Minister of State for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality to another post in his Department. [74432]

John Reid: I am responsible for deciding which Minister covers which policy areas within his team. I held discussions with my ministerial team and decided on this division of work.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which drug rehabilitation centres Ministers in his Department have visited in each year since 1997; and for what purposes. [63060]

Mr. Coaker: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have stayed overnight in (i) five star, (ii) four star and (iii) three star hotels on foreign visits in each of the last three years. [68964]

Mr. Byrne: The answer could be given only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [68965]

Mr. Byrne: The answer could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discounts are available in relation to hotel accommodation used by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department. [68966]

Mr. Byrne: There is no single percentage discount figure available on hotel bookings. The Home Office, through its appointed contractor, negotiates rates for individual hotels or hotel chains subject to city location. All hotels offer their standard rate (the rack rate) which will then be discounted either to a Government rate available to all individuals carrying out work on behalf of the Home Office or other public sector bodies or, subject to there being sufficient volume room usage, special rates for individual departments. Generally the Home Office achieve savings on average of 30 per cent. on standard rates.

Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers have been prosecuted for using mobile telephones while driving since the new laws restricting mobile telephone use while driving were introduced. [86122]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for the years 2003 to 2004 (latest available) is given in the table.

2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1], England and Wales, 2003 to 2004

	Number of offences
2003	1
2004	789

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3) introduced 1 December 2003. *Source:* Court Proceedings Database.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile telephone thefts there were in Brent in each year since 1997. [87341]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Motoring Offences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of driving without insurance in each year since 1980. [85144]

Mr. McNulty: Available information from 1980-2004 (latest available) for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, is given in the table.

Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1]—England and Wales, 1980-2004

	Total proceedings	Number of offences Findings of guilt
1980	n/a	[2]164,613
1981	n/a	[2]172,688
1982	n/a	[2]191,842
1983	n/a	[2]242,858
1984	241,462	194,378
1985	242,651	193,604
1986	245,287	190,269
1987	270,915	200,309
1988	294,966	208,568
1989	304,432	208,010
1990	317,797	209,476
1991	364,035	225,910
1992	404,492	246,054
1993	446,568	281,136
1994	446,559	286,252
1995	441,241	283,141
1996	415,015	267,932
1997	396,912	257,689
1998	390,074	256,974
1999	393,469	234,830
2000	391,659	264,574
2001	388,297	266,757
2002	410,963	289,064
2003	447,267	323,374
2004	441,819	322,816

n/a = data not available

[1] Offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2)

[2] Magistrates courts only.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Mr. de Menezes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission of its investigations into the death of Mr. de Menezes in London on 22 July 2005 and the conduct of the Metropolitan Police to be published. [84724]

Mr. McNulty: Publication of the outcome of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) investigations into the events surrounding the fatal shooting of Mr. Jean Charles de Menezes is a matter for the IPCC as the independent body which carried out the investigations.

Mr. John Peach

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what correspondence he has received from Mr. John Peach, a constituent of the hon. Member for Peterborough and leader of Peterborough city council; and if he will make a statement. [81685]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The Department's correspondence tracking system records that one piece of correspondence was received from Councillor Peach, dated 23 June 2006. This letter was addressed to the Home Secretary, Dr. John Reid and it chased a response to a letter dated 27 April 2006, addressed to the then Home Secretary, Charles Clarke. The Department has been unable to find a record of the 27 April letter. Councillor Peach was sent an acknowledgement to his letter on 3 July 2006 and a final response on 15 August 2006.

Mrs. Gelly Makamurie

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Mrs. Gelly Makamurie, reference M1170992, will be notified on her application for indefinite leave to remain. [86988]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration and nationality directorate wrote to Mrs. Makamurie on 19 July 2006 informing her of the outcome of her application for further leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

Murder

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of murder in each of the last eight years. [76350]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is provided in the table. The reasons for the fluctuations in the number of convictions are complex. 2004 had the largest number of convictions, but also a significantly higher proportion of successful prosecutions than any of the relevant years, with one exception.

Number of persons convicted of murder at all courts, England and Wales, 1997-2004[1]

	Found guilty
1997	275
1998	256
1999	252
2000	261
2001	285
2002	324
2003	277
2004	361

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in each of the last 25 years convicted murderers released from *(a)* psychiatric institutions and *(b)* prisons have committed murders after release; and if he will make a statement. [82559]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information available centrally relates to homicides recorded by the police in England and Wales, and shows numbers of suspects convicted of these homicides after release or termination of sentence for a previous homicide conviction. The following table provides this information for each year since 1980. It is not possible to distinguish between sentences served in psychiatric institutions and prisons.

Suspects convicted of homicide after release or termination of sentence for previous homicide conviction[1]

Year offence initially recorded	*Number of suspects*
1980	1
1981	3
1982	2
1983	3
1984	4
1985	3
1986	3
1987	1
1988	4
1989	4
1990	6
1991	2
1992	6
1993	2
1994	2
1995	6
1996	1
1997	1
1997-98	1
1998-99	1
1999-2000	5
2000-01	1
2001-02	0
2002-03	1
2003-04	1
2004-05	1

[1] As at 28 November 2005; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Narcotics Production

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his letter to the hon. Member for Cambridgeshire South East dated 10 July 2006 on Home Office interpretation of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, whether the UK would continue to be self-sufficient in narcotics production were manufacturers of oxycodone hydrochloride formulations to relocate production to another EU country; how loss of self-sufficiency would effect *(a)* jobs, *(b)* the balance of payments and *(c)* continuity of supply of opiate-based analgesics within the UK; and if he will make a statement. [88321]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible accurately to predict the development of the pharmaceutical narcotics industry in the UK in relation to oxycodone. There are many variables which would determine the future situation. These include, for example, the choice of territory, obtaining approvals from Governments abroad, the development of a production facility and downstream marketing arrangements.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons pharmaceutical manufacturers of opiate-based analgesic medicines are limited in the sources of imported raw materials from overseas manufacturers; and if he will make a statement. [88824]

Mr. Coaker: In common with other major opiate manufacturing countries, the United Kingdom does not permit importation of such base material drugs domestically manufactured and readily available. This policy is in furtherance of the aims of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 to limit international supply to what is necessary for countries' medical needs. It is adjusted to take account of treaty obligations on overseas trade with the European Union and the European Economic Association only.

National Offender Management Service

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has consulted *(a)* police organisations and *(b)* police authorities on (i) plans to change probation boundaries and (ii) regionalisation. [50056]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In October 2005 the Home Office published a consultation document, Restructuring Probation to Reduce Re-offending, which set out proposals to give to the Secretary of State the statutory duty to make arrangements with others to provide probation services and to replace probation boards with probation trusts as the public sector providers with whom he may contract. 748 written responses were received, including some from the police, and a summary was set out in Working with Probation to Protect the Public and Reduce Re-offending which was published in March. There are no current plans to change the boundaries of probation areas.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost is of administering regional offender managers and their offices within the National Offender Management structure in 2006-07. [88004]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The delegated budget for the 10 Regional Offender Managers' offices for 2006-07 is £11,780,682 (this includes contracted prisons controllers' costs of £2.5 million). This is divided between the ROMs according to profiles reflecting the differing needs and requirements of each region, and covers office staff and management costs.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals are employed by *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* each Regional Offender Manager. [88007]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Offender Management Service consists of National Offender Management Service (NOMS) HQ, Her Majesty's Prison Service and the National Probation Service.

NOMS HQ employs 1,375.7 full-time equivalents.

Her Majesty's Prison Service employs 47,637 full-time equivalents.

The National Probation Service employs 21,061.4 full-time equivalents.

The NOMS HQ total includes the staff of the Regional Offender Managers. Broken down by region, the totals for each office are:

	Number
East Midlands	19
North East	9
South East	11
Wales	13
Yorkshire and Humberside	8
London	9
North West	9
South West	9
West Midlands	7
Central support	2

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether legislation is required to allow Regional Offender Managers to contest probation work. [88008]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Currently, the statutory duty to make arrangements for the provision of probation services rests exclusively with the local probation board. Legislation is needed to enable Regional Offender Managers to commission services directly from providers other than the board.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which IT systems *(a)* are used and *(b)* are planned to be used for the National Probation Service. [88306]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The following national IT systems are currently used:

1. Case Management—CRAMS, DELIUS, ICMS, IOSS, CATO;
2. Offender Assessment—OASys;
3. Accredited Programs—IAPS;
4. Email—Lotus Notes Mail;
5. Intranet—EPIC;
6. Resource Planning—WMT;
7. Violent and Serious Offender Register—VISOR; and
8. Crown Courts Links—EXHIBIT.

(b) For the foreseeable future the above systems are planned to continue in use subject to the following exceptions.

1. Case Management—C-NOMIS will replace items one and three above to support end-to-end offender management;
2. Offender Assessment—A replacement OASys system is planned to integrate with C-NOMIS; and
3. Magistrates Courts Links—use of LIBRA is planned.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what additional funds have been made available during the last two financial years to the National Offender Management Service to run Prolific Persistent Offender Programmes. [88483]

John Reid: The responsibility for delivering the Prolific and Other Priority Offenders (PPO) programme rests with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). The Programme announced by the Prime Minister in March 2004, firmly placed the onus on CDRPs to prioritise locally targeted groups of problematic offenders within existing resources to reduce their offending behaviour. We have made no commitments for additional funding, centrally. The work of NOMS is key to this strategy to ensure that PPOs are prioritised under the seven National Reducing Re-offending Action Plan pathways for the effective resettlement and rehabilitation activity.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of offenders in each probation area in England and Wales have been allocated to *(a)* Tier 1, *(b)* Tier 2, *(c)* Tier 3 and *(d)* Tier 4 under the Offender Management Model. [88484]

John Reid: Complete information on the number of offenders falling within each supervision tier is not currently available.

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2006, from the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Stirling (Mrs. McGuire), *Official Report*, column 1579W, on national insurance numbers, what action was taken in the cases notified to the immigration and nationality directorate. [85610]

Mr. Byrne: Cases are referred, by the Department for Work and Pensions National Identity Fraud Unit (NIFU), to a central point of contact within the Immigration Service (IS) for onward transmission to local IS intelligence units for assessment and, where appropriate, action.

National Probation Directorate

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for the future of the National Probation Directorate; what assessment he has made of the implications of those plans for staffing levels; and if he will make a statement. [87791]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Probation Directorate (NPD) continues to play a role in protecting the public and helping to reduce re-offending. Any reorganisation within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) will seek to ensure these vital functions are continued. Due consideration will be given to the impact on staffing levels from any reorganisation within NOMS. This would include the effects of the Home Office Headcount Exercise.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of an offence under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [88942]

John Reid: The information requested on arrests is not available within my Department. Information on arrests held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is based on persons arrested for recorded crime "notifiable offences" by main offence group (i.e. sexual offences, theft and handling stolen goods, violence against the person, burglary etc.) only.

The Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform does not hold information with regard to charging. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 only came into force during 2006, so data prior to this year are not applicable. Convictions data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Network of Buddhist Organisations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his Department's list of organisations consulted on religious issues, what assessment he has made of the extent to which the Network of Buddhist Organisations is representative of that faith's adherents; and if he will make a statement. [85303]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office has made no such assessment. The Network of Buddhist Organisations is one of the Buddhist organisations that the Home Office consults with.

New Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the criminal offences created by the *(a)* Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003, *(b)* Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and *(c)* Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. [86529]

John Reid: The following table lists the criminal offences created by these Acts:

	Criminal offence
Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003	
Section 34(1)	Failure by a financial institution to comply with a requirement imposed under a customer information order.
Section 34(3)	False statement made by a financial institution in purported compliance with a customer information order.
Section 39(1) and 39(3)	The above two offences in Scotland.
Section 42	Disclosure by an institution or its employees of specified facts about a financial investigation.
Section 63(6)	Failing to deliver a driving licence and its counterpart to the Secretary of State when required to do so under subsection (1).
Section 64(6)	The above offence in Northern Ireland.
Section 79(2)	Inserts two new Northern Ireland offences into the Road Traffic Act 1988 relating to disabilities
Section 81	Inserts two offences into the Data Protection Act (section 54A of that Act) relating to the inspection of overseas information systems.
Section 89	Creates three offences in the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act regarding false monetary instruments. Section 88 has similar effect in relation to England and Wales by expanding existing offences in the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981.
Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003	
Section 4(1) Section 4(2)(a), (b) and (c)	Four offences relating to premises subject to a closure notice.
Section 32(2)	Knowingly contravening a dispersal direction.
Section 37(1) and 39(3)	Not new offences as such, but they expand the list of weapons for possession offences under the Firearms Act 1968.
Section 40(4)	Opening noisy premises in contravention of a closure notice.
Section 54(1)	Sale of aerosol paint container to a person under the age of 16.

	Criminal offence
Section 58(6)	Inserts a new offence into the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 relating to attendance at a rave.
Section 61	Inserts two new offences into the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 relating to trespassing.
Section 74(7)	Intentionally obstructing a person acting in the exercise of powers of entry for the purposes of complaints and appeals.
Section 75(1), (9) and (10)	Failure to comply with a remedial notice. Failure to comply with an order to comply with a remedial notice. A further failure to comply with such an order.
Section 77(9)	Obstruction of a person exercising powers to enter land
The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003	
Section 1	Offence of female genital mutilation.
Section 2	Offence of assisting a girl to mutilate her own genitalia.
Section 3	Offence of assisting a non-UK person to mutilate overseas a girl's genitalia.

Nigerian Citizens

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what his estimate is of the number of Nigerian citizens in the UK who have overstayed on a visitor's visa; [85351]

(2) how many Nigerian citizens holding visitors' visas were in the UK on 30 June 2006. [85352]

Mr. Byrne: Since embarkation controls were dismantled in 1994, information on the number of Nigerian citizens in the UK who have overstayed on a visitor's visa is not available. Foreign nationals who visit the UK are not required to inform the authorities when they leave the country. It is not possible to obtain the figures of Nigerian citizens who arrive in the UK with a visitor's visa. Scheduled to commence in 2008, the e-Borders programme will strengthen and modernise our border control including providing an electronic record of all those entering and leaving the UK.

Non-emergency Telephone Numbers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the trial of the 101 non-emergency telephone number in Cardiff; and whether he plans to implement the scheme throughout England and Wales. [87306]

Mr. McNulty: An evaluation of the introduction in Cardiff on 2 June 2006 of the single non-emergency number, 101, as well as ongoing performance and quality monitoring, are currently under way. Information from these assessments and from four other first wave areas will inform the strategy for future implementation.

Nuisance Neighbours

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to assist local authorities in dealing with nuisance neighbours. [88635]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office along with the Department for Communities and Local Government is developing the Respect agenda to assist local authorities in dealing with nuisance neighbours. The Respect Action Plan recognises the important role social landlords play in tackling antisocial behaviour, including local housing authorities. We have provided local authorities in their housing role with a wide range of tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour, including injunctive powers, demoted tenancies, antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) and acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs). We have encouraged and supported them through the Together campaign in delivering preventative approaches, providing support to victims and witnesses, and taking enforcement action.

As part of the Respect programme we will also intervene with highly problematic families that account for a disproportionate amount of antisocial behaviour. We will also establish Family Intervention Projects in 50 areas by the end of 2006 to address the causes of their behaviour, alongside supervision and enforcement tools to provide them with the incentives to change. In some communities, we know that there are premises which are a constant focus for antisocial behaviour and we will be consulting on a new power to allow the closure of any residential or licensed premises for a set period, regardless of tenure, that is causing significant, persistent and serious nuisance to local communities.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has also introduced a number of extra powers for local authorities to deal with nuisance neighbours under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The statutory nuisance regime can already be used to deal with noise.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is responsible for representing Welsh interests on the board of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. [88176]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The National Criminal Justice Board is the key high-level forum in which the services and departments reporting to the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, and the Attorney-General, come together to exercise joint leadership over the criminal justice system. Its membership comprises those persons with executive responsibility to deliver key public service agreements and other high-level goals namely, senior and junior Ministers of the three CJS departments, heads of services, other key officials, and representatives of some key external stakeholders (Association of Police Authorities, Association of Chief Officers of Police, Metropolitan Police and the Criminal Justice Council). Members are collectively responsible for Welsh interests. In addition, the four Local Criminal Justice Boards in Wales are sponsored by members of the NCJB.

Off-licence Alcohol Sales

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for off-licence alcohol sales to people *(a)* already under the influence of alcohol and *(b)* under the age of 18 years in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [81689]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to identify the number of prosecutions there have been for off-licence alcohol sales to people already under the influence of alcohol or under the age of 18 as the data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform do not identify those offences that have taken place in an off licence. However, data for the number of defendants prosecuted for certain offences relating to alcohol can be found in the following table.

Penalty Notices for Disorder have been available to the police for the offences of the sale of alcohol *(a)* to a drunken person and *(b)* to a person under the age of 18 since 1 November 2004, although data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform do not identify those offences that have taken place in an off licence. The following table shows 2004 PND data for *(a)* selling alcohol to a person under 18. However there were no PNDs issued for *(b)* Sale of alcohol to a drunken person in 2004. The table also shows provisional 2005 PND data for both *(a)* and *(b)*.

Penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued by police force area and offence, all ages, 2004

Police force	*Selling alcohol to person under 18*
England	
Avon and Somerset	—
Bedfordshire	—
Cambridgeshire	—
Cheshire	—
Cleveland	—
Cumbria	—
Derbyshire	—
Devon and Cornwall	—
Dorset	22
Durham	—
Essex	7
Gloucestershire	—
Greater Manchester	—
Hampshire	2
Hertfordshire	—
Humberside	2
Kent	—
Lancashire	30
Leicestershire	2
Lincolnshire	—
London, City of	—
Merseyside	2
Metropolitan	21
Norfolk	—
North Yorkshire	—
Northamptonshire	1
Northumbria	1
Nottinghamshire	9
South Yorkshire	2
Staffordshire	—
Suffolk	—
Surrey	—
Sussex	—
Thames Valley	—
Warwickshire	—
West Mercia	1
West Midlands	6
West Yorkshire	4
Wiltshire	—
Wales	
Dyfed-Powys	—
Gwent	—
North Wales	1
South Wales	—
Total	113

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in 2005, for which outcomes data have been reported (provisional data) by offence and police force area

Police force area	*DA07—Sale of alcohol to under 18 (now DA18)*	*DA16—Sale of alcohol to drunken person*
Avon and Somerset	53	—
Bedfordshire	2	—
Cambridgeshire	11	—
Cheshire	49	—
Cleveland	33	1
Cumbria	23	—
Derbyshire	8	—
Devon and Cornwall	82	1
Dorset	20	—
Durham	0	—
Essex	117	—
Gloucestershire	39	—
Greater Manchester	125	—
Hampshire	65	1
Hertfordshire	3	—
Humberside	45	—
Kent	10	2
Lancashire	178	4
Leicestershire	38	4
Lincolnshire	26	1
London, City of	0	—
Merseyside	71	—
Metropolitan	160	3
Norfolk	0	—
North Yorkshire	0	—
Northamptonshire	39	—
Northumbria	47	—
Nottinghamshire	116	—
South Yorkshire	107	1
Staffordshire	19	—
Suffolk	15	—
Surrey	0	—
Sussex	62	7

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in 2005, for which outcomes data have been reported (provisional data) by offence and police force area

Police force area	DA07—Sale of alcohol to under 18 (now DA18)	DA16—Sale of alcohol to drunken person
Thames Valley	12	—
Warwickshire	3	—
West Mercia	21	2
West Midlands	113	—
West Yorkshire	72	1
Wiltshire	8	—
Dyfed Powys	18	—
Gwent	20	—
North Wales	56	—
South Wales	123	—
England and Wales	2,009	28

Number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates courts for certain offences relating to the sale of alcohol, by region[1], England and Wales 2004

Statute	Offence description	Region	Prosecuted
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 6. Licensing Act 1964 Sec 172.	Holder of permission not to allow drunkenness etc. permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person.	North East	1
		North West	3
		Yorkshire and Humberside	1
		East Midlands	[3]—
		West Midlands	2
		East of England	[3]—
		London	2
		South East	4
		South West	[3]—
		Wales	[3]—
		England and Wales	13
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169[1].	Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.[2]	North East	63
		North West	227
		Yorkshire and Humberside	59
		East Midands	36
		West Midlands	80
		East of England	28
		London	162
		South East	66
		South West	33
		Wales	82
		England and Wales	836
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17.	Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.	North East	[3]—
		North West	1
		Yorkshire and Humberside	[3]—
		East Midands	[3]—
		West Midlands	1
		East of England	3
		London	[3]—
		South East	[3]—

Number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates courts for certain offences relating to the sale of alcohol, by region[1], England and Wales 2004

Statute	Offence description	Region	Prosecuted
		South West	[3]
		Wales	[3]
		England and Wales	5
Licensing Act 2003 S.141	Sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk.	North East	[3]
		North West	[3]
		Yorkshire and Humberside	[3]
		East Midands	[3]
		West Midlands	[3]
		East of England	[3]
		London	[3]
		South East	[3]
		South West	[3]
		Wales	[3]
		England and Wales	0
Licensing Act 2003 S.146	Sale of alcohol to person under 18.	North East	[3]
		North West	14
		Yorkshire and Humberside	[3]
		East Midands	[3]
		West Midlands	[3]
		East of England	[3]
		London	5
		South East	[3]
		South West	[3]
		Wales	1
		England and Wales	20

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes "Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18" [3] Nil

Operation Pentameter

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1670-71W, on Operation Pentameter, to which countries the three minors have been repatriated; from which countries the other minors originate; how long he expects them to be in the care of social services; and if he will make a statement. [85722]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* The three minors identified in Operation Pentameter as having been repatriated were from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The other minors identified were from Burundi, Cameroon, Sudan, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Kenya.

The length of time that the victims will be in the care of the local authority will be determined by an assessment of any ongoing risk of harm they face and their continuing need for care and support while they remain in this country.

Organised Crime

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations into organised crime groups have been undertaken by *(a)* the Serious Organised Crime Agency and *(b)* other police organisations in each of the last five years. [88498]

Mr. Coaker: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) is not a police organisation. It is an intelligence-led agency with law enforcement powers and harm reduction responsibilities. SOCA undertakes a range of operational activity in order to fulfil its functions as defined in sections two and three of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. As SOCA came into being only on 1 April 2006, there are no figures available for the current year. Figures for other police forces are not collated nationally.

Oxfordshire Coroner

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings were held between *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department and the Oxfordshire Coroner between 17 July 2003 and 31 March 2004. [85520]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* No meeting occurred between the Oxfordshire Coroner and a Minister of the Home Office within the time period specified. It is not possible, within the limits on reasonable costs, to determine whether any official within the Home Office met with the Coroner. The Oxfordshire Coroner, does not believe there were any meetings with officials of the Home Office, other than the Coroners Unit (now within the Department for Constitutional Affairs), within the period specified.

Oxycodone Hydrochloride

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much oxycodone hydrochloride raw material was produced in the UK in each year since 1997; who produced it; and what estimate he has made of UK demand for oxycodone hydrochloride raw material in each year since 1997. [73804]

Mr. Coaker: The information currently available is in the following tables.

Production figures represent domestic demand and stock. The only UK manufacturer of oxycodone is Macfarlan Smith Ltd.

Production of oxycodone hydrochloride

	Kilos
2000	1650.62
2001	2631.4
2002	4716.29
2003	5213.33
2004	8428.89
2005	12086

Estimates

	Kilos
2002	60
2003	80
2004	90
2005	90
2006	400

Parenting Orders

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting orders have been issued in Easington constituency; and how many have been breached in the last two years. [42701]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Youth offending teams (YOTs) report to the Youth Justice Board the number of parenting orders related youth offending or antisocial behaviour broken down by YOT area. 36 parenting orders were made in County Durham YOT area during the year April 2004 to March 2005 and 15 during April 2005 to March 2006, which are the latest available data.

The Department for Education and Skills has collected data on parenting orders in cases of non-attendance and exclusion from school since September 2004. This data are collected at local authority level. For the Durham local authority area, in which the Easington constituency lies, no parenting orders were reported between September 2004 and 31 December 2005, which is the latest period for which data are available.

The data reported to the Home Office on breaches of parenting orders have not been given because their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile such figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. We have started a programme of work in the Home Office looking at the quality of existing data on court sentencing and how this might be improved.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parenting orders have been made in each year since they were introduced, and how many have been breached in each year, broken down by local authority area. [84912]

Mr. McNulty: Parenting orders were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000, during which period 284 parenting orders were made but data showing the breakdown by area are not available. Parenting orders were commenced in England and Wales in June 2000.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has since 2000 collected the number of parenting orders by youth offending team area, as reported to it by youth offending teams including education-related orders where the YOT has been involved. A copy of a table showing the numbers of parenting orders related to youth offending or other civil orders and those related to non attendance of children at school which were made between 2000 and March 2004, has been placed in the House Libraries (Table A). The YJB is currently reviewing the numbers of parenting orders for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06. I will write to the hon. Member when the reviewed figures are available.

Since September 2004, the Department for Education and Skills has collected data on the number of parenting orders in England related to non-attendance of children at school and exclusion from school at local authority level. Between 1 September 2004 and 31 December 2005 local authorities in England did not report any applications to the courts for parenting orders in the case of exclusions. A copy of the table showing the numbers of parenting orders made following truancy prosecution between 1 September 2004 and 31 December 2005 has been placed in the House Libraries (Table B). Data for the period 1 January 2006 to 21 April 2006 will be available in September. The Welsh Assembly Government do not collect numbers of parenting orders for truancy or exclusion in Wales.

The figures reported to the Home Office on breaches of parenting orders have not been given because their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile such figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. RDS have started a programme of work in the Home Office looking at the quality of existing data on court sentencing and how this might be improved.

Parliamentary Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parliamentary questions tabled in the last 12 months for answer by him on a named day *(a)* were transferred and *(b)* received a substantive answer (i) on the day named and (ii) after the day named. [49875]

Mr. McNulty: Departments aim to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day and to endeavour to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. Unfortunately, this is not always possible but this Department makes every effort to achieve these timescales.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the number of transfers in respect of named day questions. The information on the number of named day parliamentary questions asked that received substantive answers, for the period 18 May 2005 to 30 April 2006, is as follows:

Parliamentary questions answered on the day named: 165;

Parliamentary questions answered after the day named: 634.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ordinary written parliamentary questions tabled for answer by him in the last 12 months have been answered *(a)* within 14 days, *(b)* between 14 and 28 days, *(c)* between 28 days and two months and *(d)* in excess of two months after the date of tabling; and if he will make a statement. [49900]

Mr. McNulty: Departments aim to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day and to endeavour to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. Unfortunately, this is not always possible but this Department makes every effort to achieve these timescales.

Information in respect of answering times for parliamentary questions, for the period 18 May 2005 to 30 April 2006, is provided in the attached table.

	Number	*Percentage*
Less than 14 days	5,653	76
15 to 28 days	548	7
29 to 60 days	405	5
Over 61 days	807	11
Total	7,413	

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer Question 49028 on DNA samples, tabled on 1 February 2006 by the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield. [56716]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Member for Salford (Hazel Blears), replied to the hon. Member on 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1408W.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide a substantive reply to Question *(a)* 59554 on security staff and *(b)* 61672 on election literature, tabled by the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight. [67930]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 May 2006]:* My hon. Friend, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Police and Justice, the Member for Gedling, replied to the hon. Member on, *(a)* 21 June *Official Report*, column 2013W.

I replied to the hon. Member, *(b)* on 2 May, *Official Report*, column 1410W.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many questions to him for written answer had on 25 May not received a reply within *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 20 parliamentary days of being tabled; and how many named day questions had not on that date received a substantive reply (i) by the named day and (ii) within (A) 10 and (B) 20 days of being tabled. [74149]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:*

I have placed the information that you requested within the following table.

	All PQs
Within five days	46
6 to10 days	8
11 to 20 days	9
over 21 days	32
Total	95

	Named days
on the day	3
2 to 10 days	2
11 to 20 days	1
over 21 days	7
Total	13

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer Question 71379, tabled by the hon. Member for Taunton on 11 May, on police restructuring in the South West. [80122]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 273W.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer Question *(a)* 74091 and *(b)* 74299, on fingerprint evidence, tabled by the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan for answer on 25 May. [81464]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* I replied to the hon. Member on *(a)* 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1180W and *(b)* 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 76W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85207]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is provided in the following table. To provide the reason for the delay in individual cases would incur disproportionate costs.

Overall	*PQs*
14-20 days	405
Over 21 days	171
Total	576

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will draw to the attention of all those in his Department concerned with parliamentary questions the passage in Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice, 23rd edition, page 342, relating to the timing of answers to Questions. [85901]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary is fully aware of the passage in Erskine May (page 342) that stresses the importance that Ministers should endeavour to answer such ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. He has instructed me, as Minister of State, to take strategic and operational oversight of all parliamentary affairs—including parliamentary questions. He has also written to the Speaker on 14 July 2006, stating that by 9 October the Department should be in a position to provide timely replies to Members' parliamentary questions. I have communicated this message to all officials within his Department.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide a substantive answer to Question 80658 tabled on 27 June by the hon. Member for Totnes on Operation Pentameter. [86442]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 556W.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide a substantive answer to Question 78812 tabled on 20 June by the hon. Member for Totnes on child trafficking. [86444]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2028W.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many written questions to his Department remain unanswered at 25 July 2006 for *(a)* between two and four weeks, *(b)* between four and six weeks, *(c)* between six and eight weeks and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [87922]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer for 25 July2006]:* Details of the number of unanswered parliamentary questions, as of 25 July 2006, are contained in the following table:

	PQs	*Named days*
2 to 4 weeks	129	30
4 to 6 weeks	57	15
6 to 8 weeks	75	10
over 8 weeks	283	43
Total	544	98

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether in his Department there is a parliamentary question answering unit separate from branches dealing directly with matters for which his Department has responsibility; [88782]

(2) whether the drafting of replies to parliamentary questions in his Department is undertaken by officials with day-to-day responsibility for the subject matter of the question. [88275]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office ensures that its answers to questions abide by the terms of the Ministerial Code and the guidance issued in respect of the accuracy of answers. Ministers remain responsible for the answers given and seek the advice of relevant policy officials where required.

Parole Board

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were released on licence where the parole board decision was not unanimous in the 2005-06 financial year. [88481]

John Reid: Currently, any decision by a majority of the members of a parole board panel is legally the decision of the panel as a whole. No statistics are kept by the board as to whether decisions are taken unanimously or by a majority. The Government believe that the interests of public protection now demand that all such decisions should be taken unanimously and will bring forward legislation to this effect when parliamentary time allows.

Paroled Prisoners

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of recidivism was amongst paroled prisoners in each of the last five years, broken down by length of sentence served by those paroled. [87573]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not available. The most recent information on the re-offending of adults in England and Wales was published in December as "Adult Re-offending: Results from the 2002 Cohort, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 25/05". The report is available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2505.pdf

Passports

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to extend free passports to British citizens born after 2 September 1929 when they reach their 75 birthday. [55405]

Joan Ryan: I refer to the reply I gave on 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 650W, in response to a question from the hon. member for East Londonderry.

The decision to give free passports for those born on or before 2 September 1929 was announced on 19 May 2004. This was a special concession intended to recognise the sacrifices made by adults of the world war II generation, whether in the services or on the home front. It would therefore not be appropriate, and there are no plans, to extend the scheme by reducing the qualifying age.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 514W, on passports, whether he plans to make UK passport facilities available to people in the Irish Republic on the same basis as Irish Passport applicants have in Northern Ireland. [82880]

Joan Ryan: I have no plans to change the current arrangements whereby British citizens can obtain UK passports from the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) only while present in the UK. British citizens resident in the Irish Republic are welcome to make appointments to apply in person at any IPS office, including Belfast, when present in the UK. The services available in this way are the same-day premium service or the one-week fast track service. Applications by post from British citizens resident in the Irish Republic must be made to the British embassy in Dublin.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people applied for UK passports between 2000 and 2004 using a current address in the Irish Republic. [82881]

Joan Ryan: The number of passports issued by the British embassy in Dublin was as follows:

Financial year	*Total passports issued*
2000-01	7,315
2001-02	8,109
2002-03	9,582
2003-04	10,024
2004-05	10,893

In addition an unknown number of British citizens resident in the Irish Republic would, during visits to the UK, have used the Premium or Fast Track services available by applying in person to an Identity and Passport Service office, including Belfast. Records of passport applications are not kept in a way that would enable this number to be ascertained.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports has been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the past five years. [87892]

Joan Ryan: The Identity and Passport Service processed the following reports of *(a)* lost, *(b)* theft and *(c)* other, of a passport in each of the past five calendar years:

	Lost	*Stolen*	*Other*[1]	*Total*
2001	—	—	—	[2]148,230
2002	—	—	—	[2]166,358
2003	—	—	—	[2]184,301
2004	212,745	50,737	11,558	275,040
2005	230,011	45,709	11,268	286,988
2006[3]	136,765	22,133	6,597	165,495

[1] Includes passports reported as damaged or destroyed.
[2] Combined total.
[3] Current figures.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport applications were received in each of the last 12 months. [88949]

John Reid: The number of passport applications processed by Identity and Passport Service for the last 12 months are as follows:

Month	*Intake*
July 2005	624,000
August 2005	503,000
September 2005	429,000
October 2005	356,000
November 2005	405,000
December 2005	283,000
January 2006	542,000
February 2006	586,000
March 2006	725,000
April 2006	607,000
May 2006	735,000
June 2006	704,000
Total	6,499,000

Penalties and Warrants (Enforcement)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average time taken was for enforcement of *(a)* community penalties and *(b)* warrants, as referred to in the Home Office Departmental Report 2006 in each of the last five years. [88537]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows.

(a) The Home Office Departmental Report 2006 refers to the average time taken from failure to comply with a community penalty to resolution of the case, measured in working days. Data on this have only been centrally collected since October 2005, so it is not possible to provide data for the last five years. In March 2006 (the date referred to in the Home Office Departmental Report 2006), the average time taken was 43 days. This is a new data collection and some early problems are still being resolved.

(b) Data on the average time taken to enforce warrants are not held centrally.

Penalty Notices

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* fixed penalty notices and *(b)* penalty notices have been issued in each year since 1997. [88657]

Mr. McNulty: Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) were piloted in four police forces for 12 months from August 2002 being rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales during 2003-4 financial year, under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Further information on the Penalty Notices for Disorder scheme and information on where data from the pilot can be obtained can be accessed via the following website:

linkhttp://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr3505.pdf

Data from the PND database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform shows that, in 2004, there were 63,639 Penalty Notices for Disorder issued and provisional data for 2005 show there were 142,625 Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in that year. Provisional data for 2006 will be available when 2005 data have been published.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform also collects information that identifies the number of motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued.

Available information on motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued can be found within the Home Office publication, 'Offences relating to motor vehicles England and Wales, Supplementary tables' (latest available, 2004). Copies are available in the Library and can also be accessed on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics (RDS) website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm

2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1991, Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) powers allow local authorities to take over responsibility for enforcing parking contraventions from the police. 2003 and 2004 data on penalty charge notices (PCNs) from individual local authorities operating Decriminalised Parking Enforcement can also be found in the above mentioned publication.

People Trafficking

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of offences related to human trafficking in each year since 1997. [74858]

Mr. Coaker: Following the commencement of dedicated trafficking offences in 2004 the convictions are as follows:

	Conviction
2004	3
2005	23
2006 (To date)	3

Prior to the introduction of this dedicated legislation there was only one conviction for a trafficking offence under the Immigration Act 1971.

Perverting the Course of Justice (Punishments)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the punishments available for those found guilty of *(a)* attempting to pervert and *(b)* perverting the course of justice. [64700]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Perverting the course of justice and attempting to pervert the course of justice are common law offences for which there is no statutory maximum. The full range of penalties is therefore available. Custodial sentences of up to eight years have been imposed in recent cases. Sentences average around eight months.

Police

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been *(a)* killed, *(b)* sexually assaulted and *(c)* physically assaulted while on duty in (i) England, (ii) the North East and (iii) the Tees Valley in each year since 1997. [71092]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is provided in the table. Figures on police assaults are collected by degree of injury which includes death, serious injury and minor or no injury. Figures on those sexually assaulted are not collected centrally.

Figures are available by police force area only.

Table 1: Assaults on police officers by degree of assault in England (1997-2005)

As at 31 March:	*Fatal assaults*	*Serious assaults*	*Other assaults*	*Total*
1997	0	872	13,780	14,652
1998	1	815	12,027	12,843
1999	0	311	11,458	11,769
2000	1	290	11,846	12,137
2001	1	326	10,977	[1]11,442
2002	1	393	9,799	[1]11,631
2003	4	253	10,761	[1]12,916
2004	1	231	9,984	[1]11,732
2005[2]	0	216	8,648	[1]10,210

[1] Some forces were unable to provide a breakdown on the degree of assault so have been included in the overall total only

[2] In 2005, the Metropolitan police were unable to separate assaults on police officers and police staff and are therefore excluded from the total. As at 31 March 2005, there were 2,614 total assaults on both police officers and police staff.

Table 2: Assaults on police officers by degree of assault in Cleveland (1997-2005)

As at 31 March:	*Fatal assaults*	*Serious assaults*	*Other assaults*	*Total*
1997	0	1	103	104
1998	0	1	75	76
1999	0	1	73	74
2000	0	0	13	13
2001	0	0	342	342
2002	0	44	214	258
2003	0	0	59	59
2004	0	0	63	63
2005	0	0	59	59

Table 3: Assaults on police officers by degree of assault in Northumbria (1997-2005)

As at 31 March:	*Fatal assaults*	*Serious assaults*	*Other assaults*	*Total*
1997	0	17	637	654
1998	0	173	325	498
1999	0	29	405	434
2000	0	20	493	513
2001	0	29	501	530

Table 3: Assaults on police officers by degree of assault in Northumbria (1997-2005)

As at 31 March:	Fatal assaults	Serious assaults	Other assaults	Total
2002	0	37	501	538
2003	0	0	691	691
2004	0	0	37 [1]	37 [1]
2005	0	25	205	230

[1] The force have confirmed that the low figures in 2004 are due to a change in the way in which accidents and assaults were recorded.

Table 4: Assaults on police officers by degree of assault in Durham (1997-2005)

As at 31 March:	Fatal assaults	Serious assaults	Other assaults	Total
1997	0	4	180	184
1998	0	3	167	170
1999	0	5	245	250
2000	0	3	218	221
2001	0	0	291	291
2002	0	3	301	304
2003	0	1	240	241
2004	0	2	216	218
2005	0	3	132	135

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what average percentage of time police officers spent *(a)* on the beat and *(b)* on patrol in each of the last five years; [74588]

(2) what percentage of their time on average police officers spent completing paperwork in each of the last five years; [74587]

(3) what research his Department has conducted on the amount of time police officers spend *(a)* on patrol and *(b)* completing paperwork; what the conclusions were; and if he will make a statement. [74591]

John Reid: The Government introduced a measure in 2003 to record the amount of time that police officers spend on frontline duties in order to help to maximise the time spent on their core roles of preventing and reducing crime. More police officer time was spent on front line duties in 2004-05 (64.1 per cent.) than in 2003-04 (63.6 per cent.) and we are determined to see this improvement continue, with police authorities setting robust targets for improvement. The Home Office expects that the police service can increase this to a national average of around 72 per cent. in 2008. This will be a gain in time on frontline duties equivalent to an extra 12,000 police officers. These frontline duties include providing a visible patrolling presence in communities—a role which has been greatly enhanced by the creation of Police Community Support Officers, whose core function it is to provide high visibility reassurance policing to local communities, primarily on foot patrol. The Government have also been working with the Association of Chief Police Officers since 2002 to reduce the burden of paperwork. Already we have:

made nearly 9,000 forms obsolete across all 43 forces;

nearly 125,000 fixed penalty notice tickets were issued in 2005—around 90 minutes saved per ticket;

207 Livescan Units, which enable electronic fingerprint images to be taken from people instantly, in 37 forces. This saves 7.5 minutes per arrest over ink and roller (5 minutes as opposed to 12.5 minutes);

the introduction of street bail in 2003 enables an officer to grant bail elsewhere other than a police station, remain on front-line operational duties and better plan the investigation to meet operational needs; and

the use of designated (police staff) detention officers and investigation officers at police stations to take forward arrest processing and case preparation thereby enabling operational officers to return to front-line duties.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* regulations and *(b)* guidance documents were issued to police forces in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [74590]

Mr. McNulty: Regulations and guidance relevant to police forces are issued by a variety of Government Departments, statutory bodies (such as Centrex) and non-statutory bodies (such as the Association of Chief Police Officers), and as such the information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* front line police officers and *(b)* police officers there were in (i) Milton Keynes and (ii) England and Wales in each year from 1995 to 2005. [75398]

Mr. McNulty: The figures requested are given in the following table where possible.

Numbers of front line officers quoted are based on counts of officers assigned to roles which are defined as "front line". These are only available for 2002-03 and later years. To avoid imposing an excessive administrative burden on forces, the Home Office does not request these data at Basic Command Unit (BCD) level, so numbers of front line officers are not available for Milton Keynes specifically. They have instead been provided for the relevant force (Thames Valley). Numbers of officers at BCD level are available only from 2002 onwards, as they were not collected by the Home Office's Research, Data and Statistics Directorate before this time; again, where figures for Milton Keynes specifically are not available they have been provided for Thames Valley. It should be noted that non-front line functions include call-centres, training, custody suites and criminal justice units for the processing of cases.

	Milton Keynes[1]	Thames Valley[2]		England and Wales[2]	
	All officers	All officers	Front line officers	All officers	Front line officers
1994-95	Not available	3,854	Not available	127,222	Not available
1995-96	Not available	3,674	Not available	126,901	Not available
1996-97	Not available	3,695	Not available	127,158	Not available
1997-98	Not available	3,776	Not available	126,814	Not available
1998-99	Not available	3,748	Not available	126,096	Not available

	Milton Keynes[1]	Thames Valley[2]		England and Wales[2]	
	All officers	All officers	Front line officers	All officers	Front line officers
1999-2000	Not available	3,740	Not available	124,170	Not available
2000-01	Not available	3,703	Not available	125,682	Not available
2001-02	342	3,762	Not available	129,603	Not available
2002-03	346	3,833	3398	133,366	115,782
2003-04	371	4,034	3648	139,200	117,877
2004-05	378	4,114	3656	141,230	122,935

[1] FTE strength includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] FTE strength excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters sent by recorded delivery to the Metropolitan Police have been lost by the police and not replied to in each quarter since January 2001. [81440]

Mr. McNulty: The information to answer this question can be obtained only at disproportionate cost to the Metropolitan Police Service.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on proposals for merging police forces. [85407]

John Reid: Home Department total costs are estimated at up to £1.2 million. We have not made estimates of police authority costs. We are aware authorities/forces may approach the Home Office to meet additional costs incurred in preparing for mergers and we will consider any such approaches.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the costs which have been incurred arising from the proposed merger of Lancashire and Cumbria police forces. [85526]

Mr. McNulty: We have not made estimates. We are aware authorities/forces may approach the Home Office to meet the extra costs they have incurred in preparing for mergers and we will consider any such approaches.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* per 1,000 population and *(b)* per square mile have been employed in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1997. [85940]

Mr. McNulty: The number of police officers is collected per 100,000 population. The available information is given in the table.

Data regarding the number of police officers per square mile, and in rural and non-rural areas are not collected centrally.

Number of police officers (fte)[1] per 100,000 population[2], by police force (1997-2006)[3]

	As at 31 March									
Police force area	1997[4]	1998	1999	2000	2001[5]	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	204	203	203	197	197	205	213	229	225	226
Bedfordshire	200	197	189	185	184	189	198	210	215	213
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	194	196
Cheshire	209	208	211	204	204	209	217	224	223	223
Cleveland	261	266	255	252	253	263	294	314	305	308
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	257	256
Derbyshire	187	184	182	183	187	189	210	216	213	212
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	212	219
Dorset	189	192	186	189	196	198	205	209	211	216
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	293	288
Essex	197	193	190	183	178	181	186	192	198	203
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	200	209	209	219	229	230	228
Greater Manchester	268	270	265	264	268	279	298	323	321	318
Hampshire	198	199	197	193	193	195	208	211	212	211
Hertfordshire	205	202	198	201	184	174	191	204	206	208
Humberside	230	228	223	219	217	234	244	256	255	251
Kent	210	209	204	203	209	210	221	228	227	227
Lancashire	228	229	228	223	228	231	239	252	251	253
Leicestershire	211	214	215	215	218	224	232	246	246	241
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	185	183
London, City of[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	296	297	298	290	291	294	302	303	318	315
Metropolitan police[2]	367	356	352	341	351	366	404	420	433	417
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	192	193
Northamptonshire	196	193	186	181	186	194	194	198	201	207

Number of police officers (fte)[1] per 100,000 population[2], by police force (1997-2006)[3]

	As at 31 March									
Police force area	*1997[4]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[5]*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Northumbria	256	263	269	266	272	278	290	294	294	291
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	206	216
Nottinghamshire	225	225	216	214	214	226	239	245	245	243
South Yorkshire	242	244	243	243	245	246	252	261	260	259
Staffordshire	209	217	211	204	201	201	212	218	220	219
Suffolk	180	179	179	171	168	177	188	196	195	191
Surrey	209	207	212	227	192	184	182	183	184	184
Sussex	211	203	191	188	188	190	203	206	205	207
Thames Valley	180	183	180	178	175	177	186	195	198	202
Warwickshire	186	185	180	178	182	190	198	197	195	198
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	203	202
West Midlands	270	271	278	274	283	293	307	311	316	318
West Yorkshire	247	244	236	228	228	230	242	254	271	270
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	198	196
Dyfed Powys	212	210	215	217	219	234	237	236	237	237
Gwent	275	222	224	227	229	239	244	248	259	264
North Wales	208	213	212	213	220	228	234	243	250	242
South Wales	223	242	241	236	250	259	273	275	273	271
Total 43 Forces	241	240	237	233	234	240	254	264	267	267

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be a discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan police are combined.
[3] Between the years 1997 to 2002 the figures used to calculate the number of officers per 100,000 population excluded those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. From 2003 onwards the figures for police officers include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources from the policing of the Rhmney Valley from South Wales police to Gwent police.
[5] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much of the £1,060 million Gershon efficiency savings to be achieved in the police were to be achieved through force amalgamations; what alternative efficiencies he plans to replace the previously expected savings; and if he will make a statement on progress towards achieving efficiency savings by the police. [86090]

Mr. McNulty: Achievement of the target of £1,060 million, that applies to the period 2004-05 to 2007-08, was not predicated upon gains from police force restructuring. The Government none the less remain particularly interested in maximising the potential for increased collaboration between forces; exploiting the opportunities for efficiencies in sharing back office functions; and in modernising the work force.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were involved in road accidents while *(a)* on duty and *(b)* off-duty in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by force; and how many accidents involved (i) fatalities and (ii) serious injury. [86358]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the table, a copy of which I will place in the House Library.

The information provided is based on the number of road traffic collisions on public roads involving police vehicles. Information is not collected centrally on the numbers of on- or off-duty police officers involved in accidents.

The figures provided in response to this question are based on data collected by the Department on behalf of HMIC. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) annually publish statistics on deaths during or following police contact. However these data use a much wider definition of road traffic collisions than that collected by HMIC.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Brent in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnicity. [87707]

Mr. McNulty: At 31 March 2003 there were 619 full-time equivalent police officers in Brent, 683 at 31 March 2004 and 679 at 31 March 2005. Corresponding information for 31 March 2006 will be published later in the year.

Data about the numbers of police officers in each Basic Command Unit (BCU) have only been collected since 2002 and these figures cannot be broken down any further by sex or ethnicity.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cars were in use in the London borough of Brent in each year since 1997. [87712]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local authority wards comprise each Basic Command Unit in England and Wales. [88412]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the table, a copy of which will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are seconded overseas, broken down by *(a)* country, *(b)* length of secondment and *(c)* force from which seconded. [88188]

Mr. McNulty: From 1 January 2006 to 24 July 2006, the Home Office issued 365 authorisations under section 26 of the Police Act 1996 to police officers from forces in England and Wales in respect of travel overseas to provide assistance to an international organisation or other body engaged outside the UK in policing activities. The majority of these authorisations were in respect of short-term assistance, on a wide range of matters and to numerous countries. Longer term deployments are mostly in the form of support to international Peace Support Operations (PSOs), and last up to a year. On 24 July 2006 the United Kingdom had 140 serving police officers working in Peace Support Operations in Bosnia (11); Kosovo (58); Iraq (21); Jordan (47); Sudan (2) and Afghanistan (1). Of these 140 police officers, 67 are from forces in England and Wales. Those forces are: Avon and Somerset; Cheshire; Cleveland; Cumbria; Devon and Cornwall; Durham; Dyfed Powys; Essex; Greater Manchester; Hertfordshire; Humberside; Kent; Lancashire; Lincolnshire; Metropolitan; Merseyside; Norfolk; Northumbria; North Wales; Nottinghamshire; South Yorkshire; Surrey; Sussex; Staffordshire; Thames Valley; West Mercia; West Yorkshire and Wiltshire. The other serving officers on PSOs are from the Ministry of Defence Police, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Scottish police forces. 10 other longer term deployments have been authorised since 1 January 2006 for officers from forces in England and Wales. All last for a year or more. Three authorisations were in respect of assistance to Trinidad and Tobago by officers from Wiltshire and Cambridgeshire. In respect of the remaining seven authorisations, there are sensitivities which mean I am unable to reveal further details of their deployment.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of section 54 of the Police Act 1996; and what recent representations he has received about the operation of this *(a)* section and *(b)* Act. [71013]

Mr. McNulty: HM inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) provides an independent oversight of policing in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Government intend building on the current expertise and commitment offered under existing inspection arrangements, by creating a new Inspectorate for Justice, Community Safety and Custody. A synopsis of responses on the proposals can be viewed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/InspectionReformPolicyState1.pdf?version=1

Details of representations on the operation of the Police Act 1996 are not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the time it takes for a police officer to complete the paperwork when stopping minors caught drinking in the street; and which forms are required. [88018]

Mr. McNulty: It is a matter for individual police officers to determine the appropriate course of action when dealing with minors caught drinking alcohol in the street or other public place. Research undertaken by the Home Office indicates that stops take on average five minutes or less to record. Records are not held centrally on the average amount of time it takes to complete other locally prescribed forms which might be required in such circumstances.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the police budget was spent on front-line policing in each of the last five years. [88658]

Mr. McNulty: Analysis of costs relating to front line policing is not available.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to appoint the transitional authority for the Cumbria and Lancashire Police Authorities. [82966]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* I met the Chief Constables and Police Authority Chairs from Cumbria and Lancashire on 10 July. I explained to them that it had not been possible to resolve all of the issues surrounding the proposed merger in a way that would be satisfactory to them and they therefore do not wish to proceed with their voluntary merger. As a result no combined police authority for Cumbria and Lancashire will be established.

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to reimburse police authorities and police forces for the resources spent on those police mergers which will not take place. [86374]

Mr. McNulty: We are aware that a number of police force and police authorities have incurred costs in preparing for police force mergers.

We have written to police forces to say that requests for reimbursement of additional costs incurred will be considered.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on *(a)* administration, *(b)* legal fees, *(c)* special advisers and *(d)* other costs on the police force restructuring consultation; and if he will make a statement. [89105]

Mr. McNulty: Between September 2005 and July 2006, the Home Office has spent approximately £400,000 on staff costs (representing a team of permanent, temporary and seconded staff averaging 10 people during this period) and approximately £20,000 on legal costs. Expenditure on consultancy for assessing and refining the police structures business cases is expected to be up to approximately £800,000. Other Home Office officials and special advisers have

made contributions to work on police restructuring as part of routine business and the costs could not be identified separately.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* retired and *(b)* retired on the grounds of ill health, broken down by type of ill health, in each year since 1997. [88373]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* The available information is given in the following table.

Full-time equivalent[1] police officer medical and ordinary retirements in England and Wales (1997-2005)

As at 31 March	Medical retirement	Ordinary retirement
1997	2,012	2,466
1998	1,811	2,960
1999	1,642	2,562
2000	1,232	2,732
2001	1,209	2,645
2002	1,114	3,001
2003[2]	819	1,983
2004	418	2,650
2005	405	3,464

[1] Prior to 2003, FTE figures excluded those on career breaks.
[2] Figures for 2003 are not comparable with other years, as not all of the 43 forces were able to provide complete data.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the new generation Airwave radios; which police forces are using them; and if he will make a statement. [88647]

Mr. McNulty: Airwave provides modern, integrated, secure and efficient radio communications for the police service.

The Airwave service had to pass a rigorous series of tests before being accepted by a force as being ready for service.

The Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) continually evaluates the performance of Airwave through a national service support structure, managing any arising issues jointly with the service provider, O2 Airwave.

Police communications at special events, such as the G8 summit at Gleneagles in 2005, have been facilitated by the adoption of a common technology and since the service first started rolling out in 2001 new features such GPS location sensing and direct access to the police national computer have become available to benefit the safety and effectiveness of individual police officers. The use of Airwave radios has meant improved coverage and clarity compared to the old analogue radios.

The decisions of the ambulance and fire services to move to Airwave will enhance the capabilities of all three emergency services to work together, both on a day-to-day basis and during major incidents.

As part of its operational benefits strategy, PITO is in the process of carrying out baseline reviews using several forces in order to gauge the benefits that Airwave has brought to police users.

Currently over 160,000 police officers are using Airwave and 50 forces have fully migrated to the new service. The remaining forces, the Metropolitan police and North Wales, are in the process of migration and will have fully migrated by the summer of 2007.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children in contravention of their curfew notices have been removed to their place of residence by *(a)* community support officers and *(b)* police officers under paragraph 4B of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002 in each of the last four years, broken down by police authority. [29362]

John Reid: No curfew notices have been issued under this power as no local child curfew scheme has been established. However other powers have been introduced and used. My answer on 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 968W explained that section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 provides the police with a power to disperse groups and remove under-16s to their place of residence, within designated areas. The Act also inserted paragraph 4A into Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002 to allow designated community support officers to use these powers. These powers came into force on 20 January 2004. From a Home Office data collection exercise, we estimated that 809 areas were designated between January 2004 and June 2005. Police officers and community support officer dispersed 14,375 people from the 293 areas where data were available. They also removed 520 young people under 16 to their place of residence from 236 areas where data were available. We do not hold the information on whether these powers were exercised by police officers or community support officers.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations have closed in *(a)* non-rural and *(b)* rural areas in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [84632]

Mr. McNulty: Details of police station openings and closures, where provided by the forces, have been as in the table.

Police Stations opened or closed since 1996-97

	English Shire Authorities	English Metropolitan Authorities	London Authorities	Welsh Authorities
1996-97				
Opened	15	0	n/a	4
Closed	-39	-3	n/a	-22
1997-98				
Opened	15	3	n/a	5
Closed	-50	-10	n/a	-3
1998-99				
Opened	30	0	n/a	5
Closed	-49	-9	n/a	-5
1999-2000				
Opened	13	0	n/a	1
Closed	-84	-8	n/a	-17

Police Stations opened or closed since 1996-97

	English Shire Authorities	English Metropolitan Authorities	London Authorities	Welsh Authorities
2000-01				
Opened	27	5	n/a	1
Closed	-43	-9	n/a	-13
2001-02				
Opened	24	6	n/a	6
Closed	-26	-9	n/a	-5
2002-03				
Opened	27	2	0	6
Closed	-25	-5	-2	-13
2003-04				
Opened	24	5	3	4
Closed	-29	-10	-3	-2
2004-05				
Opened	44	15	0	3
Closed	-39	-18	-1	-2

Notes:
1. Reliable data unavailable before 1996-97.
2. Returns are available from all forces only from 2003-04. Data relate to returns actually received.
Source:
Police forces in England and Wales.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations there were per 1,000 population in *(a)* non-rural and *(b)* rural areas in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [84633]

Mr. McNulty: The information, where details of police stations have been provided by forces, is given in the table.

Police Stations Per 1,000 Population

	English Shire Authorities	English Metropolitan Authorities	London Authorities	All English Authorities	Welsh Authorities
1996-97	0.041	0.042	n/a	0.041	0.108
1997-98	0.039	0.041	n/a	0.039	0.107
1998-99	0.038	0.039	n/a	0.038	0.105
1999-2000	0.036	0.031	n/a	0.035	0.097
2000-01	0.035	0.031	n/a	0.034	0.093
2001-02	0.035	0.030	0.020	0.032	0.093
2002-03	0.035	0.028	0.019	0.031	0.090
2003-04	0.034	0.027	0.019	0.031	0.090
2004-05	0.035	0.027	0.018	0.030	0.090

Notes:
1. Population figures for 2005 have not yet been published. 2004 population figures are used for 2004-05.
2. Population figures are based on force boundaries in 2004.
3. Between 1996-97 and 1998-99 there were returns from three of the six English Metropolitan Authorities (Greater Manchester, Merseyside and South Yorkshire).
Between 1999-2000 and 2001-02 there were returns from five English Metropolitan Authorities (Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Northumbria, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire).
4. Returns were only available from all authorities from 2002-03.
Source:
Population figures—Office for National Statistics.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations are operational in each police force; and how many were operational in each force in *(a)* 1990 and *(b)* 1997. [85403]

John Reid: The available information is set out in the table.

Total number of police stations in each force

	As at March:		
	1992	1997	[3]2005
Avon and Somerset	82	35	43
Bedfordshire	—	—	13
Cambridgeshire	31	29	23
Cheshire	31	28	18
City of London	2	2	2
Cleveland		—	23
Cumbria	24	34	26
Derbyshire	25	25	24
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	61
Dorset	27	27	24
Durham	40	40	36
Dyfed-Powys	45	44	54
Essex	115	115	58
Gloucestershire	68	62	39
Greater Manchester	96	82	66
Gwent [1]	—	9	49
Hampshire	51	54	49
Hertfordshire	55	23	25
Humberside	38	35	41
Kent	46	32	31
Lancashire	111	102	77
Leicestershire	26	28	29
Lincolnshire	46	43	37
Metropolitan	—	—	134
Merseyside	53	52	43
Norfolk	—	—	37
Northamptonshire	11	12	11
Northumbria	—	—	36
North Wales	—	—	49
North Yorkshire	98	28	25
Nottinghamshire	62	64	46
South Wales[1]	163	138	114
South Yorkshire	88	84	70
Staffordshire	39	39	37
Suffolk	50	27	28
Surrey	32	30	32
Sussex	33	29	33
Thames Valley	50	53	63
Warwickshire	17	15	12
West Mercia	85	57	59
West Midlands	—	—	46
West Yorkshire	—	—	41
Wiltshire	42	28	27
Total [2]	n/a	n/a	1,791

[1] In 1996-97 South Wales police transferred nine police stations to Gwent. The nine stations have been included for Gwent for 1996-97, but the force made no fuller report for the year.
[2] Because several forces did not make returns in 1992 and 1997, direct comparison of totals with 2005 would be inappropriate.
[3] Latest figures.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* bicycles, *(b)* patrol cars and *(c)* motorcycles available to police forces in England and Wales. [88946]

John Reid: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average fuel efficiency of the England and Wales police fleet; and what plans he has to improve fuel efficiency. [88947]

John Reid: Information on the fuel efficiency of police vehicles is not collected centrally. Police forces in England and Wales are expected to have a strategy for the management of their vehicle fleets. Each year HM Inspectorate of Constabulary assesses the contribution of that strategy to operational policing performance and the accountability of the fleet management for resource use and performance. Increased efficiency in fleet management, including increased fuel efficiency, will contribute to forces meeting their overall efficiency target.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of North Yorkshire police was in each of the last 20 years *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* at current prices. [89152]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is set out in the table.

Budgets for North Yorkshire

	Budget requirement	Change in cash terms		Change in real terms
	£000	£000	Percentage	Percentage
1996-97	69,374	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997/98	71,594	2,220	3.2	0.3
1998-99	74,363	2,769	3.9	1.3
1999-2000	78,044	3,681	5.0	2.9
2000-01	81,000	2,956	3.8	2.3
2001-02	85,860	4,860	6.0	3.5
2002-03	93,142	7,282	8.5	5.2
2003-04	114,280	21,138	22.7	19.2
2004-05	122,000	7,720	6.8	3.9
2005-06	126,165	4,165	3.4	1.3
2005-06[1]	119,084	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	122,894	3,810	3.2	0.7

[1] Adjusted for comparison following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.

Notes:

Information prior to 1996-07 is not readily available Real terms at 2004-05 prices using GDP deflator at 30.06.06

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* community support officers and *(c)* other police support staff there were in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) City of York in each of the last 20 years. [89153]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the tables.

Total Strength[1] for Police Officers, Civilian/Police Staff[2] and Police Community Support Officers in North Yorkshire, 1986-2006[3]

	Police Officers	Civilians/ Police Staff	Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)[4]
31 March 1986	1,361	335	—
31 March 1987	1,353	330	—
31 March 1988	1,372	358	—
1 March 1989	1,370	421	—
31 Mar 1990	1,379	433	—
31 March 1991	1,387	449	—
31 March 1992	1,398	445	—
31 March 1993	1,393	453	—
31 March 1994	1,318	438	—
31 March 1995	1,300	508	—
1 March 1996	1,324	520	—
31 March 1997	1,338	519	—
31 March 1998	1,367	543	—
31 March 1999	1,337	541	—
31 March 2000	1,283	492	—
31 March 2001	1,305	591	—
31 March 2002	1,417	743	—
31 March 2003	1,444	723	0
31 March 2004	1,529	864	52
31 March 2005	1,543	930	75
31 March 2006	1,636	1,030	71

[1] Total strength is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between these totals and the totals in other tables. Between 1986-1995 the full-time equivalent figures were based on estimations. Figures exclude those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave unless otherwise stated.

[2] Civilian Staff have been referred to as Police Staff since March 2003. Figures exclude Traffic Wardens, Police Community Support Officers and Designated Officers (s.38).

[3] Strength Figures for Civilian Staff were collected by HMIC from 1986 until 1995. The Research Development and Statistics Section within the Home Office, have been collecting and publishing these data since March 1996.

[4] Figures for PCSOs have been collected only since 2003 and include those on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

Total Strength[1] for Police Officers in North Yorkshire Central Basic Command Unit, 2002-05

As at 31 March:	Police Officers
2002	399
2003	409
2004	422
2005	410

[1] Total strength is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between these totals and the sums of the constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* violent crimes and *(b)* crimes there were in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) City of York in each of the last 20 years. [89154]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the following tables. York is a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area and data at CDRP level have only been collected centrally since 1999-2000. Since 1986, there have been two major

changes to the way in which crime is recorded. The effect of the extended coverage and the change in counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase recorded violent crime nationally by more than 80 per cent. while it is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further 20 per cent. increase in recorded violent crime in its first year.

Table 1: Recorded crime in North Yorkshire—1986-97

	Number of offences	
	Total crime	*Violent crime*
1986	35,968	1,542
1987	37,494	1,713
1988	34,686	1,858
1989	35,774	2,114
1990	46,252	2,403
1991	51,471	2,479
1992	54,816	2,276
1993	57,967	2,382
1994	62,153	2,532
1995	63,539	2,547
1996	56,919	2,821
1997	50,252	2,885

Table 2: Recorded crime in North Yorkshire—1998-99—2001-02

	Number of offences	
	Total crime	*Violent crime*
1998-99	55,309	5,294
1999-2000	53,554	5,607
2000-01	51,551	5,373
2001-02	59,125	6,261

Note:
Expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules came into effect on 1 April 1998. The figures in this table are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 3: Recorded crime in North Yorkshire—2002-03—2005-06

	Number of offences	
	Total crime	*Violent crime*
2002-03	67,239	8,912
2003-04	71,473	10,507
2004-05	61,864	12,960
2005-06	59,069	12,369

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 4: Recorded crime in the York Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area—1999-2000—2005-06

	Number of offences	
	Total crime	*Violent crime*
1999-2000	n/a	1,812
2000-01	19,291	1,633
2001-02	22,890	1,889
2002-03	25,630	2,878
2003-04	29,347	3,812
2004-05	23,164	4,350
2005-06	22,846	4,112

n/a = not available.
Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Port Security

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1676W, on port security, which ports are in each of the categories referred to. [87301]

John Reid: This information cannot be disclosed as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent immigration controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of immigration offences.

Pre-comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82846]

Mr. Byrne: Home Office Ministers have had and will continue to have wide-ranging and regular discussions with the Treasury Ministers about preparations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Pre-Sentencing Reports

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the national standards are for writing pre-sentencing reports; what assessment he has made of the extent to which those national standards are complied with in each probation area; what measures are in place to monitor standards; and if he will make a statement. [87792]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Where a court requests a report from the National Probation Service prior to sentencing, an appropriate assessment will be made of the offender's risk of harm and the likelihood of re-offending, in order to inform the court of a clear and realistic proposal for sentence or remand.

National standards for the Probation Service are published in the document "National Standards 2005" copies of which can be obtained in the Library and at the following website address: http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page32.asp#GuideWwO

The national standards specific to pre sentence reports are SS2.5 to SS2.13. To monitor each standard routinely would incur disproportionate costs. SS2.12—"Reports will be prepared within the time scale set by the commissioning court" is monitored and the results for each area can be found in the following. In England and Wales in 2005-06, this standard was met in 97 per cent. of cases. The target is 90 per cent.

Timeliness of court reports July 2005 to March 2006

Probation area	*Total provided*	*Number provided on time*	*Performance against court's time scale (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	3,433	3,349	98
Bedfordshire	1,098	1,090	99
Cambridgeshire	1,612	1,584	98

Probation area	Total provided	Number provided on time	Performance against court's time scale (percentage)
Cheshire	2,481	2,444	99
Cumbria	1,529	1,492	98
Derbyshire	3,007	2,977	99
Devon and Cornwall	3,138	2,926	93
Dorset	1,365	1,306	96
County Durham	2,205	2,108	96
Dyfed/Powys	1,280	1,248	98
Essex	3,485	3,475	100
Gloucestershire	1,201	1,138	95
Greater Manchester	10,037	9,842	98
Gwent	1,491	1,428	96
Hampshire	4,049	3,921	97
Hertfordshire	2,104	2,007	95
Humberside	2,810	2,756	98
Kent	2,797	2,729	98
Lancashire	4,730	4,585	97
Leicestershire and Rutland	3,075	3,028	98
Lincolnshire	1,534	1,530	100
London	15,043	14,594	97
Merseyside	3,695	3,559	96
Norfolk	1,839	1,751	95
North Wales	1,680	1,601	95
North Yorkshire	1,763	1,755	100
Northamptonshire	1,141	1,110	97
Northumbria	4,355	4,240	97
Nottinghamshire	4,569	4,486	98
South Wales	4,992	4,848	97
South Yorkshire	4,461	4,371	98
Staffordshire	2,815	2,734	97
Suffolk	1,079	1,060	98
Surrey	1,471	1,439	98
Sussex	2,673	2,633	99
Teesside	2,411	2,306	96
Thames Valley	2,285	2,198	96
Warwickshire	1,127	1,094	97
West Mercia	1,814	1,659	91
West Midlands	10,654	10,398	98
West Yorkshire	6,702	6,598	98
Wiltshire	1,241	1,178	95
England and Wales	136,271	132,575	97

Press Complaints

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions since 1 April 2003 he has complained to the Press Complaints Commission about the coverage in the press of *(a)* Ministers or officials and *(b)* his Department; and how many of these complaints were upheld. [47084]

Mr. McNulty: In the period specified, neither the present Home Secretary, nor either of his predecessors, have complained to the Press Complaints Commission about the coverage in the press of Ministers or officials individually, or the Home Office generally.

Preventing Extremism Working Groups

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of the recommendations of the "Preventing Extremism Together" working groups set up in response to the London bombings in July 2005 have been implemented; and what proportion this represents of the number of recommendations. [71936]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 19 May 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for leading on this area of work is now with the Department for Communities and Local Government. On 17 July 2006, the Department published on its website details of progress made on the recommendations from the "Preventing Extremism Together" working groups. Further details can be found at:

http://raceandfaith.communities.gov.uk/raceandfaith/faith/faith-communities/?version=1

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the confidence of prison service staff in governors at each prison establishment; and if he will make a statement. [73762]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 2005 Prison Service staff survey did not contain a specific question about confidence in governors. However, the percentage of respondents who agreed that their senior management team provides effective leadership in each establishment is provided as follows.

Extract from the public sector Prison Service in England and Wales 2006 staff survey showing the percentage of respondents who agree that senior management provide effective leadership

Establishment polled	Number of questionnaires returned	Percentage response rate	Percentage respondents in agreement that senior management team provides effective leadership
Prison Service average	18,704	39	44
Acklington	111	27	24
Albany	116	36	48
Ashwell	144	50	39
Askham Grange	46	50	48
Aylesbury	176	52	47
Bedford	130	51	61
Belmarsh	185	21	22
Birmingham	164	20	38
Blakenhurst	146	31	59
Blantyre House	25	34	60
Blundeston	110	38	34
Brinsford	160	40	46
Bristol	139	30	32
Brixton	149	37	45
Brockhill	55	31	46
Buckley Hall	107	46	35
Bullingdon	145	32	45

Extract from the public sector Prison Service in England and Wales 2006 staff survey showing the percentage of respondents who agree that senior management provide effective leadership

Establishment polled	*Number of questionnaires returned*	*Percentage response rate*	*Percentage respondents in agreement that senior management team provides effective leadership*
Bullwood Hall	59	34	41
Camp Hill	80	28	51
Canterbury	86	41	44
Cardiff	189	40	48
Castington	112	29	61
Channings Wood	131	37	36
Chelmsford	163	45	34
Coldingley	70	34	43
Cookham Wood	52	34	57
Dartmoor	147	39	36
Deerbolt	110	33	47
Dorchester	96	52	64
Dover	64	26	44
Downview	90	38	42
Drake Hall	43	22	37
Durham	175	31	38
East Sutton Park	33	50	39
Eastwood Park	73	27	38
Edmunds Hill	90	38	69
Elmley	97	21	47
Erlestoke	98	41	24
Everthorpe	200	57	51
Exeter	91	25	29
Featherstone	104	33	35
Feltham	193	24	54
Ford	61	33	37
Foston Hall	80	34	50
Frankland	366	40	47
Full Sutton	130	17	32
Garth	205	48	50
Gartree	112	31	27
Glen Parva	108	21	65
Gloucester	90	40	58
Grendon	122	36	46
Guys Marsh	153	51	45
Haslar	53	41	59
Haverigg	122	37	31
Hewell Grange	46	46	58
High Down	192	44	43
Highpoint	97	23	40
Hindley	152	36	44
Hollesley Bay	41	33	39
Holloway	322	57	57
Holme House	148	28	42
Hull	180	32	37
Huntercombe	139	46	48
Kingston	87	62	61
Kirkham	122	46	61
Kirklevington Grange	30	26	20
Lancaster	90	51	48
Lancaster Farms	157	39	34
Latchmere House	40	50	33
Leeds	255	39	32
Leicester	89	36	48
Lewes	102	33	37
Leyhill	111	48	47
Lincoln	167	43	26
Lindholme	177	35	46
Littlehey	112	35	43
Liverpool	153	21	31
Long Lartin	154	24	49
Low Newton	50	17	42
Maidstone	63	20	41
Manchester	257	31	65
Moorland	197	33	34
Morton Hall	103	45	50
New Hall	169	41	36
North Sea Camp	52	36	33
Northallerton	60	41	37
Norwich	137	31	31
Nottingham	115	28	38
Onley	126	31	38
Parkhurst	176	47	37
Pentonville	212	32	32
Portland	110	29	31
Preston	144	34	45
Ranby	137	24	40
Reading	95	45	42
Risley	170	35	37
Rochester	121	41	52
Send	102	62	68
Shepton Mallet	46	32	39
Shrewsbury	108	51	49
Stafford	159	42	34
Standford Hill	68	26	38
Stocken	186J	59	33
Stoke Heath	232	50	45
Styal	93	25	37
Sudbury	113	53	55
Swaleside	172	42	45
Swansea	154	52	34
Swinfen Hall	146	34	61
The Mount	87	27	55
The Verne	103	36	22
Thorn Cross	49	22	45
Usk/Prescoed	104	42	56
Wakefield	173	26	37
Wandsworth	204	29	51
Warren Hill	61	22	60
Wayland	102	33	73
Wealstun	180	43	49
Weare	13	44	33

Extract from the public sector Prison Service in England and Wales 2006 staff survey showing the percentage of respondents who agree that senior management provide effective leadership

Establishment polled	*Number of questionnaires returned*	*Percentage response rate*	*Percentage respondents in agreement that senior management team provides effective leadership*
Wellinborough	185	51	38
Wellington	33	18	39
Wetherby	133	43	48
Whatton	122	43	51
Whitemoor	190	25	26
Winchester	177	44	44
Woodhill	192	28	28
Wormwood Scrubs	164	26	49
Wymott	114	22	40

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to deal with national industrial action by prison officers; and if he will make a statement. [87800]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Officers' Association (POA) has signed the Joint Industrial Relations Agreement, which provides an undertaking that neither it nor its members will induce industrial action. If the POA breach the JIRA, the Home Secretary may seek injunctive relief against it. If the POA gives notice to terminate the agreement with no alternative arrangements being in place, the Secretary of State would ask Parliament to reintroduce statutory constraints such as existed prior to disapplication of Section 127.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the last time was that a member of the Prison Service Management Board met representatives of the police to consider contingency plans to prepare for national industrial action by prison officers; and if he will publish the minutes of that meeting. [87801]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The Deputy Director General met police representatives on 25 May 2004 to discuss contingency planning. The Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has overall responsibility for contingency planning across the prison estate. Senior prison service officials take the operational lead on behalf of NOMS and regularly meet police representatives to consider contingency plans. These plans are restricted documents.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the review of the Prison Service Professional Standards and Code of Discipline to be completed; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [87804]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The review of PSO 8460, Staff Conduct and Discipline, which includes the Professional Standards statement, is ongoing. I expect a revised policy to be issued to staff later this year, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of discussions with trades unions. A copy of the revised policy will be placed in the Library when the review has been completed.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what total number of sick days was taken by Prison Service staff in each of the last five years. [88534]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of working days lost due to sickness absence in the Public Sector Prison Service is contained in the following table.

Working days lost due to sickness absence

	Working days lost[1]
2005-06	589,471
2004-05	616,367
2003-04	628,623
2002-03	668,337
2001-02[2]	614,150

[1] Information derived from Personnel Corporate Database.
[2] The 2004 NAO report on sickness absence in the Prison Service estimated that sickness absence was under-reported by up to 26 per cent. in 1997-98. Under-reporting fell to negligible levels by 2002-03, therefore data for 2001-02 will be under-recorded.

Information for the contracted estate over the past five years is not readily available within the time scales required and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which inmates are permitted to hold private cash in prison service accounts; what the maximum amount is that can be held by an inmate in such accounts; and if he will make a statement. [87802]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison rules permit all prisoners in Her Majesty's prisons to hold private cash in prison service accounts. There is no limit on the amount of private cash that can be held by a prisoner. The amount a prisoner is allowed access to on a weekly basis is determined by their status under the incentives and earned privileges scheme.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed by *(a)* the Prison Service and *(b)* the immigration and nationality directorate; and how many were employed in each case in May 1997. [67457]

Mr. Byrne: The number of people employed by the Prison Service and the immigration and nationality directorate, for the dates requested, is set out in the following table.

	IND[1, 2]	Prison Service[3]
Staff employed at 31 March 1997	5,697	17,213
Staff[4] employed at 31 March 2006	37,704	47,282

[1] The headcount figure is the only figure available for 1997.
[2] The figure for 1997 for IND is for permanent employees only and that for 2006 includes permanent employees and non-permanent temporary agency staff.
[3] Prison Service figures are as published in civil service statistics for 1997 and as submitted to National Statistics for 2006.1997 figures exclude staff on maternity leave and on reduced or nil pay as a result of long-term sickness. Only staff on nil pay have been excluded from the 2006 figures. Both figures are on a full-time equivalent basis and do not include agency staff or contractors.
[4] Full-time equivalent figures have been used, unless otherwise stated.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms exist to ensure that members of the Prison Service Standards Audit Unit are independent of other parts of the Prison Service; what steps have been taken by the Prison Service's Director of Operations to ensure that standards audits in prison establishments are objective and free from bias; and if he will make a statement. [88430]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Audit and Corporate Assurance does not report to the Director of Operations but, for day-to-day purposes, reports to the Director of Finance. On audit matters it reports to the Audit Committee and the Director General. The Audit Committee is chaired by Lord Rosser, non-executive Director, and comprises three further independent members and three executive members.

The work of Standards Audit Unit is subject to an internal peer review carried out by professionally qualified Internal Auditors. The system for carrying out standards audits in establishments is also audited by Internal Audit. The results of the internal peer review and Internal Audits of the standards audit are reported to the Audit Committee.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the role is of the Prison Service Area Professional Standards Managers in viewing information from *(a)* staff mobile telephones, *(b)* prisoner mobile telephones and *(c)* staff computers; and if he will make a statement; [88431]

(2) what level of authority is required to view information from unauthorised *(a)* prisoner and *(b)* prison staff mobile telephones that are seized during security searches; and if he will make a statement; [88432]

(3) on how many occasions in the last 12 months the covert viewing of prison staff computers has been carried out; what the reasons were in each case; who was responsible for authorising the activity in each case; what disciplinary action was progressed in consequence of information discovered as a result of such viewing; and if he will make a statement; [88433]

(4) what level of authorisation is required for covert viewing of information from prison staff computers; what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the current practice in the Prison Service for the covert viewing of staff computers with the requirements of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [88434]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* Computer use within the Prison Service is subject to routine scrutiny and monitoring. All staff are required to read and be aware of the information technology security policy. Monitoring is overt and not subject to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

At establishment level, Governors approve requests for information about the use of computers by staff. At Area Offices requests are made by Area Managers and at headquarters by Heads of Group. Requests are checked and submitted for action by the Professional Standards Unit, which will view any information produced to identify whether there has been inappropriate use.

There have been 191 occasions during the past 12 months when examination of potential inappropriate use of staff computers has taken place for a range of management or possible corruption issues. Proceedings will be taken against individuals where there is sufficient evidence to support this. It is not possible to provide the results of each examination, as results are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mobile telephones are not allowed in prison establishments and their use is prohibited for both prisoners and staff, unless a member of staff has a specific exemption from the Governor. A member of staff's telephone would be subject to interrogation only if brought into the prison in breach of the rules. Statutory Instrument 1878 of 2006, The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) (Additional Functions and Amendment) Order 2006 which came into force on 26 July 2006, sets the level of authority for examining mobile telephones in prisons as senior operational manager.

Area Professional Standards Managers are able to view mobile phone information if during the course of intelligence gathering or investigations it is considered necessary and proportionate to do so and the requirements of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 are fully met.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners escaped *(a)* while at court and *(b)* while in transit between court and prison in each of the last five years. [85399]

John Reid: Details of the number of prisoners that escaped while at court and while in transit between court and prison are set out in the following table. The total number of escapes in a year has reduced by 65 per cent. between 2001-02 and 2005-06.

	Court	In transit	Total
2001-02	38	2	40
2002-03	27	4	31
2003-04	27	5	32
2004-05	26	1	27
2005-06	12	2	14

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of prisoners appearing at court arrived *(a)* operationally on time and *(b)* in time for the hearing in each of the last five years. [85400]

John Reid: Details of the percentage of prisoners arriving at court operationally on time are set out in the following table.

Figures are not available on the number of prisoners arriving in time for their hearings. Current escort contracts require that contractors report occasions when late arrival delays court business. Information from the escort contractors shows that between September 2004 and March 2005, 99.97 per cent. of prisoners were available for their court appearance as scheduled. The corresponding figure for 2005-06 is 99.92 per cent.

	Percentage of prisoners arriving on time
2001-02	75
2002-03	76
2003-04	82
2004-05[1]	85
2004-05	76
2005-06	82

[1] New escort contracts commenced on 29 August 2004, when the criteria for determining the timely arrival of prisoners to courts changed.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people convicted of further offences committed before the period of their prison sentence had expired were ordered to return to prison to serve the outstanding sentence in full in each of the last eight years. [81172]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether each prisoner held by the prison department has a file; whether the filing system is computerised; and if he will make a statement. [67475]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Core prisoner information is held electronically on the Inmate Information System. Prisoner paper files consist of a number of parts each serving a specific purpose, for example, a security file and an Inmate Medical Record.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are on licence from prisons in England and Wales. [87795]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At 31 December 2005 there were 25,271 people being supervised on licence by the Probation Service following their release from prison.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what IT offender assessment systems are used in private prisons; whether these are compatible with the OASys used by the prison and probation services; and whether private prisons will have access to the National Offender Management Information Systems. [21790]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Some of the private prisons are already using the HM Prison Service Offender Assessment System (OASys) IT system to record offender assessments.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the contracted out prisons are working towards full use of the HMPS OASys IT system by all the private prisons and hope to achieve this before the end of the year.

Since May this year there has been full connectivity between HMPS and National Probation Service OASys systems enabling electronic transfer of all OASys offender assessments, regardless of whether they originate from public or private prisons or the probation service.

It is planned that private prisons will have full access to the C-NOMIS system, which is the replacement for the current Prison Service and probation service casework management systems.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* other detainees have been diagnosed with HIV since 1997; and what guidance his Department has issued to prison medical officers on delivering high standard healthcare to patients. [48707]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information about the number of prisoners and detainees with HIV is not collected centrally. Standards of health care in the publicly-run prisons are a matter for primary care trusts, which now have overall responsibility for commissioning these services. All services commissioned by the national health service, including prison health care, should comply with the Department of Health document, "Standards for Better Health", a copy of which is available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/66/66/04086666.pdf

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the availability of contraband at HMP Parkhurst; and if he will make a statement. [59204]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A number of measures are in place at Parkhurst to combat prisoner access to illicit items. These include searches of the perimeter, and of staff and visitors entering the prison, supported by passive dogs trained to detect drugs, the use of active drug dogs to search internal and external areas and CCTV in the visits area. Incoming mail is subject to close scrutiny.

Routine and targeted cell searches take place. Intelligence led and random strip searches of prisoners take place after visits. Prisoners leaving work areas are searched. Mandatory and voluntary drug testing of prisoners takes place.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to extend CCTV coverage at HMP Full Sutton; and if he will make a statement. [59205]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are currently no plans to extend CCTV coverage at HMP Full Sutton.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of transfers between prison establishments was due to *(a)* re-categorisation, *(b)* overcrowding, *(c)* resettlement and *(d)* other reasons in 2004-05. [62134]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of Independent Monitoring Board members at each prison are *(a)* under 30 years of age, *(b)* between 30 and 40 years of age, *(c)* between 40 and 50 years of age, *(d)* between 50 and 60 years of age, *(e)* between 60 and 70 years of age and *(f)* over 70 years of age. [62778]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The composition of the membership of IMBs in prisons is shown in the following table:

IMB members in prisons by age

	Under 30		*Between 30 and 40*		*Between 40 and 50*		*Between 50 and 60*		*Between 60 and 70*		*Over 70*		
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*Number of board members*
Acklington	0	0	0	0	1	6	5	28	7	39	5	28	18
Albany	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	33	5	56	1	11	9
Altcourse	1	9	0	0	1	9	1	9	6	55	2	18	11
Ashfield	0	0	0	0	2	20	4	40	4	40	0	0	10
Ashwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	5	83	0	0	6
Askham Grange	0	0	0	0	2	22	1	11	4	44	2	22	9
Aylesbury	0	0	0	0	1	10	3	30	3	30	3	30	10
Bedford	0	0	1	8	0	0	2	17	9	75	0	0	12
Belmarsh	0	0	2	11	4	22	6	33	4	22	2	11	18
Birmingham	0	0	1	5	5	25	4	20	8	40	2	10	20
Blakenhurst	0	0	0	0	1	8	7	54	4	31	1	8	13
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0	1	9	3	27	5	45	2	18	11
Blundeston	0	0	0	0	3	27	3	27	5	45	0	0	11
Brinsford	1	7	3	21	1	7	3	21	6	43	0	0	14
Bristol	1	10	1	10	0	0	3	30	5	50	0	0	10
Brixton	6	30	5	25	2	10	0	0	5	25	2	10	20
Brockhill	0	0	0	0	2	22	2	22	5	56	0	0	9
Bronzefield	0	0	1	6	1	6	7	44	7	44	0	0	16
Buckley Hall	0	0	0	0	1	10	1	10	5	50	3	30	10
Bullingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	29	10	71	0	0	14
Bullwood Hall	0	0	0	0	2	25	4	50	2	25	0	0	8
Camp Hill	0	0	1	10	0	0	2	20	6	60	1	10	10
Canterbury	0	0	1	11	0	0	2	22	4	44	2	22	9
Cardiff	0	0	0	0	1	10	2	20	5	50	2	20	10
Castington	0	0	1	9	1	9	6	55	2	18	1	9	11
Channings Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	50	5	42	1	8	12
Chelmsford	1	5	0	0	4	20	7	35	7	35	1	5	20
Coldingley	0	0	0	0	2	22	3	33	3	33	1	11	9
Cookham Wood	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	50	5	42	1	8	12
Dartmoor	0	0	0	0	1	8	4	33	6	50	1	8	12
Deerbolt	0	0	0	0	1	8	6	50	4	33	1	8	12
Doncaster	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	43	3	43	1	14	7
Dorchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	20	5	50	3	30	10
Dovegate	0	0	0	0	1	7	2	14	11	79	0	0	14
Downview	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	62	3	23	2	15	13
Drake Hall	0	0	1	10	1	10	4	40	3	30	1	10	10
Durham	0	0	1	8	2	15	6	46	4	31	0	0	13
East Sutton Park	0	0	1	10	1	10	1	10	6	60	1	10	10
Eastwood Park	0	0	0	0	1	11	1	11	7	78	0	0	9
Edmunds Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	29	5	71	0	0	7
Elmley	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	50	4	40	1	10	10
Erlestoke	0	0	0	0	1	10	3	30	6	60	0	0	10
Everthorpe	1	8	1	8	0	0	3	25	5	42	2	17	12
Exeter	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	33	8	67	0	0	12

	IMB members in prisons by age												
	Under 30		Between 30 and 40		Between 40 and 50		Between 50 and 60		Between 60 and 70		Over 70		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Number of board members
Featherstone	1	10	0	0	0	0	2	20	6	60	1	10	10
Feltham	3	18	2	12	2	12	2	12	8	47	0	0	17
Ford	0	0	0	0	1	7	5	33	9	60	0	0	15
Forest Bank	1	6	0	0	0	0	9	53	5	29	2	12	17
Foston Hall	0	0	0	0	2	22	2	22	2	22	3	33	9
Frankland	0	0	1	7	1	7	4	27	9	60	0	0	15
Full Sutton	0	0	2	15	0	0	4	31	5	38	2	15	13
Garth	0	0	2	17	0	0	1	8	9	75	0	0	12
Gartree	0	0	0	0	1	8	3	23	5	38	4	31	13
Glen Parva	2	11	2	11	1	6	4	22	7	39	2	11	18
Gloucester	0	0	0	0	1	10	2	20	7	70	0	0	10
Grendon/ Springhill	0	0	2	13	2	13	5	33	5	33	1	7	15
Guys Marsh	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	64	5	36	0	0	14
Haverigg	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	33	8	67	0	0	12
Hewell Grange	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	43	4	57	0	0	7
High Down	0	0	1	8	2	17	3	25	6	50	0	0	12
Highpoint	0	0	0	0	1	6	4	25	9	56	2	13	16
Hindley	0	0	0	0	1	7	7	47	4	27	3	20	15
Hollesley Bay	0	0	0	0	1	13	1	13	5	63	1	13	8
Holloway	0	0	3	18	4	24	5	29	5	29	0	0	17
Holme House	0	0	0	0	2	14	4	29	8	57	0	0	14
Hull	0	0	1	7	2	13	6	40	3	20	3	20	15
Huntercombe	0	0	0	0	4	31	5	38	3	23	1	8	13
Kingston	1	11	0	0	0	0	3	33	5	56	0	0	9
Kirkham	0	0	0	0	1	11	4	44	3	33	1	11	9
Kirklevington	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	22	6	67	1	11	9
Lancaster Castle	0	0	1	10	0	0	1	10	7	70	1	10	10
Lancaster Farms	1	7	0	0	3	20	4	27	6	40	1	7	15
Latchmere House	0	0	0	0	2	18	2	18	6	55	1	9	11
Leeds	0	0	1	6	2	13	3	19	9	56	1	6	16
Leicester	0	0	1	8	0	0	2	15	9	69	1	8	13
Lewes	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	55	4	36	1	9	11
Leyhill	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	42	5	42	2	17	12
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	1	7	3	20	8	53	3	20	15
Lindholme	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	9	69	3	23	13
Littlehey	0	0	1	8	1	8	3	25	4	33	3	25	12
Liverpool	0	0	0	0	1	7	3	20	6	40	5	33	15
Long Lartin	0	0	0	0	5	36	3	21	5	36	1	7	14
Low Newton	0	0	1	10	3	30	1	10	4	40	1	10	10
Lowdham Grange	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	45	5	45	1	9	11
Maidstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	31	8	62	1	8	13
Manchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	38	9	56	1	6	16
Moorland	0	0	0	0	1	8	4	33	5	42	2	17	12
Morton Hall	0	0	0	0	3	21	2	14	8	57	1	7	14
New Hall	0	0	0	0	1	8	3	25	7	58	1	8	12
North Sea Camp	0	0	0	0	1	9	5	45	5	45	0	0	11
Northallerton	0	0	1	10	2	20	2	20	4	40	1	10	10
Norwich	0	0	1	5	5	25	0	0	11	55	3	15	20
Nottingham	0	0	0	0	3	18	5	29	8	47	1	6	17
Onley	0	0	1	6	2	13	6	38	4	25	3	19	16
Parc	1	7	0	0	1	7	6	40	7	47	0	0	15
Parkhurst	0	0	0	0	1	11	3	33	3	33	2	22	9
Pentonville	1	5	3	15	2	10	6	30	7	35	1	5	20
Peterborough	0	0	0	0	1	6	5	29	8	47	3	18	17
Portland	1	7	0	0	0	0	3	21	9	64	1	7	14

IMB members in prisons by age

	Under 30		Between 30 and 40		Between 40 and 50		Between 50 and 60		Between 60 and 70		Over 70		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Number of board members
Preston	1	6	0	0	2	11	4	22	6	33	5	28	18
Ranby	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	33	6	40	4	27	15
Reading	0	0	0	0	1	14	2	29	3	43	1	14	7
Risley	0	0	1	6	2	12	8	47	1	6	5	29	17
Rochester	0	0	0	0	1	9	7	64	3	27	0	0	11
Rye Hill	0	0	0	0	2	14	5	36	4	29	3	21	14
Send	0	0	0	0	1	10	5	50	3	30	1	10	10
Shepton Mallet	0	0	1	11	0	0	3	33	4	44	1	11	9
Shrewsbury	0	0	0	0	2	14	2	14	7	50	3	21	14
Stafford	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	15	10	77	1	8	13
Standford Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	43	2	29	2	29	7
Stocken	0	0	0	0	2	13	5	31	8	50	1	6	16
Stoke Heath	0	0	1	10	3	30	1	10	4	40	1	10	10
Styal	0	0	0	0	2	12	3	18	9	53	3	18	17
Sudbury	0	0	2	20	1	10	1	10	2	20	4	40	10
Swaleside	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	86	1	14	0	0	7
Swansea	0	0	0	0	1	8	3	23	7	54	2	15	13
Swinfen Hall	1	9	1	9	0	0	5	45	3	27	1	9	11
The Mount	0	0	1	7	0	0	5	36	6	43	2	14	14
The Verne	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	23	8	62	2	15	13
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0	1	13	2	25	4	50	1	13	8
Usk	0	0	0	0	1	10	4	40	5	50	0	0	10
Wakefield	0	0	1	6	1	6	8	44	5	28	3	17	18
Wandsworth	1	5	2	11	2	11	3	16	9	47	2	11	19
Warren Hill	0	0	0	0	2	25	1	13	4	50	1	13	8
Wayland	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	17	5	42	5	42	12
Wealstun	0	0	0	0	1	7	4	27	4	27	6	40	15
Wellingborough	0	0	1	10	0	0	2	20	4	40	3	30	10
Werrington	0	0	1	10	0	0	4	40	4	40	1	10	10
Wetherby	0	0	1	8	2	15	5	38	5	38	0	0	13
Whatton	2	13	1	7	1	7	5	33	5	33	1	7	15
Whitemoor	1	7	1	7	0	0	3	21	6	43	3	21	14
Winchester	0	0	1	6	2	13	2	13	11	69	0	0	16
Wolds	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	25	3	25	6	50	12
Woodhill	0	0	2	14	2	14	2	14	7	50	1	7	14
Wormwood Scrubs	0	0	1	5	4	20	10	50	4	20	1	5	20
Wymott	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	0	7	78	1	11	9
Totals	29	1.7	67	3.9	157	9.2	498	29.1	761	44.5	198	11.6	1,710

Note: Figures show the number of members on each board by age group and the percentage of the total number of board members this represents.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Criminal Justice System Race Unit about the appropriateness of the Prison Service's rehabilitative interventions to the needs of minority ethnic and religious groups. [65588]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Criminal Justice System Race Unit (which sits within the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and is a tri-lateral organisation reporting to the Home Secretary, Lord Chancellor and Attorney-General) makes regular reports to, and has had regular discussion, with the relevant Ministers on the activity of Prison Service and the way it impacts on different ethnic minority groups.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the operational capacity is of HM Prison Latchmere House; and how many inmates are detained there. [74023]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As at 4 August 2006, the operational capacity of HMP Latchmere House was 207. The number of prisoners held at the establishment was 192.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new prison places have been created in each year since 1997; and what the cost of new prison places was in each year. [77070]

John Reid: The following table provides information on the number of new prison places and an estimate of the capital building cost from 1997 onwards. This information includes places at new prisons as well as those provided at existing prisons by building

houseblocks, Ready to Use Units (RTUs) and Modular Temporary Units (MTUs). It does not take into account any places provided by subsequent overcrowding, or places taken out of use.

	Number of New Prison Places	*Capital Building Cost (£ million)*[1]
1997-98	4,716	278
1998-99	1,222	82
1999-2000	1,646	107
2000-01	640	39
2001-02	920	73
2002-03	1,780	102
2003-04	1,376	106
2004-05	2,570	257
2005-06	940	112

[1] Actual costs, not adjusted for inflation. Costs relate to the places opened in each year.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with drug counsellors in prisons on the relative effectiveness of different drug treatment and intervention programmes across the prison estate. [78107]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government routinely consult with prison drug treatment workers who report positively on the ability of prison drug treatment to make a real difference for prisoners in addressing their drug dependency.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which prisons issue condoms to prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [78132]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Doctors in all prisons in England and Wales, in a circular letter dated 16 August 1995, were informed that they should prescribe condoms to individual prisoners, on application, if, in their clinical judgment, there was a risk of HIV infection.

The Prison Service is planning to issue revised guidance and instructions which aim to clarify the policy on condoms so that it can be applied more evenly across the prison estate.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what preparations have been made by the Prison Service for the introduction of custody plus and intermittent sentencing; what impact he expects the change to have on the prison population; and if he will make a statement. [78149]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the review of the Criminal Justice System published on 20 July the Government announced that Custody Plus will not go ahead in autumn 2006 as previously planned.

Intermittent Custody has been piloted at two prison establishments. We are considering the future of Intermittent Custody in light of learning from the pilots and of the decision not to proceed with Custody Plus.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Irish nationals have been deported to the Irish Republic from HM Prison Service establishments in the last 12 months. [78168]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of Irish nationals deported to the Irish Republic from HM Prison Service establishments in the last 12 months is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost through examination of individual case files. My written ministerial statement of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 29WS, set out the steps the Department is taking to improve the collection of robust management information on nationality across the system as part of improving the overall system for deportation of foreign national prisoners.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking *(a)* to reduce the number of absconders and *(b)* to capture absconded prisoners from HMP Sudbury. [79993]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The prison completes a significant number of security information reports each month, informing its security department of any suspicious activity including risk of abscond. Security intelligence is regularly followed up and a number of prisoners are returned to closed conditions each month.

All absconds are reported to the police immediately. The prison has established close links with the local police and the police liaison officer visits the establishment frequently, in addition to attending the monthly security committee meeting.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1220W, on prisoners, what medical guidance his Department has received from health care professionals on the transportation of prisoners; [83815]

(2) what recent discussions he has held with medical professionals about the transportation of prisoners. [83693]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The unit responsible for Prison Health within the Department of Health was included in the consultation on the specification for new escort contracts. It is a requirement for all prisoners to have their medical needs assessed by a healthcare professional prior to transportation.

Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary or my noble Friend the Minister for Criminal Justice and Offender Management have had any recent meetings with health care professionals about the transportation of prisoners.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 July 2006 to question 63082, on prisoners, what definition he uses of disproportionate cost. [84139]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The definition of disproportionate cost is when the cost of providing an answer is judged likely to exceed the limit of £600, 22 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 48WS.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1056W, on prisons, for what reason records are not kept centrally of how

many inmates are being held in open conditions who have previously been Category A or Category B prisoners; and what assessment he has made of how this may affect his Department's ability to ensure offenders are monitored appropriately *(a)* while in custody and *(b)* subsequently upon release. [84292]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Risk assessments and subsequent decisions on a prisoner's categorisation and allocation are made at the establishment holding the prisoner. Records are therefore held at the prison and on the prisoner's individual record as the most appropriate placement so they may be readily accessed throughout custody and in preparation for release. All prisons are subject to local and national audit of their categorisation and allocation procedures with audit reports being scrutinised centrally.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average distance from home *(a)* female and *(b)* male prisoners were imprisoned in each of the last nine years for which figures are available. [84407]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	Average distance from home (miles) for male prisoners	*Average distance from home (miles) for women prisoners*
1997	53	67
1998	52	63
1999	56	66
2000	55	63
2001	53	65
2002	53	64
2003	52	68
2004	51	62
2005	50	58

Note:
Figures are taken from sample data, not necessarily in the same month each year.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are on *(a)* the mandatory drug testing programme and *(b)* the voluntary drug testing programme in the West Midlands. [85643]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All prisoners are subject to the requirements of the mandatory drug testing programme. In 2005-06, the number of voluntary drug testing compacts in place in prisons in the West Midlands was 2,682.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many carbon dioxide emission permits have been allocated to prisons in its first year of operation of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; and what the emissions were of each prison participating in the scheme. [86454]

Mr. Sutcliffe: One permit has been allocated. The sites covered by the permit are Wymott and Garth prisons which emitted 7,360 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the Inner Change Programme at Dartmoor Prison has been discontinued; and if he will make a statement. [86582]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The programme was introduced as a pilot only. Following a review under Prison Service Order 4350 (Effective Regimes Interventions) the programme is currently being withdrawn. The Review Panel identified a range of concerns, the most significant being the poor quality of the manuals which did not demonstrate a structured and coherent programme, a lack of consistency and clarity about the primary aims of the programme, a lack of understanding and appropriate sensitivity to the diversity agenda of HM Prison Service, and an absence of protocols for the management of the mentor system, making it unsafe.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to expand the capacity of the prison estate over the next 12 months. [86628]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The ongoing prison building programme will deliver 780 new places in the next 12 months. This includes 180 places which have already been built but are not yet fully open.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1685W, on prisons, for which offence each prisoner who absconded from an open prison in England and Wales was originally convicted. [87300]

John Reid: In order to answer this question it would be necessary to examine each individual record. This could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which governors in the Prison Service received performance-related pay in the year ending March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [87440]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am unable to detail which operational and senior managers, formerly known as governors, have received performance-related pay because of the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what involvement the hon. Member for Wythenshawe and Sale, East had in the handling of a human resources issue at HM Prison Wandsworth in October 2004. [87787]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not clear from the hon. Member's question to what issue he refers.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations his Department made in October 2004 to the Area Manager for London on the Service Level Agreement being developed as part of the performance testing exercise at HM Prison Wandsworth. [87788]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In announcing the results of the performance test evaluation panel, the chief executive of the National Offender Management Service asked that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) included a requirement to report on progress six months after the commencement of the SLA.

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what sites the Prison Service has purchased in West Yorkshire since January 2004; how much was spent on each purchase. [87861]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No sites have been purchased in West Yorkshire.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children are held in prison, broken down by age and sex. [88016]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of children under the age of 18 who are held in prison, by age and sex, is given in Table 3 of the monthly Population in Custody tables for May 2006, which are available at the following web address.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/prismay06.pdf.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which places in the ownership of his Department have planning permission for the development of a prison. [88336]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has an outline planning permission for a 600-place prison on the Ashworth south site at Maghull, Merseyside and a detailed permission for a 500-place prison on a site at the Isle of Wight to the west of Parkhurst Prison.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contingency plans he has in place to deal with the expected rise in the prison population; and what assessment he has made of the viability of using *(a)* prison ships, *(b)* Ministry of Defence facilities, *(c)* police cells and *(d)* home detention curfew to deal with this increase. [88485]

John Reid: An ongoing building programme will deliver around 900 new places at existing prisons in 2007. The prison expansion programme, announced on 20 July 2006, will deliver a further 8,000 new prison places. Contingency planning and alternative options remain under review.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* annual revenue cost of his plans to build 8,000 new prison places. [88486]

John Reid: Estimated capital costs for the 8,000-place expansion programme are around £1.5 billion. Estimated annual running costs are expected to be around £0.35 billion once the programme is completed.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the ratio of prisoners to prison staff was at each prison in each of the last eight years; and whether he has plans to change this ratio. [88840]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of prisoners to each member of staff in every public sector Prison Service establishment since 1999 is contained in the following table. Ratios are set for each category of establishment but these are not based on all staff; just officer grades who are on operational duty on a particular day. The ratio specifically relates to key points in the daily regime. There are no plans to change these ratios.

Ratio of total staff to prisoners between 1999 to 2006 in prisons in England and Wales

	Number of prisoners to each member of staff[1, 2, 3]							
	As at 30 June							
Establishment	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*31 May 2006*
Acklington	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.0
Albany	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6
Ashwell	2.2	2.2	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.9
Askham Grange	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.3
Aylesbury	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3
Bedford	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Belmarsh	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Birmingham	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.8	1.8
Blakenhurst	—	—	—	3.0	2.7	2.1	2.3	2.3
Blantyre House	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7
Blundeston	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Brinsford	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
Bristol	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
Brixton	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0
Brockhill	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
Buckley Hall	—	2.1	2.0	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.8
Bullingdon	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.1
Bullwood Hall	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7

Ratio of total staff to prisoners between 1999 to 2006 in prisons in England and Wales

	Number of prisoners to each member of staff[1, 2, 3] *As at 30 June:*							
Establishment	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*31 May 2006*
Camp Hill	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0
Canterbury	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.3
Cardiff	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Castington	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0
Channings Wood	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Chelmsford	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
Coldingley	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9
Cookham Wood	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2
Dartmoor	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Deerbolt	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Dorchester	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.3
Dover	1.2	1.5	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0
Downview	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.4
Drake Hall	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3
Durham	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.5
East Sutton Park	1.7	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Eastwood Park	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0
Edmunds Hill	—	—	—	0.0	1.8	1.0	0.7	1.4
Elmley	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.2
Erlestoke	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Everthorpe	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.8
Exeter	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4
Featherstone	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.9
Feltham	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Ford	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.7	1.9
Foston Hall	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0
Frankland	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8
Full Sutton	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7
Garth	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3
Gartree	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2
Glen Parva	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Gloucester	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Grendon	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.6
Guys Marsh	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.8
Haslar	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.0	1.4
Haverigg	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Hewell Grange	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.5
High Down	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7
Highpoint	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.3	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.9
Hindley	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0
Hollesley Bay	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.2	2.8	2.2	2.2	1.7
Holloway	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Holme House	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.0
Hull	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Huntercombe	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.2
Kingston	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.3
Kirkham	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.6
Kirklevington Grange	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
Lancaster	1.4	0.8	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.3
Lancaster Farms	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3
Latchmere House	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.2
Leeds	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8
Leicester	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.3
Lewes	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7
Leyhill	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.4
Lincoln	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2
Lindholme	1.7	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.6

Ratio of total staff to prisoners between 1999 to 2006 in prisons in England and Wales

	Number of prisoners to each member of staff[1, 2, 3] *As at 30 June:*							
Establishment	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*31 May 2006*
Littlehey	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1
Liverpool	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8
Long Lartin	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Low Newton	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8
Maidstone	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.8
Manchester	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5
Moorland/Moorland Open	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Morton Hall	2.6	2.4	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.4
New Hall	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8
North Sea Camp	1.9	2.0	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	1.7
Northallerton	1.8	1.3	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.3
Norwich	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.7
Nottingham	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
Onley	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.5
Parkhurst	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Pentonville	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Portland	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
Preston	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.5
Ranby	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.9
Reading	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
Risley	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1
Rochester	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.6	1.1	1.3	1.3
Send	0.7	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.3
Shepton Mallet	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Shrewsbury	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.6
Stafford	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9
Standford Hill	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.6
Stocken	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Stoke Heath	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5
Styal	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1
Sudbury	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.6
Swaleside	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Swansea	1.5	1.3	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5
Swinfen Hall	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.3
The Mount	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2
The Verne	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0
The Weare	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.0	—
Thorn Cross	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.9
Usk/Prescoed	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.5
Wakefield	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1
Wandsworth	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.0
Warren Hill	—	—	—	—	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8
Wayland	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Wealstun	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.8
Wellingborough	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6
Werrington	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
Wetherby	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
Whatton	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.4
Whitemoor	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Winchester	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
Woodhill	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Wormwood Scrubs	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.0
Wymott	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0

[1] These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.
[2] Staffing information for the contracted estate is not collated centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Contracted prisons have therefore been excluded from the table.
[3] The staffing figures used in these calculations relate only to staff directly employed by the public sector Prison Service.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total capacity of prisons in England and Wales was in each of the last eight years. [88841]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Month/year	*Operational capacity*
June 1998	67,019
June 1999	68,114
June 2000	69,487
June 2001	69,341
June 2002	71,912
June 2003	74,696
June 2004	76,227
June 2005	77,726
June 2006	79,449

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been sent to prisons in England and Wales in each of the last eight years. [88843]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of persons sentenced to immediate custody in England and Wales is published in "Sentencing Statistics 2004, England and Wales", (Home Office Bulletin No 15/05), Table 2.4 (page 25) and is on the Home Office website at:http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1505.pdf
Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile such figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Consequently, although some figures may be shown to the last digit in order to provide a comprehensive record of the information collected, they are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown. We have started a programme of work in the Home Office looking at the quality of existing court sentencing data and how this might be improved.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security checks are carried out on casual staff working in the Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [88886]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Casual employees are subject to the same checks as those for permanent employees and include checks on: identity; proof of address; entitlement to work in the UK; criminal record check; references; qualifications and where appropriate, national security vetting.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners do not have British citizenship. [88916]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of foreign national prisoners serving an immediate custodial sentence in prison establishments in England and Wales is given in table 8.28 of the web tables of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, available at the following address http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Prison Service's strategy is for tackling bullying in the workplace. [88936]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The public sector Prison Service's policy on tackling bullying is set out in Prison Service Order (PSO) 8010 "Equal Opportunities". This makes clear that staff have the right to make complaints about bullying; and that managers have responsibility for ensuring a workplace free from bullying and for dealing with any complaints they receive. PSO 8460 "Conduct and Discipline" describes the procedures to be followed where allegations of bullying require formal investigation and identifies bullying as gross misconduct which, depending on the circumstances of the case, may result in dismissal from the Service. Copies of all PSOs are available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for *(a)* reducing the energy output of existing prisons and *(b)* minimising the energy output of new prisons; and if he will make a statement. [88941]

John Reid: It is planned to reduce energy consumption across the public sector prison estate in England and Wales in 2006-07 by 4.44GWh. This equates to a reduction of 1,675 tonnes in carbon dioxide emissions.

All newly built prison buildings must conform to the building regulations, in particular Part L (conservation and power). However, a significant proportion of new prison buildings will go beyond these requirements.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much additional capacity he plans to create in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [89098]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An ongoing building programme will deliver around 900 new places at existing prisons between July 2006 and 2007. This includes 180 places which have already been built but are not yet fully open.

The prison expansion programme, announced on 20 July 2006, will deliver a further 8,000 new prison places.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many rapes have been reported in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years, broken down by sex of victim. [88888]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An alleged rape is recorded on the central incident reporting system under the category of sexual assault. All such incidents are reported to the police for investigation. There were 79 reports of alleged rape in the last five calendar years. The following table provides a breakdown of alleged rapes by the gender of the victims and by the prison.

Alleged rapes by prison in England and Wales and gender of victim between 2001 and 2005

Prison	*Gender*
2001	
Durham	Male x 2
Elmley	Male
Full Sutton	Male
Glen Parva	Male
Highpoint	Female
Holme House	Male
Lincoln	Male
Liverpool	Male
Manchester	Male
Norwich	Male
Moorland	Male
Swaleside	Male
Swinfen Hall	Male
Wakefield	Male
Woodhill	Male
2002	
Bedford	Male
Buckley Hall	Female
Bullingdon	Male
Cardiff	Male
Durham	Female
Elmley	Male
Feltham	Male x 2
Gartree	Male
Hull	Male x 2
Leeds	Male
Lewes	Male
Lincoln	Male
Whitemoor	Male
Winchester	Male x 2
2003	
Albany	Male
Chelmsford	Male x 2
Durham	Male x 2
Exeter	Male x 2
Highpoint	Female
Hull	Male
Leeds	Male
Maidstone	Male
New Hall	Female x 2
Norwich	Male
Parkhurst	Male x 2
Pentonville	Male
Preston	Male x 3
Stafford	Male x 2
Winchester	Male
2004	
Aylesbury	Male
Bullenhurst	Male x 2
Bullingdon	Male
Doncaster	Male
Exeter	Male
Highdown	Male
Holme House	Male
Liverpool	Male
Maidstone	Male x 3
Manchester	Male
Parc	Male
Winchester	Male
2005	
Altcourse	Male
Eastwood Park	Female
Forest Bank	Male
Lancaster	Male
Leeds	Male
Lincoln	Male
Long Lartin	Male
Parc	Male
Wakefield	Male

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people imprisoned on remand pending trial were subsequently *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* given a non-custodial sentence in the last period for which figures are available. [87146]

John Reid: The information requested is contained in Chapter 4 of "Criminal Statistics 2004" which can be found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1905.pdf.

Table 4.8 on page 82 gives figures for the numbers of defendants remanded in custody by final court outcome.

Figures for 2005 will be published in the autumn of 2006.

Probation Service

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the probation budget is for 2006-07, broken down by area; and what the figures were for 2005-06. [88005]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Probation Board's annual budget for 2005-06 was £786,468,759 and this figure represents the Board's final budget position at the end of the financial year. It includes all relevant budget adjustments which were made during the year. The budget figure for 2006-07, of £818,004,241, is the first quarter allocated position and is therefore subject to further changes during the course of the year. A table showing the breakdown by area Board for both years follows.

£

Board	*2005-06*	*Revenue budget 2006-07*[1]
Avon and Somerset	18,272,900	18,978,122
Bedfordshire	8,180,000	8,575,071
Cambridgeshire	8,880,000	9,257,282
Cheshire	15,367,000	13,869,551
Cumbria	7,458,500	7,872,810
Derbyshire	12,165,500	12,731,343
Devon and Cornwall	18,184,000	19,321,749
Dorset	7,989,000	8,264,705

Board	2005-06	£ Revenue budget 2006-07[1]
Durham	9,513,000	10,054,916
Essex	17,838,600	18,455,870
Gloucestershire	6,523,500	6,827,540
Hampshire	21,812,500	22,779,039
Hertfordshire	9,706,000	10,368,603
Humberside	14,909,500	16,081,339
Kent	19,011,500	20,394,017
Lancashire	20,227,543	20,957,594
Leicestershire	13,054,500	13,278,030
Lincolnshire	8,414,000	8,836,610
Norfolk	10,188,851	10,643,898
Northamptonshire	8,148,500	8,581,609
North Yorkshire	8,998,000	9,385,751
Nottinghamshire	17,142,500	18,000,092
Staffordshire	14,334,500	15,774,373
Suffolk	8,677,500	9,227,333
Surrey	9,408,000	9,624,713
Sussex	15,677,000	16,506,494
Teeside	12,156,700	12,664,397
Thames Valley	23,381,500	24,101,860
Warwickshire	6,491,500	6,795,534
West Mercia	13,197,000	13,593,886
Wiltshire	7,224,000	7,672,879
Greater Manchester	45,645,000	47,064,171
Merseyside	28,589,100	28,053,706
Northumbria	26,005,000	26,850,198
South Yorkshire	23,034,000	23,991,951
West Midlands	50,077,500	53,160,143
West Yorkshire	36,225,700	37,793,020
London	132,727,100	138,096,986
Dyfed-Powys	7,495,519	7,964,434
Gwent	10,018,000	10,599,210
North Wales	11,012,500	11,354,055
South Wales	23,106,246	23,599,355
Total	786,468,759	818,004,241

[1] Subject to further changes.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures the Department routinely takes to monitor the whereabouts of *(a)* murderers, *(b)* rapists and *(c)* paedophiles released from prison; and what assessment he has made of the efficacy of these measures. [67681]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 May 2006]*: Any offender sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment or more is subject to probation supervision and to licence conditions. The offender must adhere to any conditions attached to the licence, including standard conditions set in all cases, which require him to remain in contact with his supervising officer and live at a suitable address. Any offender in breach of licence conditions risks recall to prison. Although it is not possible from national data to categorise the breaches in question, the probation service has achieved a significant improvement in performance in relation to all breaches of licence conditions. Its target is to enforce 90 per cent. of breaches overall within 10 working days. In 1997-98 the enforcement rate for licences stood at 34 per cent. It is now 93 per cent.

In addition, any offender subject to sex offender registration requirements is required to notify to the police a home address within three days of leaving prison, and to notify any subsequent change of address within three days of the change thereafter while still subject to registration. Failure to supply that information, or supplying false information, is an offence punishable by up to five years imprisonment. Registration requirements were strengthened recently by the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Enforcement of licences by the probation service

	Enforced within 10 days	Percentage Enforced whether or not within 10 days
1997-98	34	—
1998-99	51	—
2001-02	58	66
2002-03	63	74
2003-04	79	83
2004-05	85	88
2005-06[1]	93	95

[1] April 2005 to February 2006.

Note:
National Standards for the Supervision of Offenders in the Community require breach or recall action to be taken on or before a third unacceptable failure to comply with a licence and for this action to be initiated within 10 working days of the relevant failure.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the figures recently published in *The Daily Telegraph* and obtained from an internal Home Office document concerning the number of offences per week committed by offenders under supervision to the Probation Service were calculated. [75579]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The measure records subsequent contact with the criminal justice system by offenders who were under probation service supervision at a particular point in time. It is based on matching offenders who are recorded as being under supervision at the end of a given quarter with the Police National Computer (PNC). Once offenders are matched, automated programmes search for whether the offenders had an entry on the PNC in the two months following the end of the quarter. The PNC entries could be for (i) arrest, charge, summons, or report, and/or (ii) conviction, and/or (iii) caution. It does not show weekly data, only monthly summaries. The bulk of the entries are not proven offences; an arrest or charge cannot be equated with admission or proof of guilt. These data are in development, and are released as experimental statistics. At the moment, they have not been assessed as fit for purpose and could be inaccurate or misleading. The assessment of accuracy and fitness will proceed during the financial year 2006-07.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1093-94W, on life sentences, when the Probation Service lost contact with the offender who has been out of contact for more than 10 years. [84721]

John Reid: Probation Service contact with the offender in question was lost in 1984 when he is believed to have left the UK.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the relevant probation service informed the Recalls Section at his Department of every lifer who was released on licence and subsequently absconded; [88488]

(2) how many *(a)* discretionary lifers and *(b)* mandatory lifers released on licence subsequently absconded in each of the last five years. [88490]

John Reid: Probation areas are expected to notify breaches of life licence conditions in relation to individual cases, including loss of contact. Extracting the requested specific information through the examination of the individual files of each life licensee could be obtained only at disproportionate cost and would necessitate removing caseworkers from the business of managing offenders to carry out this work.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Beverley and Holderness were returned to prison after violating their probation conditions in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [63509]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of persons recalled to prisons in England and Wales *(a)* from Home Detention Curfew, *(b)* from licence following determinate sentences of four years or more, (c) from life licence, and (d) from ACR licence can be found in tables 10.7 to 10.9, and paragraph 10.12 respectively, of Home Office Statistical Bulletin 17/05: "Offender Management Caseload Statistics, England and Wales, 2004". Copies of this publication can be found in the Library.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Information is not available on a constituency or regional basis.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* former convicted prisoners and *(b)* foreign national former convicted prisoners are subject to supervision in the community following their release. [67660]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At 31 December 2005 there were 25,600 (rounded to the nearest 100) offenders under post-release supervision in England and Wales. It is not known how many of these were foreign nationals as, while the Probation Service routinely records the ethnic origin of offenders in accordance with agreed CJS codings, the nationality of offenders is not systematically recorded and there is no national framework for doing this.

Production Orders

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many production orders were used by police in the last year for which figures were available to obtain information about individuals from *(a)* solicitors, *(b)* accountants, *(c)* banks and *(d)* others. [68464]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of production orders issued under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 is not held centrally.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83176]

Mr. Byrne: Details of the public appointments to public bodies sponsored by the Home Office can be found in "Public Bodies", copies of which are in the Library. "Public Bodies" has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of "Public Bodies" contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. Comparable information for 1976 in respect of the Home Office could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Bodies

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the work of the *(a)* Community Development Foundation and *(b)* Community Policy Directorate. [88952]

Hilary Armstrong: I have been asked to reply.

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) has a long track record of success since its inception in 1968. It is currently embarking on a three-year forward programme to enhance community development and capacity building by focusing on strong communities, community engagement and community cohesion. It reports on past performance and provides a variety of publications both about its own work and about the community development as a whole.

The responsibilities of the former Community Policy Directorate (latterly Communities Group of the Home Office) have been divided, following the Cabinet reshuffle on 5 May, between the Department for Communities and Local Government, who will be responsible for sponsorship of the CDF and the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

Public Order

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were found guilty of *(a)* drunk and disorderly behaviour and *(b)* drunk and aggravated behaviour in the West Suffolk constituency in each year since 1997. [85502]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of offenders found guilty of offences classified as drunkenness with aggravation (which includes drunk and disorderly) in Suffolk police force area, 1997-2004, are given in the following table. It is

not possible to identify those found guilty of the aforementioned offences in West Suffolk constituency, as the data is not collected at this level of detail. Court statistics for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts for offences relating to drunkenness in Suffolk Police Force Area[1, 2]

	Offence description: Drunkenness with aggravation[3]
1997	254
1998	194
1999	197
2000	202
2001	244
2002	301
2003	317
2004	293

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the offence of "drunk and disorderly" [Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec. 91] and other miscellaneous offences of drunkenness with aggravations. *Source:* Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

In addition to this, the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme was brought into effect in all police forces in England and Wales during 2004. Under the scheme the police are able to issue persons committing specified minor offences with a fixed penalty notice. No admission of guilt is required and payment of the penalty discharges all liability for the offence. In 2004, 267 penalty notices were issued in Suffolk for the offence of being drunk and disorderly; provisional data show that 768 PNDs were issued in 2005. It is not possible to identify how many PNDs for these offences were issued in West Suffolk constituency, as the data is not collected at this level of detail.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* acceptable behaviour contracts, (b) dispersal orders and *(c)* fixed penalty notices were issued in each London borough in each of the last five years. [87708]

Mr. McNulty: The data for acceptable behaviour contracts, dispersal orders and fixed penalty notices is not available in the form requested. However, for the last two years the Home Office Anti-social Behaviour Unit has carried out a survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England and Community Safety Partnerships in Wales asking about their actions taken to tackle antisocial behaviour. From those who responded to the surveys the results are as follows:

5,094 acceptable behaviour contracts were issued from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004.

8,654 acceptable behaviour contracts were issued from 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005.

A Home Office data collection exercise carried out in July 2005 estimated that between January 2004 and June 2005 809 areas were designated as dispersal areas. From April 2006 the Home Office will be collecting information on dispersal powers on a quarterly basis.

In 2004, 12,818 penalty notices were issued in London and provisional data shows that 17,915 were rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales during 2004-05. It is not possible to provide details of how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in each of the five London boroughs.

Racist Incidents

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of racial abuse in each London borough in each of the last five years. [83678]

Mr. McNulty: As there is no specific offence of racial abuse, the information requested is not available.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the establishment of the new Yorkshire 0800 telephone line for the reporting of racial incidents is expected to cost; and how the operation of the line is to be funded. [88593]

John Reid: The Helpline for reporting racial incidents in Yorkshire and the Humber is a pilot study commissioned by the Home Office in consultation with the Racist Incidents Group, an independent group chaired by Iqbal Bhana and supported by the Home Office. The Home Office has provided funding to the Leeds Racial Harassment Project of £55,000 for the period of the pilot study and a further £3,500 has been provided by the Safer Leeds Partnership. The cost of setting up the 0800 telephone line is approximately £4,000.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racist incidents were *(a)* reported in the Leicestershire Constabulary Central Area and *(b)* resulted in convictions in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [86372]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the number of racist incidents recorded by the police in Leicestershire as a whole for the last three years for which figures are available.

Racist incidents in Leicestershire

	Number
2002-03	1,181
2003-04	1,284
2004-05	1,436

The number of convictions relating to these incidents is not available as the incidents included here relate to a range of activity and are wider than the normal definition of crime.

Recidivism

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the re-conviction rate has been in each year since 1997. [88538]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent re-offending data for adults were published in "Re-offending of adults: results from the 2002 cohort" which is available through the Home Office's website http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm. The report shows the proportion of offenders who were released from prison or commenced a community sentence and

were subsequently proven to have re-offended within two years. Results are given for 2000 and 2002. Reconviction data for the years 1997 to 2000 were published in "Prison statistics England and Wales 2002" and "Probation statistics England and Wales 2002".

Data for 2001 were published in "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003". These publications are available on the Home Office website. The measure used to calculate reconviction was changed in 2005. This means that the data in the "Re-offending of adults: results from the 2002 cohor" report cannot be directly compared to the earlier publications. The differences are explained in the section "Measuring Re-offending" which begins on page 1.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals released from a secure training or custody facility have *(a)* been reconvicted and *(b)* received a (i) reprimand, (ii) final warning and (iii) caution within a year of release in each of the last five years. [88567]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not routinely collected. Information on one-year reoffending rates of juveniles released from custody in 2004 is available in Table A6 of "Re-offending of juveniles: results from the 2004 cohort" available at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1006.pdf Information on one-year reoffending of adults released from prison or starting community sentences in 2002 is available in Table A1 of "Re-offending of adults: results from the 2002 cohort" available at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2505.pdf Table A5 gives two-year re-offending rates for those released from prison. Please note that the aforementioned publications include information on offending that subsequently led to conviction and do not include information on offending that led to pre-court disposals (for juveniles, pre-court disposals include reprimands and final warnings; for adults, they include cautions).

Removals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum seekers and *(b)* other non-UK citizens have been asked by his Department and its agencies to leave the UK in each year since 1997; how many have left in each year; and if he will make a statement. [73420]

Mr. Byrne: Information relating to the number of asylum seekers and non-asylum cases who have had enforcement action initiated against them and who have been removed is published in Table 6.1 of the "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2004" Command Paper.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum, including the Command Paper, are available on the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at:http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Road Safety

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists have been prosecuted for offences committed while driving on motorways, excluding speeding offences registered by speed cameras, in each of the past 10 years. [82312]

Mr. Coaker: The only offences identified within the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform that are specific to motorways are "excluded traffic using motorway" [Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s. 17 (4)]; and "various offences (driving, stopping etc. by vehicles on the motorway (Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982 Regs. 5-12 and users failing to keep animal under control Regs. 14". These data are given in the table.

All other offences committed on motorways cannot be identified from the data held centrally either because the offence as defined in legislation is not specific to any grade/type of road (e.g. speeding) or because it is not identified separately, and grouped together with other miscellaneous motoring offences.

Available information on proceedings at magistrates courts for offences specific to motorway (other than speeding) from 1995 to 2004 (latest available), is given in the following table.

2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Proceedings at magistrates court for motorway offences[1] (other than speeding), England and Wales, 1995-2004

	Number of offences
1995	5,700
1996	4,900
1997	3,400
1998	3,000
1999	2,500
2000	3,200
2001	2,500
2002	2,900
2003	2,400
2004	3,000

[1] Offences under—Road traffic regulation Act 1984 S.17(4)—excluded traffic using motorway. Motorways traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982 Regs. 5-12: various offences (driving, stopping etc. vehicles on motorways): Regs. 14 - Motor user failing to keep animal under control.

Royal Parks Constabulary

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been allocated in connection with the merger of the Royal Parks constabulary into the Metropolitan police for *(a)* modifications to buildings and furnishings, *(b)* stationery, *(c)* vehicle re-branding, *(d)* replacement of uniforms and *(e)* other costs; from what budgets the resources will be drawn; and if he will make a statement. [75688]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have agreed with the Metropolitan police an annual payment for the operating cost of policing the Royal Parks. In addition a sum of £1.35 million has been paid by the Royal Parks Agency to the Metropolitan police towards start-up costs of training and equipment to bring the service in line with that provided more widely by the Metropolitan police.

The DCMS will ensure the operating cost provision will be transferred from the Royal Parks to the Home Department.

Rural Police Stations

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many rural areas had a permanently staffed police station in each year since 1997. [85216]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects every Safer Neighbourhood Team in London to have its full complement of police officers and community safety officers. [87240]

Mr. McNulty: The Metropolitan Police Service aims to have a full complement of police officers and police community support officers in all safer neighbourhood teams by 31 December 2006.

Currently, dedicated safer neighbourhood teams comprising of a minimum of four staff—one sergeant, one constable and two PCSOs—are operating in all of London's 624 wards. By the end of December 2006 every team will have a minimum of one sergeant, two constables and three PCSOs.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when all safer neighbourhoods teams in Brent are expected to reach their full complement of staff. [87710]

Mr. McNulty: The Metropolitan Police Service expect the safer neighbourhoods teams in the London borough of Brent to receive a full complement of staff by the end of December 2006. This will mean that all the teams in Brent will have a minimum of one sergeant, two police constables and three police community support officers.

Safer Parking Scheme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which car parks have achieved the Safer Parking Scheme Park Mark award; and if he will make a statement. [88645]

Mr. McNulty: The British Parking Association, who manage the safer parking scheme on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers, advise that on 21 July 2006 there were 2,156 car parks within England and Wales holding the scheme's Park Mark award. The location of each of these is on a list which I have placed in the Library today.

The Home Office believes significant improvements should be made in car park safety. The industry is responding to this challenge and I do not think it is currently necessary for the Government to develop proposals to change the law relating to car parks so as to achieve a reduction in crime. But I will want to review the position in about 12 months' time to ensure the industry achieves the improvements that the Government expect.

Sakchoi Macao

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* Immigration and Nationality Directorate staff were present at the removal of Sakchoi Macao on 6 June 2006; where the officers are normally based; and what the cost was of the transportation of these officers to and from Shetland. [76868]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* Three police officers and two Immigration and Nationality Directorate staff were present during the operation to detain the individual concerned. These officers are normally based in Shetland and Aberdeen. The costs incurred in the transportation of officers from Aberdeen to Shetland and back were £990.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department by year since February 2004. [88562]

Mr. Byrne: The number of Home Office passes reported lost or stolen in 2004 was 321. The number reported in 2005 was 292 (lost) and 18 (stolen) and in 2006 to end of June 155 (lost) and three (stolen).

Security Services (Imprisonment)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* former and *(b)* current employees (excluding agents) of (i) MI5 and (ii) MI6 have been imprisoned in the UK in each of the last five years. [87805]

Mr. McNulty: No current employee of the Security Service or the Secret Intelligence Service has been imprisoned in the UK in the last five years.

Records are not routinely kept on former employees, but we know of two instances of former employees being imprisoned in the last five years.

Sentencing

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many convictions for drink driving resulted in custodial sentences in 2005, broken down by police authority; [84448]

(2) how many convictions for *(a)* drink driving and *(b)* each other motoring offence resulted in custodial sentences in each year since 1997, broken down by sex; and what percentage each figure represents of the total number of convictions resulting in custodial sentences. [84449]

Mr. Coaker: Data on convictions for drink driving resulting in custodial sentences in 2005 by police force area is not yet available.

Information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on convictions and custodial sentences for drink driving and other motoring offences as a proportion of total custodial sentences for all offences for 1997 to 2004 (latest available) is given in the following table. Data for 2005 will be available early in 2007.

Table H: Number of persons[1] found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody[2] at all courts for motoring offences, by sex and individual offence and as a proportion of all offenders given immediate custody, England and Wales, 2004

Number of persons

	Male			Female		
Offence	*Total found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Males given immediate custody as a percentage of all persons given immediate custody*	*Total found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Females given immediate custody as a percentage of all persons given immediate custody*
Total number of persons given immediate custody for all offences = 106,322						
Percentage = 100%						
Total Motoring Offences	132,971	20,224	19.0	13,885	538	0.5
Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs:	76,416	2,858	2.7	10,169	125	0.1
Unfit to drive through drink or drugs (impairment)	1,375	103	0.1	193	12	0.0
Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	65,405	2,242	2.1	8,650	103	0.1
Driving & failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)	6,706	410	0.4	958	8	0.0
In charge of a motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs (impairment)	377	13	0.0	55	1	0.0
In charge of motor vehicle, with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,448	53	0.0	157	1	0.0
In charge of motor vehicle, and failing to provide specimen for analysis (breath, blood or urine)	800	35	0.0	110	[4]	[4]
Failing to provide specimen for initial breath test	305	2	0.0	46	[4]	[4]
Other motoring offences	56,555	17,366	16.3	3,716	413	0.4
Causing death by dangerous driving	228	213	0.2	13	8	0.0
Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	58	55	0.1	4	4	0.0
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	10	7	0.0	1	1	0.0
Causing bodily harm	11	7	0.0	2	[4]	[4]
Dangerous driving	5,169	2,268	2.1	191	38	0.0
Failing to stop after accident, etc.	3,900	65	0.1	649	3	0.0
Failing to report accident within 24 hours	1,185	5	0.0	241	[4]	[4]
Failing to give name and address after accident	161	1	0.0	21	[4]	[4]
Aggravated vehicle taking—driving dangerously, causing injury or damage	3,213	1,192	1.1	144	10	0.0
Aggravated vehicle taking—criminal damage of £5,000 or under	1,564	347	0.3	103	6	0.0
Unauthorised taking or the theft of a motor vehicle	5,434	1,135	1.1	313	22	0.0
Theft of a motor vehicle	964	292	0.3	28	4	0.0
Driving while disqualified	31,882	11,763	11.1	1,684	316	0.3
Driving after false declaration as to physical fitness etc.	4	1	0.0	[4]	[4]	[4]
Fraud and forgery—driving licence	77	1	0.0	9	[4]	[4]
Fraud and forgery—insurance certificate	337	8	0.0	15	[4]	[4]
Fraud and forgery—registration & licensing	1,533	1	0.0	198	[4]	[4]
Fraud and forgery—work records	368	3	0.0	2	[4]	[4]

Table H Number of persons[1] found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody[2] at all courts for motoring offences, by sex and individual offence and as a proportion of all offenders given immediate custody, England and Wales, 2004

Number of persons

	Male			Female		
Offence	*Total found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Males given immediate custody as a percentage of all persons given immediate custody*	*Total found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Females given immediate custody as a percentage of all persons given immediate custody*
Failing to give name and address etc. when required	457	2	0.0	98	1	0.0

[1] These data are based on the principal offence basis.
[2] Immediate custody = Detention and Training Order, Detained under s90-92 Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, Young Offender Institution & Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.
[3] 0.0 = less than 0.05 per cent.
* = nil.

Notes.
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average prison sentence, not including life sentences, was in the last period for which figures are available. [88838]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The average custodial sentence length for all offences at all courts in England and Wales, excluding life sentences, was 12.9 months in 2004, the latest year for which data are currently available. This figure is published in "Sentencing Statistics 2004, England and Wales", (Home Office Bulletin No. 15/05), Table 2.14 and is on the Home Office website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb1505.pdf Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile such figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Consequently, although some figures may be shown to the last digit in order to provide a comprehensive record of the information collected, they are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown. We have started a programme of work in the Home Office looking at the quality of existing court sentencing data and how this might be improved.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average non-life sentenced prisoners served in the last five years; for what reasons prisoners may not serve their full sentence; and if he will make a statement. [88914]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the average length of time served by prisoners on non-life determinate sentences can be found in table 10.1 of the "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003 and 2004", and tables 3.13, 3.14, and 4.11 of "Prison Statistics in England and Wales 2000 to 2002". Copies of these publications are available in the House of Commons Library. The figures provided in these tables were drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number. Under the Criminal Justice Act 1991, those sentenced to determinate sentences of four years or more are eligible for parole halfway through their sentence. If parole is not granted then release occurs at the two-thirds point of the sentence (or at a subsequent parole review if earlier). Prisoners sentenced to determinate terms of under four years under the 1991 Act, are generally released automatically at the half way point of their sentence. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced new arrangements for prison sentences. They apply only to offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. A new indeterminate public protection sentence was introduced. Those offenders judged to be dangerous, and who have committed serious sexual or violent offences, can be kept in prison until the Parole Board judges it is safe to release them. If they have committed less serious offences they may serve a determinate sentence followed by an extended period on licence after release of up to eight years for sexual offences and five years for violent offences. Other determinate sentence prisoners will be released automatically at the halfway point of their sentence. The Home Detention Curfew scheme (HDC) has been in operation since January 1999. Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria and passing a careful risk assessment, prisoners serving sentences of between three months and less than four years may be released up to four and a half months (135 days) early from prison subject to an electronically monitored curfew normally between 7 pm and 7 am. Information on the numbers of prisoners released under Home Detention Curfew (HDC) can be found in table 10.3 in the "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004".

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether sentences for terms of up to *(a)* eight, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 18 years have continued to be imposed since the introduction of unlimited sentences. [88845]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since the introduction of indeterminate sentences for public protection courts may still impose determinate sentences of any length within the statutory maximum for that offence.

The indeterminate sentence for public protection was introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and

commenced on 4 April 2005. Statistics for the number of determinate sentences of eight, 12, 15 and 18 years imposed since then are not yet available.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether it is his policy that judges will continue to be required to halve the minimum term when setting the earliest release date for prisoners serving specific sentences; [88846]

(2) for what reasons minimum terms are halved when setting earliest release dates. [88847]

Mr. Sutcliffe: When judges announce unlimited sentences they explain the minimum term that an offender might serve. To calculate this they start from how long the sentence would be if they were setting a determinate sentence and then halve it because only half of a determinate sentence is spent in custody.

Very few offenders who receive unlimited sentences will be released so early; it is simply the earliest point at which they can be considered for release by the Parole Board.

We announced last week, as part of the Criminal Justice Review, our intention to consult on how we can make sentencing clearer, and on ending the requirement that judges automatically halve the minimum term for those serving unlimited sentences, and on how they should set the first possible date for parole.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the impact of the prospect of (i) 50 per cent. and (ii) other sentence reductions on behaviour of offenders in custody; and if he will publish the conclusions of such work. [88848]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No research has been carried out on the impact of (i) calculating minimum terms by halving the appropriate determinate sentence, or (ii) any other sentence reduction given by courts, on the behaviour of offenders in custody.

Serious Crime Prevention Orders

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated cost is of the new serious crime prevention orders. [88719]

Mr. Coaker: The regulatory impact assessment accompanying the consultation document on new powers against organised and financial crime estimates the average cost of obtaining one order in a contested hearing will be around £40,000 to the applicant, and, if the proposed subject of the order is on legal aid, at most another £40,000 in legal aid bills. Any appeal hearing against the granting of an order is likely to cost approximately the same again to both the applicant and the legal aid budget.

We have not estimated the total cost of the new orders, as this will depend on the number applied for.

Serious Organised Crime/Terrorism

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2020W, on Colombia, what the Freedom of Information Act 2000 grounds are for his refusal to provide details of *(a)* the duties carried out by UK police officers in Colombia, *(b)* the number of police officers based in Colombia and *(c)* with which Colombian agencies officers of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency work; [88233]

(2) for what reasons the operational deployment of police officers and Serious and Organised Crime Agency staff cannot be commented upon by Ministers in his Department; and when that became policy. [88344]

Mr. Coaker: It would not be appropriate to comment on the operational deployment of SOCA staff in Colombia due to the discreet and often covert nature of their role. This has been the agreed policy since SOCA came into being on 1 April 2006.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and await trial and *(c)* convicted following an investigation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency since its inception. [88449]

Mr. Coaker: Since it assumed its functions on 1 April 2006, SOCA has run a number of investigations, some of which it has inherited from precursor agencies and some of which it has initiated itself. It has also assisted others, at home and abroad, in their enforcement activities. In accordance with section 7(1) of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, SOCA will issue a report on the exercise of its functions during the year as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans his Department has to improve the ability of police forces to co-ordinate activities to combat serious organised crime and terrorism. [87263]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 July 2006]*: Schedule 10 to the Police and Justice Bill will enable the Secretary of State to confer a new function on police authorities "to secure that arrangements are made for (their) force to co-operate with other police forces whenever necessary or expedient".

In addition, I will shortly be writing to police forces and police authorities setting out the next steps in the light of the decision not to proceed with enforced police force mergers. I will be inviting forces and authorities to consider how improvements in protective services might be achieved through greater collaboration and co-operation.

I have also dedicated an extra £33 million extra this year and £65 million the year after to expand the police specialist counter terrorism capacity outside London. This is in addition to an extra £30 million this year and £45 million next year for the Metropolitan police. This will help strengthen the police service's intelligence and

investigative capability and capacity and complements the additional funding awarded to the security and intelligence services.

Sex Offenders

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders are *(a)* required to register with the police and *(b)* registered with the police; and if he will make a statement. [80406]

John Reid: All sex offenders who meet the notification requirements of the Sex Offender Act 1997, as updated by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, are required to notify certain personal information, for example their address, to the police.

Following conviction for a relevant offence, a certificate of conviction recording the notification requirement is forwarded to the police by the court. The police will note the requirement on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register. The offender's Violent and Sex Offenders Register entry will be updated when he actually registers and, if he fails to do so as required, he will be flagged on the Police National Computer and followed up accordingly.

Since 2002 and the introduction of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), details of the number of registered sex offenders in the community have been routinely incorporated into the MAPPA Annual Report for each area of England and Wales. In 2004-05, MAPPA reports, the latest year of publication, recorded 28,994 registered sex offenders living in the community across England and Wales as at 31 March 2005. Further information by area is summarised in individual MAPPA reports which are published annually. The following table sets out the national figure for the number of convictions and cautions received for breach of the notification requirements. The maximum penalty for breach of the notification requirements is five years' imprisonment. Data on the penalties imposed in each case of conviction are not recorded centrally.

RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of registration requirements, 2001-05

	Number
2001-02	682
2002-03	780
2003-04	853
2004-05	993

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders have breached their registration requirements in each of the last five years; and what penalties were imposed in each case. [80407]

John Reid: All sex offenders who meet the notification requirements of the Sex Offender Act 1997, as updated by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, are required to notify certain personal information, for example their address, to the police.

Following conviction for a relevant offence, a certificate of conviction recording the notification requirement is forwarded to the police by the court. The police will note the requirement on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register. The offender's Violent and Sex Offenders Register entry will be updated when he actually registers and, if he fails to do so as required, he will be flagged on the Police National Computer and followed up accordingly.

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RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of registration requirements 2001-05

	RSOs cautioned or convicted for breach of registration requirements
2001-02	682
2002-03	780
2003-04	853
2004-05	993

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered *(a)* sex offenders and *(b)* paedophiles are resident in each police authority area. [85935]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since 2002 and the introduction of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), details of the number of registered sex offenders in the community has been routinely incorporated into the MAPPA Annual Report for each police/probation area of England and Wales. The data are not broken down by victim age. The following table gives the total number of registered sex offenders living in each area as at 31 March 2005 as published in the MAPPA reports. Data from the City of London and the Metropolitan police are pooled under "London".

Area	*Registered sex offenders in the community as at 31 March 2005*
Avon and Somerset	674
Bedfordshire	335
Cambridgeshire	353
Cheshire	474
County Durham	306
Cumbria	253
Derbyshire	554
Devon and Cornwall	808
Dorset	352
Dyfed-Powys	275
Essex	680
Gloucestershire	284

Area	Registered sex offenders in the community as at 31 March 2005
Greater Manchester	1,800
Gwent	365
Hampshire	1,035
Hertfordshire	328
Humberside	645
Kent	954
Lancashire	980
Leicestershire	508
Lincolnshire	380
London	2,657
Merseyside	941
Norfolk	547
North Wales	389
North Yorkshire	315
Northamptonshire	310
Northumbria	851
Nottinghamshire	708
South Wales	765
South Yorkshire	911
Staffordshire	538
Suffolk	368
Surrey	371
Sussex	752
Teesside	393
Thames Valley	822
Warwickshire	231
West Mercia	689
West Midlands	2,158
West Yorkshire	1,669
Wiltshire	266

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce procedures for checking whether candidates for public office as councillors and hon. Members are on the Sex Offenders Register. [86077]

Mr. Coaker: There are no plans to introduce procedures to check whether candidates for public office are subject to the notification requirements of part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which are often known as the sex offenders register.

The notification requirements serve a specific purpose: to ensure that the police are kept informed of convicted and cautioned sex offenders' personal details by obliging offenders to notify information to the police, notify the police of any changes to that information and re-confirm their details at least once a year. This is to assist the police and probation services in the management of any risks offenders may pose and in the detection of sexual crime. They do not exist to punish offenders or bar them from certain occupations or posts.

Under the Local Government Act 1972, however, an individual will be disqualified from being a local councillor if he receives a conviction carrying a prison sentence of over three months (suspended or not) if convicted of an offence within five years before election. Similarly, under the Representation of the People Act 1981, a person found guilty and sentenced or ordered to be imprisoned or detained for more than one year is disqualified from membership of the House of Commons while detained in pursuance of the sentence.

Moreover, the fact that a sex offender is a councillor or MP would not relieve the police and probation services' responsibility to manage any risks the individual may pose. They would include in their risk assessments any details of the individual's duties and if it was thought that they posed a risk of serious sexual harm, then the police could apply for a sexual offences prevention order (SOPO) to impose prohibitions on the individual's behaviour.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that there are sufficient approved places available to the Probation Service to house sex offenders upon their release. [87580]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are considering a range of options on how the Approved Premises Estate may best meet the demand for places for those offenders who, on public protection grounds, are best supervised in Approved Premises on release from custody.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of sex offences in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005, broken down by offence; and if he will make a statement. [77460]

Mr. Coaker: Information held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of defendants found guilty of sex offences in 2004 are provided in the following table. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, which covers a large proportion of the offences listed in the table, only came into force from 1 May 2004. Figures for 2005 will be published in autumn 2006.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all sexual offences, 2004 in England and Wales[1]

Offence	Statute	Found guilty
Buggery or attempted buggery by a male of a male under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 143, 144 .	52
Buggery or attempted buggery by a male with a male not included elsewhere.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 Sec 143, 144 .	1
Buggery or attempted buggery by a male with a female under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 143, 144.	6
Buggery or attempted buggery by a male aged 21 or over with a female aged 16 or 17.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 143, 144.	1

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all sexual offences, 2004 in England and Wales[1]

Offence	*Statute*	*Found guilty*
Buggery or attempted buggery by a male with a female not included elsewhere.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 143, 144	1
Buggery or attempted buggery with an animal.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 143, 144.	1
Buggery or attempted buggery by a male aged 18-20 with a female aged under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 12 as amended by Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 S1	1
Indecent assault on male person under 16 years.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 15.	277
Indecent assault on male person 16 years or over.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 15.	63
Assault on a male by penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.2	1
Assault of a male child under 13 by penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.6	2
Sexual assault on a male.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.3	6
Sexual assault of a male child under 13	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7	7
Gross indecency or indecency by a man with another male person not included elsewhere.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 13 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Sec 144.	1
Gross indecency by a male aged 21 or over with a male aged under 18.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sees 12, 13 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 144.	1
Gross indecency by a male aged 18 or over with another male aged 18 or over.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sees 12, 13 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sec 144.	2
Gross indecency or indecency by a male aged 16 or over with a male aged 16 or over.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 13 as amended by Sexual Offences(Amendment) Act 2000 S.1	4
Gross indecency or indecency by a male aged 21 or over with male aged under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 13 as amended by Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 S.1	1
Man having unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman who is a defective.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 7 as amended by Mental Health Act 1959 Sec 127.	8
Male member of staff of hospital or mental nursing home having unlawful sexual intercourse with female patient.	Mental Health Act 1959 Sec 128(1)(a).	1
Rape of a female aged under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	275
Rape of a female aged 16 or over.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	325
Rape of a male aged under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	28
Rape of a male aged 16 or over	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	10

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all sexual offences, 2004 in England and Wales[1]

Offence	*Statute*	*Found guilty*
Attempted rape of a female aged under 16	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	41
Attempted rape of a female aged 16 or over	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	47
Attempted rape of a male aged under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	7
Attempted rape of a male aged 16 or over	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	2
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	5
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	1
Attempted rape of a male child under 13 by a male	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 5	1
Indecent assault on females under 16 years of age.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 14 as amended by Indecency with Children Act 1960 Sec 2.	1,225
Indecent assault on females aged 16 years or over.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 14.	810
Assault on a female by penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.2	18
Assault of a female child under 13 by penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.6	7
Sexual assault on a female.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.3	158
Sexual assault of a female child under 13	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7	34
Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 13.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 5.	9
Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	Sexual offences Act 1956 S.5	53
Causing or Inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.8(1)(2)	1
Causing or Inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.8(1)(3)	1
Causing or Inciting a male child under 13 to engage in sexual activity—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.8 (1)(2)	1
Sexual activity with a female child under 13—offender aged 18 or over—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(2)	2
Sexual activity with a male child under 13—offender aged 18 or over—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(2)	1
Causing or Inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity offender aged 18 or over—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 10(1,a,b,c(ii))(2)	1
Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 13 (offender aged 18 or over)	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 11(1 a,b,c,d(ii))(2)	6

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all sexual offences, 2004 in England and Wales[1]

Offence	*Statute*	*Found guilty*
Causing a child under 13 to watch a sexual act (offender aged 18 or over)	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S12 (1 a,b,c(ii))(2)	1
Sexual activity with a female child under 13—offender aged under 18	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(2) & S13	3
Sexual activity with a male child under 13—offender aged under 18	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(2) & S13	1
Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 13—offender under 18	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 11(1 a,b,c,d(ii))(2) & S13	1
Sexual activity with a female child under 13—offender aged 18 or over—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(3)	5
Sexual activity with a male child under 13—offender aged under 18—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1a,b,cii)(3) & 13	3
Causing or Inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity offender aged under 18—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 10(1 ,a,b,c(ii))(3) & 13	1
Causing or Inciting a male child under 13 to engage in sexual activity offender aged under18—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 10(1,a,b,c(ii))(3) & 13	2
Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 6.	70
Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16	Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.6	158
Causing a female person to engage in sexual activity without consent—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.4(1-4)	1
Causing a male person to engage in sexual activity without consent—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.4(1-4)	1
Causing a female person to engage in sexual activity without consent—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.4(1-3,5)	2
Sexual activity with a female child under 16 (offender aged 18 or over) —penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1,a,b,ci)(2)	38
Sexual activity with a male child under 16 (offender aged 18 or over)—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1,a,b,ci)(2)	2
Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity (offender aged 18 or over)—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.10(1a,b,ci)(2)	3
Causing or inciting a male child under 16 to engage in sexual activity (offender aged 18 or over)—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S. 10(1a,b,ci)(2)	2

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all sexual offences, 2004 in England and Wales[1]

Offence	*Statute*	*Found guilty*
Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child under 16 (offender aged 18 or over)	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S 11(1 a,b,c,d(i))(2)	5
Causing a child under 16 to watch a sexual act(offender aged 18 or over)	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S12 (1 a,b,c(i))(2)	1
Sexual activity with a female child under 16—offender under 18	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.91,a,b,ci)(2) & S.13	8
Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity—offender under 18	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.10(1,a,b,c(i))(2) & S. 13	1
Sexual activity with a female child under 16 offender aged 18 or over—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1,a,b,ci)(3)	10
Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity (offender aged 18 or over)—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.10(1a,b,ci)(3)	3
Sexual activity with a female child under 16 (offender aged under18)—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.9(1,a,b,ci)(3) and 13	1
Incest with girl under 13 years old.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 10, 11.	10
Other incest.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 10, 11.	14
Sexual activity with a female child family member—offender not 18 or over at time of offence and victim 13-17—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1ei,2-3,5)	2
Sex with an adult relative: consenting to penetration (offender aged 16 or over, relative aged 18 or over)—consenting to penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.65	1
Sexual activity with a female child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1eii,2-4a,6)	1
Sexual activity with a female child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim 13-17—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1 ei,2-4b)	4
Sexual activity with a female child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1eii,2-4b)	1
Sexual activity with a male child family member—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S25(1eii,2-4b)	1

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all sexual offences, 2004 in England and Wales[1]

Offence	*Statute*	*Found guilty*
Inciting a female child family member to engage in sexual activity—offender aged 18 or over at time of offence and victim under 13—no penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S26 (1ei,2-4b)	1
Procuring female for immoral purposes or using drugs to obtain or facilitate sexual intercourse	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sees 2, 3, 4, 22 and 23.	1
Man living on earnings of prostitution or exercising control over prostitute. Woman for purpose of gain, exercising control over prostitute.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 30, Sec 31	36
Man procuring an act of buggery between two other men.	Sexual Offences Act 1967 Sec 4(1).	1
Man or woman living wholly or in part on the earnings of male prostitution.	Sexual Offences Act 1967 Sec 5(1).	4
Causing or inciting prostitution for gain	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.52	1
Keeping a brothel used for prostitution	Sexual Offences Act 1956 S.33A as added by Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.55	4
Abduction of unmarried girl under 16.	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 20.	4
Bigamy	Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 57.	22
Man soliciting or importuning in a public place for immoral purposes	Sexual Offences Act 1956 Sec 32	3
Sexual activity with a female person with a mental disorder impeding choice—penetration	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.30(1-3)	1
Arranging or facilitating the commission of a child sex offence.	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S14	1
Controlling a child prostitute or a child involved in pornography—child 13-17	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.49(1a,bi,2)	1
Abuse of position of trust—sexual intercourse.	Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 SS.3a and 4.	6
Abuse of position of trust—sexual activity other than Sexual intercourse	Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 SS.3b and 4.	6
Failure to notify police of name or names	Sex Offenders Act 1997 S.3 (1) (a)	65
Failure to notify police of home address	Sex Offenders Act 1997 S.3 (1) (a)	312
Notifying police with false information as to name or names	Sex Offenders Act 1997 S.3 (1) (b)	c
Notifying police with false information as to home address	Sex Offenders Act 1997 S.3 (1) (b)	8
Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with a female child. (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is 13-17)	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S16(1ei,2-5)	3
Gross indecency with children (with boys).	Indecency with Children Act 1960 Sec 1.	67
Gross indecency with children (with girls).	Indecency with Children Act 1960 Sec 1 .	173
Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc. (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16)	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S15	3
Administering a substance with intent	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.61	2
Committing an offence with intent to commit a sexual offence	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.62	4
Exposure	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.66	175
Voyeurism	Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.67	15
Total		4,785

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate for *(a)* rape and *(b)* other sexual offences was in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [84914]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Since 1997 there have been a number of significant changes to the way that sex offences are defined and recorded by the police. These make it impossible to compare in a direct way recent figures with those from earlier years. Changes include:

(i) A revision to the counting rules for recorded crime and the expanded coverage which came into effect on 1 April 1998;

(ii) The revised detections guidance issued in April 1999;

(iii) The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002;and;

(iv) The Sexual Offences Act 2003 in May 2004, which altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences, in particular, indecent exposure is now classified as a sexual offence.

The existing statistical evidence suggests that both the changes to detections guidance and the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) had a marked impact on the reduction in detection rates for rapes since 1997. The Home Office is currently researching in detail recent changes in detection rates in rape cases in England and Wales, including variation between forces.

In 2002 the Government published the "Rape Action Plan", in response to the thematic inspection into the investigation and prosecution of rape cases. A

follow-up inspection took place earlier this year, and its findings and recommendations will be published in the autumn. This will inform us how far the recommendations of the "Rape Action Plan" have been implemented by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

"Guidance on the Investigation of Serious Sexual Offences" was published by Centrex and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in 2005. The guidance presents detailed recommendations for all stages of an investigation, from when the crime is reported to when an offender is identified and charged.

Table 1: Detection rates[1] for rape offences by police force area

Police force area	*1997*	*1998-99[2]*	*1999-2000[3]*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03[4]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05[5]*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	86	74	62	43	27	22	21	18	22
Bedfordshire	70	56	43	34	25	29	21	23	23
Cambridgeshire	79	62	56	50	46	29	15	21	22
Cheshire	100	98	87	86	81	48	29	28	28
Cleveland	89	91	73	59	65	41	31	22	38
Cumbria	97	93	91	70	74	64	30	30	35
Derbyshire	93	73	52	38	39	35	33	31	30
Devon and Cornwall	92	89	96	77	49	30	19	26	18
Dorset	94	78	50	36	39	25	17	17	17
Durham	93	95	85	91	n/a	68	71	60	26
Dyfed-Powys	95	91	89	109	76	91	25	35	18
Essex	79	65	64	50	33	32	29	27	25
Gloucestershire	89	69	66	70	57	31	28	29	19
Greater Manchester	85	74	64	58	55	46	32	30	31
Gwent	100	91	92	98	93	80	78	52	40
Hampshire	79	99	65	58	53	41	34	26	21
Hertfordshire	88	96	78	66	62	50	50	38	41
Humberside	65	58	33	37	33	23	20	22	23
Kent	92	85	90	57	56	38	27	22	22
Lancashire	91	83	79	53	47	52	35	37	35
Leicestershire	72	43	37	37	n/a	26	28	23	19
Lincolnshire	124	82	87	67	50	40	28	31	24
London, City of	0	0	0	50	22	100	0	0	0
Merseyside	90	78	69	66	53	47	43	35	24
Metropolitan Police	58	32	28	24	27	29	33	25	36
Norfolk	68	94	37	35	36	24	18	21	23
Northamptonshire	96	82	95	70	64	53	37	32	33
Northumbria	85	68	61	50	43	36	30	25	29
North Wales	89	92	85	59	35	26	29	27	25
North Yorkshire	87	105	62	73	59	43	41	41	34
Nottinghamshire	83	55	46	51	36	34	27	36	27
South Wales	99	93	88	91	90	62	53	60	29
South Yorkshire	96	79	88	75	72	40	38	30	24
Staffordshire	86	68	39	38	35	40	32	30	26
Suffolk	74	73	29	36	30	30	26	21	25
Surrey	56	48	45	28	42	32	35	26	32
Sussex	80	55	47	34	35	26	24	15	21
Thames Valley	90	59	52	26	32	27	18	24	22
Warwickshire	79	79	55	52	30	27	19	25	19
West Mercia	91	87	64	56	44	37	35	31	27
West Midlands	77	68	59	53	45	41	32	25	29
West Yorkshire	90	83	76	71	55	42	31	25	25
Wiltshire	96	73	68	31	46	37	41	32	33

Table 2: Detection rates[1] for other sexual offences (excluding rape) by police force area

Police force area	*1997*	*1998-99[2]*	*1999-2000[3]*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03[4]*	*2003-04*	*2004-05[5]*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	76	68	62	48	33	29	29	22	29
Bedfordshire	70	54	55	57	45	44	29	41	31
Cambridgeshire	71	67	74	60	51	38	32	30	31
Cheshire	94	90	84	87	79	58	49	40	35
Cleveland	77	78	85	81	85	69	60	51	47

Table 2 Detection rates[1] for other sexual offences (excluding rape) by police force area

Police force area	*1997*	*1998-99*[2]	*1999-2000*[3]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[4]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*[5]	*2005-06*
Cumbria	90	88	87	86	72	57	51	46	51
Derbyshire	80	79	66	55	66	48	49	37	33
Devon and Cornwall	84	87	90	82	62	48	39	33	33
Dorset	82	75	67	58	53	47	33	31	35
Durham	91	80	93	81	n/a	59	77	69	37
Dyfed-Powys	94	96	95	93	95	91	52	46	48
Essex	68	64	67	57	55	43	40	36	31
Gloucestershire	80	69	72	67	64	42	38	35	34
Greater Manchester	70	72	65	62	58	54	46	30	35
Gwent	95	87	94	91	90	83	81	57	48
Hampshire	79	102	76	66	62	59	44	36	31
Hertfordshire	69	80	72	65	75	54	55	41	43
Humberside	66	60	43	46	38	41	33	30	37
Kent	85	80	78	59	59	49	43	29	32
Lancashire	81	76	75	62	52	61	48	41	44
Leicestershire	78	63	58	46	n/a	35	33	28	33
Lincolnshire	124	84	78	73	68	33	40	41	38
London, City of	74	59	40	38	67	45	35	44	45
Merseyside	81	72	66	69	56	53	47	41	38
Metropolitan Police	62	46	34	33	34	34	35	25	34
Norfolk	91	82	72	51	50	37	46	38	68
Northamptonshire	92	81	84	81	70	53	62	52	39
Northumbria	71	68	58	58	52	51	49	35	47
North Wales	90	93	90	67	58	38	45	42	46
North Yorkshire	77	87	71	74	69	59	54	50	51
Nottinghamshire	70	62	57	47	46	48	46	47	48
South Wales	87	86	84	82	78	59	52	36	34
South Yorkshire	82	84	78	77	67	51	53	38	35
Staffordshire	80	68	37	40	39	55	52	41	36
Suffolk	85	75	72	60	54	57	40	43	45
Surrey	69	110	59	45	45	43	44	34	36
Sussex	76	60	57	48	50	43	41	31	37
Thames Valley	76	61	53	49	44	34	36	29	34
Warwickshire	93	78	62	51	60	48	34	42	42
West Mercia	82	79	69	61	51	49	50	41	48
West Midlands	68	63	60	54	55	44	38	30	34
West Yorkshire	84	74	80	73	67	55	39	32	28
Wiltshire	84	87	68	40	52	42	42	37	41

[1] Offences detected in current year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year, so some percentages may exceed 100.
[2] Expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules came into effect on 1 April 1998.
[3] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999.
[4] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[5] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.
n/a Not available.

Shootings

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been shot in each London *(a)* borough and *(b)* constituency in each of the last 10 years. [87408]

Mr. McNulty: The total number of offences recorded by the City of London and Metropolitan police in which firearms, excluding air weapons, were reported to have caused injury between 1997 and 2004-05 are given in the following tables. Data cannot be broken down to a more local level. Force breakdowns are only available since 1997. Changes in crime recording guidance has meant that data for 2004-05 cannot be directly compared with 1997-98.

Table 1 Crimes recorded by City of London and Metropolitan police forces in which firearms were reported to have caused injury, 1997-98 to 2001-02

	Total number of injuries
1997-98	401
1998-99	442
1999-2000	623
2000-01	732
2001-02	985

Notes:
1. There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
2. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
3. Excludes air weapons.
4. Includes violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.
5. Includes slight, serious (necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds) and fatal injuries.
6. By the weapon being fired or used as a blunt instrument.

Table 2: Crimes recorded by City of London and Metropolitan police forces in which firearms were reported to have caused injury, 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Total number of Injuries
2002-03	982
2003-04	922
2004-05	1,221

Notes:
1. Data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. Excludes air weapons.
3. Includes violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.
4. Includes slight, serious (necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds) and fatal injuries.
5. By the weapon being fired or used as a blunt instrument.

Smoking

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for smoking cigarettes on buses with a no-smoking policy in each region in each year since 2001. [76149]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

SO13

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers have been employed by SO13 in each of the last five years. [86793]

Mr. McNulty: The Metropolitan Police Service for operational purposes do not comment on the number of staff employed in counter-terrorism as to do so may compromise current and future operations.

Soliciting

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested for soliciting in each London borough in each of the last five years. [88666]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available centrally.

Somalia

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to resume removals to Somalia. [84811]

Mr. Byrne: There are voluntary returns to Somalia. Home Office and Foreign Commonwealth Office Ministers are actively investigating options for enforced removals to the region.

Special Advisers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid in *(a)* salary, *(b)* travelling expenses, *(c)* subsistence allowance and *(d)* removal expenses to special advisers in his private office in each of the last five years. [68967]

Mr. Byrne: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. For information relating to the last financial year I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on Thursday 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 156-60 WS.

Staff Misconduct

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of staff misconduct have been *(a)* received and *(b)* investigated in each directorate of his Department in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [76919]

John Reid: Pursuant to my answer of 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 422W, it has been brought to my attention that due to a data convergence error two figures contained in the answer are incorrect.

The number of internal investigations commenced under the Home Office misconduct investigation procedure in IND in 2005 was 182; and in 2006 (up until 19 June 2006) was 90.

Stephen Ayre

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer dated 9 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 216-17W, on Stephen Ayre, whether the Serious Further Offence review of the case of Stephen Ayre is complete; and whether it will be made public. [81173]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This review has been completed. This is an internal procedure carried out by the Probation Service to quality-assure its risk assessment and risk management processes. Reviews are routinely shared with HMI Probation who are integral to the quality assurance process. Where it is assessed that an independent review is required, the findings are made public.

Street Crime

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed on average per day in the Street Crime Initiative hot spot areas during *(a)* each quarter of 2005 and *(b)* the first quarter of 2006. [88482]

John Reid: The number of crimes recorded in the 10 Street Crime Initiative areas is given for each quarter in the following table.

Recorded offences in the 10 Street Crime Initiative areas

Period	Number of offences
2005	
January to March	702,434
April to June	720,700
July to September	703,512
October to December	716,694

Recorded offences in the 10 Street Crime Initiative areas

Period	*Number of offences*
2006	
January to March	693,038

Note:
Police force areas of Avon and Somerset, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside, Metropolitan Police, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire, Thames Valley, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

Tagging/Control Orders (London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are subject to *(a)* tagging and *(b)* control orders in each London borough. [86857]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not collected about the borough in which people subject to electronic monitoring are located. However, information is available on their location by postcode. In the postcode areas which most closely correspond to the London boroughs, a total of 1,594 people were subject to electronic monitoring at 30 June 2006.

We are not in a position to provide information about the location of individuals subject to control orders as there are anonymity orders in place protecting the identity of these individuals.

Taking a Stand Awards

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which individuals have received a Taking a Stand award. [88652]

Mr. McNulty: The information is given in a table which will be placed in the Library.

Talk to Frank

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of the Talk to Frank programme; and if he will make a statement. [88650]

Mr. McNulty: The FRANK drugs information and advice campaign was launched in May 2003 and the total cost for the programme over three years to 2005-06 is £14.7 million.

It is a joint campaign between the Home Office, Department of Health and Department for Education and Skills.

The campaign offers an all-year-round confidential service for young people and their parents on any aspect of drugs. Since launch, the FRANK helpline has answered over one million calls and made over 40,000 referrals to treatment and support services. The website talktofrank.com has received over 11 million hits and replied to over 80,000 emails.

There has also been a successful information campaign using advertising and leaflets to educate young people and parents of drug harms, and stakeholder support to encourage targeted interventions with the most vulnerable young people.

Taser Stun Guns

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Metropolitan police has *(a)* deployed and *(b)* used Taser stun guns since October 2005; and if he will make a statement. [88552]

Mr. McNulty: The Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police tells me that Taser was deployed 2,349 times and fired on 19 occasions between 1 October 2005 and 30 June 2006.

Tasker Investigation

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Tasker investigation commissioned by the Prison Service London area office is expected to report; and whether its findings will be published. [88935]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The investigation is not due to report back until the end of August. It is not Prison Service policy to publish any internal investigation report. Such reports are confidential, covered by the Data Protection Act 1998.

Tech Clean

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his investigations into Tech Clean and their supply of temporary workers to the Home Office. [78945]

Mr. Byrne: The investigation into Tech Clean Plc and their employment of the cleaners at Becket House has been concluded. The immigration and nationality directorate is satisfied that the company have acted in accordance with the requirements of section eight of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.

Television Licence Evasion (London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for television licence evasion in each London borough in each of the last five years. [86794]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data cannot be provided for individual London boroughs as the accuracy of the data at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed.

Terrorism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many terrorist attacks have been thwarted in *(a)* the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police areas of London, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Liverpool, *(d)* Newcastle and *(e)* the United Kingdom since 11 September 2001; how many (i) males and (ii) females were subsequently (A) prosecuted and (B) convicted of terrorist offences; and if he will make a statement. [85145]

Mr. McNulty: It is not our policy to comment on particular alleged terrorist attacks as these are

operational matters for the Police and Security Service. However "Countering International Terrorism: The United Kingdom's Strategy" (Cm 6888), published on 10 July 2006, stated that the police and the security and intelligence agencies have disrupted many attacks against the UK since November 2000, including four since last July alone. Statistics compiled from police records show that, between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2006, 997 people were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT). Of those people, 154 were charged with offences under TACT and 79 of these were also charged with offences under other legislation. A further 175 were charged under different legislation. A total of 25 people were convicted under TACT during this period.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sites the security service has identified as primary investigative targets in domestic terrorism investigations in the UK in each of the last five years. [88885]

Mr. McNulty: We do not comment on specific investigations whether related to international or domestic terrorism.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested since the coming into force of the Terrorism Act 2003; and how long each was held without being charged in each case in which all proceedings are complete. [86804]

John Reid: Statistics compiled from police records show that between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2006 997 people were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT). The Home Office does not collate information about the length of detention of those arrested in the particular format requested.

Terrorist Deportation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many terrorist suspects detained on national security grounds have been deported since control orders were introduced. [69174]

Mr. McNulty: Since the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act on 11 March 2005, two individuals who had been detained under immigration powers have been deported on national security grounds.

In a number of other cases, an appeal against a decision to deport remains outstanding.

Thomas Curtis

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he knows the whereabouts of Thomas Curtis, who was convicted of murder in 1985 and may have absconded from HMP Leyhill in 1998. [79479]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The whereabouts of Thomas Curtis is unknown. He absconded from Leyhill open prison in 1998 and as at 19 July 2006 remains unlawfully at large. He is listed on the Police National Computer as being unlawfully at large and is subject to immediate arrest when traced by the police.

Unaccompanied Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children born abroad have been placed on the National Register for Unaccompanied Children since it was established; what steps are taken to identify whether these children are the victims of trafficking; and how many children on the register are estimated to be the victims of trafficking. [82623]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The National Register of Unaccompanied Children (NRUC), which is not a Home Office system, is operated by the London borough of Westminster on behalf of the London Asylum Seekers Consortium.

It is difficult to quantify the number of child victims of trafficking because traffickers go to great lengths to conceal their exploitation of children. We have no centrally collated data on the numbers of children trafficked into the UK. To help to assess the nature and extent of child trafficking we have commissioned the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre to undertake a study, which we anticipate being completed by the autumn.

The Immigration Nationality Directorate takes its responsibilities towards children very seriously. We are looking at ways to improve the specialist services these children require, including the additional needs of those who may have been trafficked.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied minors were admitted to the UK in each of the last three years at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Stansted, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Manchester and *(f)* other UK airports; and how many unaccompanied minors were admitted through UK ports in each year. [86876]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Under-age Drinking

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have taken place for under-age drinking in the London borough of Sutton in each year since 1990. [88902]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for the number of persons aged 10-17 proceeded against for drunkenness offences in the London borough of Sutton in each year since 1990 can be found in the following table.

Court proceedings statistics for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

In addition to this, the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme, brought into effect in all police forces in England and Wales in 2004, gives the police powers to issue persons aged 16-17 believed to be committing

offences of under-age drinking with a fixed penalty notice. No admission of guilt is required and payment of the penalty discharges all liability for conviction for the offence. It is not possible to identify the number of PNDs issued in Sutton as the data is not collected at that level of detail centrally.

Number of people aged 10-17 proceeded against at Sutton magistrates court for offences relating to drunkenness[1] 1990 to 2004[2,3]

	Proceeded against
1990	3
1991	3
1992	2
1993	6
1994	3
1995	
1996	1
1997	4
1998	5
1999	4
2000	7
2001	4
2002	4
2003	4
2004	3

[1] Includes offences: drunkenness, simple; drunkenness, with aggravation; person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises.
[2] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Victim Support

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was granted to Victim Support in each of the last 10 years; and what a real terms change in funding was in each year. [88017]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the Home Office grant to Victim Support for the past 10 years. In real terms, as deflated by the GDP deflator on the HMT website (as of 30 June 2006), the change in funding is represented as a percentage.

Home Office grant to Victim Support for the past 10 years. In real terms, as deflated by the GDP deflator on the HMT website (as of 30 June 2006), the change in funding is represented as a percentage

Financial year	Home Office grant to Victim Support (£ million)	Real term increase (percentage)
1995-96	10.82	
1996-97	11.68	4.5
1997-98	12.68	5.5
1998-99	12.68	-2.5
1999-2000	17.50	35.3
2000-01	18.55	4.5
2001-02	25.05	31.9
2002-03	29.30	13.5
2003-04	30.00	-0.6
2004-05	30.00	-2.6
2005-06	30.00	-2.1
2006-07	30.00	

Violent Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* murders and *(b)* crimes involving violence were reported in (i) Eastleigh, (ii) Hampshire police area, (iii) Southampton, (iv) Portsmouth, (v) Hampshire county council area, (vi) the south east region, (vii) England and (viii) England and Wales in each of the last 10 years; and what the (A) detection and (B) clear-up rate was in each case. [86685]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the tables. Statistics for Eastleigh, Southampton and Portsmouth are at Basic Command Unit level.

Since 1996, there have been two major changes to the way in which crime is recorded which makes it impossible to directly compare 2005-06 statistics with those from 10 years ago. The effect of the extended coverage and the change in counting rules in 1998 was to inflate the amount of violent crime recorded nationally by more than 80 per cent. while it is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further 20 per cent. increase in recorded violent crime in its first year.

Table 1: Recorded offences of homicide and violent crime—1996 and 1997

	1996		1997	
Area	Number	Detection rate	Number	Detection rate
Homicide				
Eastleigh	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth	—	—	—	—
Hampshire police force area	32	94	11	100
South east region	90	82	79	101
England	649	92	696	90
England and Wales	679	94	739	90
Violent crime				
Eastleigh	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth	—	—	—	—
Hampshire police force area	8,394	77	9,710	79
South east region	38,119	78	37,845	78

Table 1: Recorded offences of homicide and violent crime—1996 and 1997

Area	1996 Number	1996 Detection rate	1997 Number	1997 Detection rate
England	326,387	65	326,993	68
England and Wales	344,766	66	347,064	69

Note: Offences detected in any given year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.

Table 2: Recorded offences of homicide and violent crime—1998-99 to 2001-02

Area	1998-99 Number	1998-99 Detection rate	1999-2000 Number	1999-2000 Detection rate
Homicide				
Eastleigh	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth	—	—	—	—
Hampshire police force area	13	108	24	100
South east region	79	92	76	92
England	718	95	731	91
England and Wales	750	95	766	90
Violent crime				
Eastleigh[1]	—	—	887	83
Southampton[1]	—	—	3,314	71
Portsmouth	—	—	3,609	76
Hampshire police force area	14,253	86	17,494	79
South east region	62,815	76	73,754	72
England	571,027	64	662,525	57
England and Wales	605,797	66	703,107	59

Area	2000-01 Number	2000-01 Detection rate	2001-02 Number	2001-02 Detection rate
Homicide				
Eastleigh	—	—	3	133
Southampton	—	—	9	78
Portsmouth	—	—	7	86
Hampshire police force area	14	79	32	91
South east region	146	86	111	93
England	810	90	856	83
England and Wales	850	90	891	84
Violent crime				
Eastleigh[1]	910	58	974	79
Southampton[1]	3,844	61	3,741	64
Portsmouth	3,791	66	3,420	64
Hampshire police force area	19,280	67	18,753	73
South east region	80,850	65	81,327	67
England	692,552	53	773,897	48
England and Wales	733,387	55	813,121	50

[1] Eastleigh and Southampton Basic Command Units were restructured in April 2000.

Notes:
1. Expanded offence coverage and revised counting rules came into effect on 1 April 1998. The figures in this table are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. Offences detected in any given year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.

Table 3: Recorded offences of homicide and violent crime—2002-03 to 2005-06

Area	2002-03 Number	2002-03 Detection rate	2003-04 Number	2003-04 Detection rate
Homicide				
Eastleigh	2	100	0	
Southampton	10	70	5	100
Portsmouth	4	75	5	60
Hampshire police force area	36	75	21	86
South east region	120	78	78	86
England	1,010	88	878	84
England and Wales	1,047	88	904	85
Violent crime				
Eastleigh[1]	1,338	66	2,522	47
Southampton	5,005	60	7,461	45
Portsmouth	4,027	62	6,078	49
Hampshire police force area	24,947	67	38,222	49
South east region	105,004	60	126,602	51
England	948,055	48	1,067,295	45
England and Wales	1,004,599	49	1,123,710	47

Area	2004-05 Number	2004-05 Detection rate	2005-06 Number	2005-06 Detection rate
Homicide				
Eastleigh	—	—	—	—
Southampton	2	150	4	100
Portsmouth	6	50	1	300
Hampshire police force area	17	76	10	100
South east region	91	88	76	88
England	827	98	740	90
England and Wales	869	98	765	90
Violent crime				
Eastleigh[1]	—	—	—	—
Southampton	8,080	42	8,653	35

Area	2004-05 Number	2004-05 Detection rate	2005-06 Number	2005-06 Detection rate
Portsmouth	7,257	47	7,519	39
Hampshire police force area	41,779	49	42,465	44
South east region	147,954	49	155,767	50
England	1,143,970	44	1,163,755	49
England and Wales	1,200,991	46	1,220,198	50

[1] Following a force restructuring, Eastleigh Basic Command Unit ceased to exist from 2004-05.

Notes

1. The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. Data for England and England and Wales includes the British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.
3. Offences detected in any given year may have been initially recorded in an earlier year and for this reason some percentages may exceed 100.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were committed in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87492]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is for crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) areas and is given in the following tables. CDRP data are only available centrally from 1999-2000.

In April 2002, the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced to ensure greater consistency in recording and took a more victim-orientated approach, which increased the crime count, particularly for violent crime. For these reasons, figures over this period are not comparable when they cross the time boundary.

Violent crimes[1] recorded by the Metropolitan police for each crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP), 1990-2000 to 2001-02

CDRP	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Barking and Dagenham	3,910	4,545	5,013
Barnet	5,364	5,835	6,422
Bexley	3,595	3,815	4,062
Brent	7,758	8,055	8,381
Bromley	3,908	4,671	4,992
Camden	7,282	7,551	8,328
City of Westminster	12,200	11,397	12,269
Croydon	7,276	8,287	8,685
Ealing	8,715	8,284	9,448
Enfield	5,274	6,217	6,665
Greenwich	7,054	7,120	7,368
Hackney	9,469	8,966	10,081
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,780	5,498	5,845
Haringey	7,313	7,973	8,206
Harrow	3,102	3,147	3,668
Havering	3,046	3,337	3,947
Hillingdon	4,338	4,773	5,679
Hounslow	6,060	6,398	7,119
Islington	7,350	7,218	7,673
Kensington and Chelsea	4,304	4,444	4,443
Kingston upon Thames	2,713	2,860	3,138
Lambeth	12,167	13,156	15,241
Lewisham	6,722	7,250	7,856
Merton	3,358	3,447	3,974
Newham	9,344	9,784	10,383
Redbridge	4,453	4,847	5,182
Richmond upon Thames	2,375	2,321	2,580
Southwark	9,943	10,048	11,284
Sutton	2,469	2,393	2,905
Tower Hamlets	7,292	8,105	8,854
Waltham Forest	5,755	6,332	7,424
Wandsworth	6,798	6,580	7,314
Total	196,487	204,654	224,429

[1] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Violent crimes[1] recorded by the Metropolitan police for each crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP), 2002-03 to 2005-06

CDRP	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	5,329	5,939	6,207	6,321
Barnet	6,597	7,165	8,773	7,928
Bexley	4,098	4,598	4,786	5,045
Brent	8,379	9,552	11,517	10,927
Bromley	5,670	6,100	6,798	6,693
Camden	7,935	8,178	9,505	9,089
City of Westminster	12,352	11,683	12,730	11,760
Croydon	9,957	10,099	10,511	9,960
Ealing	9,325	8,978	9,962	10,216
Enfield	6,964	6,664	6,580	7,003
Greenwich	7,954	8,320	9,394	9,312
Hackney	9,646	9,997	9,669	9,790
Hammersmith and Fulham	5,856	5,701	6,234	6,549
Haringey	8,123	7,887	8,179	9,370
Harrow	3,573	3,620	3,933	4,046
Havering	4,558	4,615	4,792	4,844
Hillingdon	5,847	6,001	6,782	7,439
Hounslow	8,372	8,051	7,776	7,559
Islington	8,436	8,427	9,229	8,760
Kensington and Chelsea	4,450	4,437	4,382	4,442
Kingston upon Thames	3,312	3,901	3,958	3,753
Lambeth	13,752	13,264	13,435	12,566
Lewisham	7,795	8,964	10,048	11,147
Merton	4,322	4,357	4,475	4,493
Newham	10,679	10,936	10,365	11,312
Redbridge	5,892	6,105	6,212	5,512
Richmond upon Thames	2,942	2,855	3,120	2,939
Southwark	10,898	11,707	12,223	12,503
Sutton	3,476	3,703	3,956	3,762
Tower Hamlets	9,777	9,664	9,762	9,531
Waltham Forest	7,506	7,926	8,276	9,501
Wandsworth	7,510	7,254	7,706	8,135
Total	231,282	236,648	251,275	252,207

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Violent Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been victims of violent death since 1 January 2006; and how many victims of violent death there were between 1 January and 10 July in each of the last 10 years. [85143]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of violent deaths in England and Wales is not collected centrally. Available data relate to offences classed as homicide. The number of offences currently considered as homicide, recorded by police between 1 January and 10 July in each of the years 1996 to 2004-05, are given in the following table. Data for the periods April to July 2005 and January to July 2006 relate to financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07, full analyses of which will be published in January 2007 and 2008 respectively.

Offences currently recorded as homicide[1,2], England and Wales

Year[3,4]	*Number of offences*
1996	307
1997	330
1997-98	328
1998-99	325
1999-2000	363
2000-01	421
2001-02	415
2002-03	427
2003-04	429
2004-05	447

[1] As at 28 November 2005; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Does not include death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.
[3] Calendar years data relate to offences recorded by police between 1 January and 10 July; other years data relate to 1 April to 10 July and 1 January to 31 March within the specified financial year.
[4] This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Witnesses

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many witnesses have requested special measures in each of the last three years. [24582]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not collected centrally.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of offences of intimidation or harming of witnesses in each year since 2003; and how many of those received a custodial sentence in each year. [88499]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of people convicted of offences of intimidation or harming of witnesses; and how many of those in each year received a custodial sentence in England and Wales, 2003 to 2004, can be seen in the following table. Court proceedings statistics for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of people convicted at all courts for offences relating to intimidation or harming of witness in England and Wales[1,2] 2003 to 2004

		2003			*2004*		
			Sentenced			*Sentenced*	
Statute	*Offence Description*	*Guilty*	*Total sentenced[3]*	*Of which immediate custody*	*Guilty*	*Total sentenced[3]*	*Of which immediate custody*
Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994, Sec.51(1)	Intimidating a juror or witness or person assisting in investigation of offenders	467	469	211	523	525	259
Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994, Sec.51(2)	Harming or threatening to harm a juror, witness or a person assisting in investigation of offences	76	77	34	113	112	56
Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 S39	Intimidating or intending to intimidate a witness	2	3	2	10	12	7
Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 S40	Harming or intending to harm a witness	2	2	0	2	2	0
	Total	547	551	247	648	651	322

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The sentenced figure can exceed those found guilty, as it may be that the sentencing took place in the Crown court the year after a person was found guilty at the magistrates court. *Source:* Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Work Permits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which work permit schemes are available to farmers for employing migrant labour. [73185]

Mr. Byrne: The schemes available to UK farmers under the work permit arrangements for the employment of migrant labour are the Work Permit Scheme, the Training and Work Experience Scheme (TWES) and the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS).

To qualify for consideration under the Work Permit Scheme the job must require a person with a degree or relevant HMD level qualification, or an NVQ at level three and three years relevant experience.

The TWES arrangements relate to jobs that provide temporary work experience or training requiring a person with either an NVQ at level three or at least 12 months work experience.

The SAWS enables UK farmers and growers to employ students from outside the European Economic Area on a seasonal basis for up to six months a year.

Farmers may also employ workers from other European Union countries, subject only to a requirement for those from Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic to register under the Worker Registration Scheme.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many valid work permits issued to workers from each country there were at the latest available date. [83804]

Mr. Byrne: The information is set out in the following table.

Nationality	*Valid permits*
India	102,730
Philippines	41,079
United States Of America	35,191
South Africa	30,524
Australia	21,044
China Peoples Republic Of	20,830
Zimbabwe	13,802
Pakistan	13,097
Malaysia	11,654
Japan	11,371
Nigeria	8,165
New Zealand	7,799
Canada	7,726
Bulgaria	5,935
Romania	5,161
Ghana	4,265
Thailand	4,067
Ukraine	4,003
Bangladesh	3,900
Russia	3,800
Kenya	3,370
Sri Lanka	3,200
Mauritius	3,165
South Korea	3,089
Jamaica	2,626
Turkey	2,359
Zambia	2,207
Singapore	2,090
Brazil	2,079
Nepal	1,978
British National Overseas	1,976
Hong Kong	1,753
Trinidad and Tobago	1,765
Argentina	1,518
Israel	1,358
Egypt	1,179
Mexico	1,103
Lebanon	894
Guyana	889
Poland	864
Iran	863
Belarus	852
Colombia	786
Indonesia	759
Taiwan	735
Malawi	620
Uganda	579
Botswana	557
Cameroon	540
Moldova	527
Jordan	514
Yugoslavia	505
Hungary	491
Croatia	473
Tanzania	448
Sierra Leone	436
Venezuela	421
Morocco	415
Syrian Arab Republic	411
Czech Republic	382
Myanmar	366
Swaziland	359
Saudi Arabia	324
Sudan	322
Kazakhstan	321
Algeria	305
Chile	305
Cyprus	298
Switzerland	297
Vietnam	293
Barbados	292
Libya	289
Serbia	271
Cuba	251
Slovakia	247
Albania	224
Lesotho	224
Namibia	210
Gambia	198
Tunisia	197
Peru	189
Azerbaijan	175
Macedonia	163
St. Lucia	161
Seychelles	153
Iraq	151
Latvia	149
Lithuania	147
Uzbekistan	133
Georgia	132
Palestine	114
Malta	108
Senegal	104
Congo	99
Angola	94
St. Vincent	89
Brunei	86
Kuwait	85

Nationality	Valid permits
Ethiopia	81
Armenia	77
Bosnia—Herzegovina	74
Grenada	69
British Overseas Citz	68
Ecuador	68
Mongolia	66
Dominica	65
Costa Rica	64
Uruguay	64
Fiji	61
Estonia	58
Kyrgyzstan	55
Afghanistan	50
Slovenia	49
Bahrain	47
Oman	47
Bolivia	45
Ivory Coast	44
Mali	43
Dominican Republic	42
St. Helena	40
United Arab Emirates	40
Belize	36
Bahamas	31
Turkmenistan	30
Somalia	29
Yemen Republic Of	28
Samoa	27
Maldives	26
Panama	25
Mozambique	24
Tonga	24
Kosovo	23
Togo	23
British Dependant Terr	21
Antigua	20
Guatemala	20
Paraguay	20
Tadzikhistan	20
Honduras	19
El Salvador	18
Nauru	18
St. Kitts	16
Niger	15
Rwanda	15
Gabon	13
Haiti	13
Qatar	13
Burundi	12
Liberia	12
Palestinian Authority	12
Papua New Guinea	12
Benin	11
Eritrea	10
Mauritania	10
Burkina Faso	9
Guinea	8
Monaco	8
Cambodia	7
Madagascar	7
Montenegro	6
Nicaragua	6
Surinam	6
Andorra	5
Bermuda	4
Bhutan	4
Chad	4
Zaire	4
North Korea	3
Sao Tome and Principe	3
Turks and Caicos Islands	3
Vanuatu	3
Burma	2
Comoros	2
Djibouti	2
Soloman Islands	2
Central African Republic	1
Kiribati	1
Laos	1
Western Samoa	1
Total	416,909

"Valid" work permits refers to all work permits, which are currently active. These figures may not accurately equate to the actual number of work permit holders currently working in the UK as some permit holders may never have entered the UK or may have returned overseas without informing Work Permits (UK). The validity of a work permit varies depending on the circumstances, but may be for a period of up to five years.

The figures quoted are not national statistics. They are based on provisional management information and may be subject to change.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether existing holders of work permits who have a right to apply for residency after four years will be required to meet the new requirements of five years on work permits. [86568]

Mr. Byrne: Existing holders of work permits will be subject to the new requirements for settlement introduced on 3 April. Work permits do not create an entitlement to have future applications dealt with under the immigration rules in force when they were granted.

World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations; [83621]

(2) what plans *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have to attend matches at the FIFA World cup 2006 in Germany. [73633]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office ministerial team did not attend any World cup matches in Germany, though the Minister responsible for tackling football disorder watched the England v Ecuador match on the screen in the fan park in Stuttgart. His purpose was to observe at

first hand English and German police co-operation and the behaviour of England fans.

No third party organisations were involved with the visit and the cost to public funds was £860 for Stuttgart. All travel and accommodation was arranged in accordance with the ministerial code and travel by Ministers.

Young Offenders

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young offenders there were in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* England in each year from 1997 to 2006. [84888]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants cautioned and found guilty of all offences, under the age of 18, in England (from 1997 to 2004) are shown in the first table. We are unable to provide cautions figures for Milton Keynes as the data is not held at the level of detail required. However the second table shows the convictions for the Milton Keynes Criminal Justice area (the figures will include some offenders who do not live in Milton Keynes but were convicted there).

Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006 and figures for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of defendants under 18-years-old found guilty at all courts and cautioned of all offences in England, 1997 to 2004[1]

	Found guilty	Cautioned
1997	73,707	96,966
1998	80,608	101,708
1999	84,199	96,397
2000	85,568	90,995
2001	89,369	91,748
2002	88,478	80,635
2003	86,572	85,474
2004	90,174	99,233

Number of defendants under 18-years-old found guilty of all offences in the Milton Keynes Criminal Justice Area, 1997 to 2004 [1,2,3]

	Found guilty[4]
1997	279
1998	267
1999	265
2000	297
2001	412
2002	336
2003	298
2004	252

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

[2] We are unable to provide data for cautions in Milton Keynes, as the data is not held at the level of detail required.

[3] Includes defendants found guilty at the Crown court having been committed by magistrates courts in the Milton Keynes Criminal Justice Area.

[4] The data provided in this table shows all offenders under 18 found guilty within the Milton Keynes Criminal Justice Area—it may include offenders who live outside Milton Keynes. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of education was for children and young adults in custody for the year in which figures were last available; what proportion of the total cost of their detention was represented by spending on their education in that year; and what the per capita spending on prison education was in that year. [88283]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures for 2005-06, provided by the Youth Justice Board, show the total cost of custody for children and young people under 18 in the secure estate as £237.8 million, of which £34 million (14.3 per cent.) was devoted to education. An average of £10,375 per custodial place was spent on education in that year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff were employed in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in the case of vulnerable and at-risk children and young adults in custody in the last year for which figures are available. [88284]

Mr. Byrne: It is not possible to identify separately the staff in custodial establishments who work with vulnerable or at-risk young people.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Accountancy Skills

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if his Department will encourage the Sector Skills Development Agency *(a)* to include accountancy within the Financial Services Skills Council remit and *(b)* to ensure accounting is covered by the Skills for Business Network. [88634]

Beverley Hughes: It is for employers to decide whether they wish to be part of the footprint of a particular Sector Skills Council. The Financial Services Sector Skills Council and the accountancy employers organisations concerned need to reach this decision based on the skill needs of the sector, independent of Government and through ongoing discussions. The Skills for Business network (SfBN) has guaranteed that the 15 per cent. of the work force not covered directly by a Sector Skills Council will receive support from the Sector Skills Development Agency in lieu of a separate negotiated arrangement.

A-levels

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many A level students were taught their subjects by teachers who hold a degree qualification in that subject in the 2005-06 academic year. [87952]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Although the number of A level students who took A level examinations in individual subjects is known there is no comprehensive information available giving the level of subject qualification of teachers providing

teaching at this level in schools or further education colleges. Therefore no estimate can be made of the number of students that are taught by teachers holding a degree in the relevant subject.

There has been some research carried out by the Department into the level of qualification of teachers in secondary schools and this is given as shown in the table.

The following table provides the number of teachers by subject in maintained secondary schools and the highest post A level qualification held in the subject taught, for the latest available year (2002/03). No similar information is available for lecturers in the further education sector.

Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A level qualification[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

	Percentage						
	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other Qual.*	*No Qual.*	*Total teachers (Thousand)*
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 1 0	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:
Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

In January 2006, the Department published a report entitled 'Mathematics and Science in Secondary Schools: The Deployment of Teachers and Support Staff to Deliver the Curriculum'. The research, sponsored by the Department, was conducted during 2005 by the National Foundation for Education Research. Their sample survey found that an estimated 66 per cent. of maths A-level curriculum time was delivered by a teacher with a degree in maths, 15 per cent. by a teacher with a PGCE incorporating maths and 13 per cent. by a teacher with a B.Sc, BA with QTS or a B.Ed in maths. For further mathematics, an estimated 73 per cent. of curriculum time was delivered by a teacher with a degree in maths, 13 per cent. by a teacher with a PGCE incorporating maths and 10 per cent. by a teacher with a B.Sc, BA with QTS or a B.Ed in maths.

For biology A-level, the study found that an estimated 61 per cent. of curriculum time was delivered by a teacher with a biology degree and 31 per cent. by a teacher with a degree in another (including general) science. For chemistry A-level, an estimated 61 per cent. of curriculum time was delivered by a teacher with a chemistry degree and 26 per cent. by a teacher with a degree in another (including general) science. Finally, for physics A-level, an estimated 53 per cent. of curriculum time was delivered by a teacher with a physics degree and 13 per cent. by a teacher with a degree in another (including general science). For physics it is useful to note that an estimated 17 per cent. of the curriculum time was delivered by a teacher with a B.Sc, BA with QTS or B.Ed in science, and 13 per cent. by a teacher with a PGCE in science.

The full report can be found at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR708.pdf

Asian Adoptions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance is followed when Asian children are placed for fostering or adoption with other Asian families from different religious backgrounds. [88022]

Mr. Dhanda: The national minimum standards for fostering services make clear that proper consideration should be given to a child's racial, religious, cultural and linguistic background when making any decisions regarding the care of that child. In cases where a child is placed with carers who do not share his or her ethnicity or culture, the standards state that the responsible authority should provide the foster family with additional training, support and information to enable the child to receive the best possible care and to develop a positive understanding of his or her heritage. It is for fostering providers themselves to determine the most appropriate arrangements for doing so. Volume 3 of the 'Children Act Guidance and Regulations' does, however, recognise that

"the religion of foster parents [...] may in some cases be more important than their ethnic origin."

With regard to adoption, the 2005 statutory guidance on the Adoption and Children Act 2002 requires adoption agencies to consider the child's religious and cultural upbringing as well as any wishes and feelings which the child's parent or guardian may have about the child's religious and cultural upbringing. The guidance also requires agencies to provide the child with counselling, in a manner which is sensitive to the child's religious beliefs.

Behaviour Charter of Responsibilities and Rights

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the Department plans to publish a National Behaviour Charter of Responsibilities and Rights as recommended in the report of the Practitioners' Group on school behaviour and discipline chaired by Sir Alan Steer. [88622]

Beverley Hughes: The Government have carefully considered the Practitioners' Group's conclusions about a National Behaviour Charter, in consultation with key partners in the education service represented on the Ministerial Stakeholders' Group on School Behaviour and Attendance. The Stakeholders' Group was mindful of the fact that events have moved on since the Practitioners' Group reported, particularly with the clear new statutory framework for disciplining pupils in the Education and Inspections Bill. It was therefore concluded that the role of a National Behaviour Charter might more appropriately be fulfilled through the guidance which my Department is preparing for schools on the relevant provisions in the Education and Inspections Bill.

Buddhism

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 308W, on Buddhism, what factors were taken into account in including the Network of Buddhist Organisations on his list of consultees; what other Buddhist organisations are included on the list; and if he will make a statement. [88724]

Jim Knight: The Department will always seek to consult as widely as is reasonably practicable. Factors taken into account include the nature, scale and subject of the consultation. The Network of Buddhist Organisations has 27 member organisations and 25 associate member organisations, from a range of Buddhist traditions, and is one of the groups with which the Department has consulted on relevant issues. The Department has previously consulted the Clear Vision Trust, The Buddhist Society and individual Buddhists.

Capita

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of contracts tendered by his Department were awarded to Capita Group plc. and its subsidiaries in each of the past five years. [88358]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Communication and Literacy Difficulties

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research his Department has commissioned on the link between communication disabilities and literacy difficulties in primary school children; and if he will make a statement. [87962]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not commissioned research on this topic for primary school children. However, the Department is currently funding research carried out jointly by the Institute of Education in London and Warwick university (Professors Dockrell and Lindsay) on raising the achievement of children with speech, language and communication difficulties.

This is the fourth stage of a longitudinal study of a cohort of young people with specific speech and language difficulties who were originally identified by practitioners when they were aged seven. These pupils are now at the stage of leaving compulsory education.

DfES will publish the final report on the fourth phase of the research in the autumn. The report will, of course, look at how these children have progressed from the primary school stage.

The first phase of this research looked at the impact of specific language difficulties on learning and literacy in primary schools. Results of this research have been published in journals to inform practice. Other researchers, both in the UK and internationally, have contributed to our knowledge on this issue over the last few years.

The research in this area also notes the importance for this group of children of aspects like self-esteem. The importance of the home learning environment in children's learning is covered in the answer to PQ 87963.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the relationship between a child's home learning environment and literacy and communication skills. [87963]

Beverley Hughes: Research evidence, such as my Department's effective provision of pre-school education (EPPE) study, shows that the quality of the learning environment in the home (where parents are actively engaged in activities with children such as teaching songs and nursery rhymes, playing with letters and numbers, and reading to the child) promoted intellectual development, including literacy skills, in children at the end of key stage 1 compared to children whose parents did not engage in such activities. In fact the quality of the home learning environment is a more significant factor than parent's social class and education levels. A review of the literature on parents' involvement in their children's education funded by my Department (Desforges and Abouchaar, 2003) also found that such parental activities in the home were associated with early literature and communication and skills development. In addition to the actual activities, the review found that the values a parent has, such as enthusiasm for learning and a positive parenting style, are associated with improved outcomes for the child such as increased self-perception as a learner, more motivation and self-esteem and higher educational aspirations. Further information can be found at www.dfes.gov.uk/research.

Competitive Tendering

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether academies are subject to the same rules as maintained schools regarding competitive tendering. [89050]

Jim Knight: Academies are required to comply with public procurement procedures, including competitive tendering and adhere to departmental good practice; in the same way as local authority maintained schools.

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88770]

Beverley Hughes: The chart details the number of purchases by Department for Education and Skills from March 2005 to 28 July* 2006.

	(a) Flash drives/Memory sticks	*(b) Compact discs*	*(c) DVD-ROM discs*	*(d) Laptops*	*(e) External hard discs*	*(f) Internal hard discs*	*(g) Desktop computers*
March	31	[1]	[1]	2	0	0	2
April	15	[1]	[1]	0	0	5	0

	(a) Flash drives/Memory sticks	(b) Compact discs	(c) DVD-ROM discs	(d) Laptops	(e) External hard discs	(f) Internal hard discs	(g) Desktop computers
May	13	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0
June	10	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0
July	7	[1]	[1]	50	0	0	7
August	8	[1]	[1]	1	0	0	0
September	16	[1]	[1]	48	0	10	0
October	18	[1]	[1]	0	0	1	0
November	4	[1]	[1]	42	0	10	4
December	17	[1]	[1]	10	0	101	2
January	17	[1]	[1]	100	0	50	0
February	40	[1]	[1]	453	0	0	1,349
March	19	[1]	[1]	36	0	1	67
April	7	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0
May	22	[1]	[1]	3	0	0	2
June	16	[1]	[1]	2	0	15	2
July*	19	[1]	[1]	1	0	15	2
Total	279	[1]	[1]	748	0	208	1,437

[1] This information could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88474]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has created no criminal offences by Orders in Council since 1997.

Departmental Staff (Criminal Activity)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many of his Department's employees have been (*a*) dismissed, (*b*) suspended and (*c*) subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997. [88453]

Jim Knight: The information sought is as follows:

	Dismissed	Suspended	Disciplinary action
1997	—	—	1
1998	2	2	5
1999	2	8	15
2000	7	—	16
2001	2	3	7
2002	5	—	4
2003	—	—	2
2004	2	—	—
2005	2	—	6

The Department takes any allegations of criminal behaviour very seriously, and they are investigated under formal procedures either by an HR led team or by a team from our Special Investigations Unit if the claims allege fraud.

All staff are aware of the standards of conduct expected of them and these are set out in our Staff Handbook. This reflects the central rules in chapter 4.3 of the Civil Service Management Code.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was paid to his Department from the Access to Work Scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget he plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government Departments; and if he will make a statement. [89016]

Jim Knight: Since 2003, the Department has provided assistance for disabled staff from its own reasonable adjustments fund. This fund has assisted over 500 staff. My Department does not collect information about the Access to Work scheme in the form requested centrally and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs Misuse

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is provided for activities to reduce the use of drugs among young people; and if he will make a statement. [82263]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department of Education and Skills have contributed £2.6 million for activities to reduce the use of drugs among young people this year. This includes the contribution to the Young People Substance Misuse Grant, Home Office and Department of Health also contribute (PQ ref 82266). The £2.6 million also includes DfES contribution to Frank the Government's drugs awareness campaign, and to the High Focus Areas project which seeks to accelerate progress in reducing young people's drug use in selected local areas.

DfES also delivers drugs education within schools via PHSE.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in Swindon receive education maintenance allowance. [86635]

Mr. Dhanda: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate education maintenance allowances for the DfES and hold the information about take-up of the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 28 July 2006:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked "how many students in Swindon receive Education Maintenance Allowance.

By the end of June 2006, 1,320 young people in the Swindon area had applied, enrolled and received one or more Education Maintenance Allowance payment during the academic year 2005/06.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many carbon dioxide emission permits have been allocated to universities; and what the actual emissions were for each university included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in its first year of operations. [86472]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Education and Skills does not collect this information.

Enterprise Summer School Pathfinders

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in which locations the enterprise summer school pathfinders will be held; how many pupils have agreed to attend; which business representatives have agreed to attend; what the curriculum will be; what proportion of total teaching hours will be taught by business representatives; and what the total cost will be. [88096]

Jim Knight: The Enterprise Summer School Pathfinders are being held across every region in the United Kingdom and the locations are set out in the table. I have also included a list of business representatives.

Over 1,000 pupils aged 14-16 from a range of schools and colleges will attend the Enterprise summer schools. The curriculum will be linked to the broad objectives of enterprise education but specifically focused on enterprise capability and personal, individual development of attitudes and qualities for enterprise. The business representatives will be present throughout the summer schools and they will be involved in the delivery of the pathfinders, as well as activities such as mentoring. The total cost for the delivery of pathfinders is £2 million.

Location of Enterprise pathfinders and list of representatives

	Regions
Scotland	Argyll
	Glasgow
	Fife
Wales	Llangattock
England	London
	West Midlands
	East Midlands
	South West
	South East
	East of England
	Yorks and Humber
Northern Ireland	Enniskillen
	Stormont

Business representatives[1]

Middlesbrough Academy
Aspire
Middlesbrough Football Club
Sage
Walkers
Shell Livewire
Cadbury Schweppes
Birmingham International Airport
Reels in Motion
Boots plc
Centro Transport
Utilities
UnLTD
Gaslight Community Café
T.R.E.E
Belfast Print and Workshop Gallery
Rosemary Conley (Diet and Fitness Clubs)
Tesco
Egg
Rolls Royce
Colchester Credit Union
Colchester Co-operative Society
Exergy Consulting Ltd.[1]
Mellon Financial Corporation
i-10
John Lewis

[1] Some of the businesses although have expressed an interest, are yet to be confirmed.

Free School Meals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of children eligible for free school meals live in areas designated as deprived. [86431]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested has been provided in the table as follows.

	[1]Total number of pupils	[1]Number of pupils eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils[1] eligible for free school meals
0-10% most deprived[2] areas	808,102	339,868	42.1
10-20%	719,782	217,319	30.2
20-30%	652,205	146,543	22.5
30-40%	619,438	99,779	16.1
40-50%	603,354	71,814	11.9
50-60%	586,985	51,444	8.8
60-70%	588,640	38,969	6.6
70-80%	585,685	28,649	4.9
80-90%	600,157	21,628	3.6
90-100% least deprived[2] areas	618,598	14,105	2.3
Residence unknown	29,322	6,146	21.0
Total	6,412,261	1,036,264	16.2

[1] Maintained primary, secondary, special and non-maintained special schools, includes pupils aged 5 to 15 years, solely registered or main registration of dually registered pupils.
[2] The measure of deprivation used is the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government
Source:
Schools Census 2006 provisional

Further Education Funding

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the statement by the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 248WH, on further education funding, what the real terms change in further education funding was for *(a)* 16 to 19-year-olds and *(b)* adults for each year between 1997-98 and 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [83958]

Bill Rammell: Our investment in further education providers increased by around 48 per cent. between 1997-98 and 2005-06, the latest year for which we have full expenditure data. This increase excludes spending on work based learning/apprenticeships, school 6th forms, adult and community learning and other post-16 learning. Figures also exclude our new Train to Gain programme. We cannot provide comparable figures for young people and adults separately because data are not available on that basis. The annual change for each year from 1997-98 is given in the following table:

FE provider spend 1997-98 to 2005-06

	Annual spend (cash) £ millions	Real terms increase/ decrease on previous year (percentage)	Real terms increase from 1997-98 to 2005-06
1997-98	3,131	-2.7	—
1998-99	3,101	-3.4	—
1999-2000	3,300	+4.3	—
2000-01	3,471	+3.7	—
2001-02	4,102	[1]+15.4	—
2002-03	4,400	+4.0	—
2003-04	4,788	+5.7	—
2004-05	5,081	+3.3	—
2005-06	5,590	[2]+7.7	48

[1] There was a significant increase in funding allocated to colleges in 2001-02 (the year in which the LSC was created) compared to 2000-01. This was due to a combination of factors: an increase in full-time equivalent learner volumes compared to previous years, a small increase in non-participation funds allocated to colleges, and a larger increase in capital investment in colleges.
[2] Based on provisional outturn.

Higher Education

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many further education leavers went on to higher education in each of the last five years for which records are available. [88690]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. The figures are limited to students who applied to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS, so they do not therefore cover part-time students or those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Previous educational establishment	Year of entry				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Maintained school	116,713	119,935	121,595	123,317	133,178
Independent school	30,285	30,293	30,824	31,389	31,835
Further/higher education establishments[1]	112,288	110,083	111,656	112,395	117,848
Other	1,484	3,456	3,889	4,127	4,587
Not known[2]	64,702	67,958	65,978	63,067	72,796
Total	325,472	331,725	333,942	334,295	360,244

[1] Students from further education establishments cannot be separately identified in all years. However, in 2002 its is known that out of 110,083 students entering higher education from further/higher education establishments only 2,627 came from higher education establishments.
[2] Not all students provide details of their previous school.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Illegal Knives

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce the number of illegal knives being carried in secondary schools. [89032]

Jim Knight: In the main, schools are very safe places and the majority of pupils have never carried a knife. It is a criminal offence to carry an offensive weapon on school premises and to assist schools with those pupils who choose to ignore the law, we propose a power in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill to enable schools to search, without consent, pupils they suspect are carrying a knife or other weapon. Where schools have

suspicions they can call the police, and should do so if they believe pupils or staff are at risk of serious harm. Schools and local police can agree a Safer School Partnership to prevent crime in and around a school. Programmes to improve behaviour; curriculum opportunities for learning about responsibility, conflict, and safety, and other DfES programmes for young people and parenting also help.

Integrated Children's System Database

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been spent on the Integrated Children's System database; and how much is budgeted for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [88019]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities will receive a total of £60 million to develop their electronic systems to support the implementation of the Integrated Children's System. Of this £15 million will be available in 2006-07 and a further £20 million in 2007-08. Additionally over the period 2005-06 and 2006-07 a total of £1.38 million has been budgeted by the DfES centrally from programme expenditure to support the development.

International Students

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many international students were granted visa extensions to *(a)* work and *(b)* continue studies in the last year. [88603]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

I am advised that the number of foreign nationals who were in the UK under any category and were subsequently granted leave to remain as students in the financial year 2005-06 was 128,608. Information on how many of these individuals previously had leave as students is not available without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

This information has not been quality assured, and is not a National Statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information subject to change.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88996]

Beverley Hughes: Such information is not held centrally within the Department for Education and Skills. To respond fully would involve an extensive information collection exercise which could be completed only at disproportionate cost.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children Young People and Families, my hon. Friend for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 192W, and 3 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1314W.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88997]

Beverley Hughes: The information as requested is not held centrally within the Department for Education and Skills. To respond fully would involve an extensive information collection exercise which could be completed only at disproportionate cost. However, I can refer the hon. Member to the analysis of the Department's Individual Learning Account (ILA) Programme is given in the report: "The House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts (2003), Individual Learning Accounts, Tenth Report of Session 2002-03 (Ref: HC 544), TSO, London". An analysis of the Department's UK e-University Project is given in the report: "The House of Commons Education and Skills Select Committee (2005), UK e-University, Third Report of Session 2004-05 (Ref: HC 205), TSO, London"

Literacy/Numeracy Targets

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of children in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area met the Government's literacy and numeracy targets in each year since 1997. [87372]

Jim Knight: The Government have set themselves the following Public Service Agreement targets for literacy and numeracy:

Raise standards in English and mathematics so that:

By 2006, 85 per cent. of 11 year olds achieve Level 4 or above, with this level of performance sustained to 2008; and

By 2008, the proportion of schools in which fewer than 65 per cent. of pupils achieve Level 4 or above separately in English and mathematics is reduced by 40 per cent. and

By 2007: 85 per cent. of 14 year olds achieve Level 5 or above in English, mathematics and ICT (80 per cent in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained until 2008; and

By 2008: in all schools at least 50 per cent. of pupils achieve Level 5 or above in each of English, mathematics and science.

The information for Houghton and Washington East constituency and Sunderland local authority (LA) is as follows. In addition national figures have been supplied for comparison.

Key Stage 2

Houghton and Washington East

	English			*Mathematics*		
	Number of eligible pupils[1]	*Number achieving Level 4 or above*[2]	*Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above*[2]	*Number of eligible pupils*[1]	*Number achieving Level 4 or above*[2]	*Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above*[2]
1997	1,088	604	55.5	1,088	658	60.5
1998	1,124	728	64.8	1,124	675	60.1
1999	1,071	743	69.4	1,071	749	69.9
2000	1,076	793	73.7	1,076	786	73.0
2001	1,089	812	74.6	1,089	770	70.7
2002	1,143	845	73.9	1,143	840	73.5
2003	1,085	808	74.5	1,085	816	75.2

Houghton and Washington East

	English			Mathematics		
	Number of eligible pupils[1]	Number achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Number of eligible pupils[1]	Number achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above[2]
2004	1,097	860	78.4	1,097	857	78.1
2005	1,040	799	76.8	1,040	774	74.4

Sunderland LA

	English			Mathematics		
	Number of eligible pupils[1]	Number achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Number of eligible pupils[1]	Number achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above[2]
1997	3,953	2,354	59.5	3,952	2,476	62.7
1998	3,956	2,511	63.5	3,956	2,339	59.1
1999	3,940	2,688	68.2	3,942	2,671	67.8
2000	3,842	2,772	72.1	3,843	2,709	70.5
2001	3,817	2,751	72.1	3,817	2,662	69.7
2002	3,919	2,779	70.9	3,920	2,830	72.2
2003	3,903	2,782	71.3	3,903	2,775	71.1
2004	3,566	2,725	76.4	3,566	2,662	74.6
2005	3,515	2,743	78.0	3,515	2,577	73.3

*National**

	English			Mathematics		
	Number of eligible pupils[1]	Number achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Number of eligible pupils	Number achieving Level 4 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above[2]
1997	589.1	373.4	63.4	589.4	366.0	62.1
1998	608.1	394.3	64.8	608.3	356.9	58.7
1999	628.8	443.4	70.5	629.0	434.0	69.0
2000	623.4	466.4	74.8	623.7	446.5	71.6
2001	633.5	474.9	75.0	633.5	447.0	70.6
2002	641.3	478.5	74.6	640.8	469.0	73.2
2003	637.1	479.5	75.3	637.2	462.1	72.5
2004	612.3	474.8	77.5	612.7	453.4	74.0
2005	609.6	481.3	79.0	609.9	457.8	75.1

* National figures are in thousands

[1] Number of pupils in all schools, including independent schools, at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) with a valid result, including pupils working below the level of the test (B), unable to access the test (T), took the test but failed to register a level (N) or were absent (A).

[2] Pupils at the end of KS2 are expected to be working at Level 4 within their KS2 tests

Key Stage 3

Houghton and Washington East

	English			Mathematics		
	Number of eligible pupils[1]	Number achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Number of eligible pupils	Number achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above[2]
1997	1,300	657	50.5	1,299	699	53.8
1998	1,171	743	63.5	1,178	626	53.1
1999	1,317	735	55.8	1,311	756	57.7
2000	1,244	745	59.9	1,244	762	61.3
2001	1,297	784	60.4	1,303	814	62.5
2002	1,256	818	65.1	1,256	812	64.6
2003	1,231	836	67.9	1,227	866	70.6
2004	1,275	793	62.2	1,272	906	71.2
2005	1,445	1,073	74.3	1,443	1,095	75.9

Sunderland LA

	English			Mathematics		
	Number of eligible pupils[1]	Number achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Number of eligible pupils	Number achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above[2]
1997	3,773	1,960	51.9	3,769	1,923	51.0
1998	3,600	2,103	58.4	3,635	1,873	51.5
1999	3,895	2,335	59.9	3,887	2,127	54.7
2000	3,864	2,361	61.1	3,872	2,258	58.3
2001	3,939	2,517	63.9	3,941	2,385	60.5
2002	3,881	2,409	62.1	3,877	2,364	61.0
2003	3,794	2,461	64.9	3,770	2,425	64.3
2004	3,801	2,431	64.0	3,790	2,603	68.7
2005	3,925	2,712	69.1	3,921	2,761	70.4

*National**

	English			Mathematics		
	Number of eligible pupils[1]	Number achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Number of eligible pupils	Number achieving Level 5 or above[2]	Percentage of pupils achieving Level 5 or above[2]
1997	549.2	315.6	57.5	553.9	332.5	60.0
1998	550.8	355.7	64.6	554.6	329.3	59.4
1999	573.3	365.7	63.8	577.1	358.4	62.1
2000	579.8	369.8	63.8	581.0	376.3	64.8
2001	590.1	382.6	64.8	595.5	394.6	66.3
2002	607.7	407.2	67.0	611.7	412.0	67.4
2003	605.1	416.4	68.8	606.3	429.0	70.8
2004	612.9	433.6	70.7	615.7	449.1	72.9
2005	619.0	457.4	73.9	620.9	458.4	73.8

* National figures are in thousands

[1] Number of pupils in all schools, including independent schools, at the end of Key Stage 3 (KS3) with a valid result, including pupils working below the level of the test (B), unable to access the test (T), took the test but failed to register a level (N) or were absent (A).

[2] Pupils at the end of KS3 are expected to be working at Level 5 or Level 6 within their KS3 tests

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83975]

Mr. Dhanda: In the last 12 months, the Secretary of State and his predecessor have made the following visits:

Region	Number of visits
London	5
North West	8
North East	1
South East	2
South West	2
West Midlands	7
East of England	1
Yorkshire and Humberside	1

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to reply to question *(a)* 81111 and *(b)* 81112, on tuition fees, tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham on 26 June for answer on 29 June. [88219]

Bill Rammell: I responded to the hon. Member's question (81111) on 25 July. A response to his question (81112) has been issued today.

Primary National Strategy

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between his Department and Capita Strategic Education Services for the purposes of delivering the Primary National Strategy; [88354]

(2) which directorate in his Department has overall responsibility for overseeing the contract for the Primary National Strategy; [88355]

(3) how many staff within his Department have duties involving overseeing the contract for the Primary National Strategy; [88356]

(4) how many people are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Capita Strategic Education Services for the purposes of the review of the Primary National Strategy frameworks for teaching mathematics and literacy. [88357]

Jim Knight: The contract in respect of the provision of services for the National Strategies, incorporating the Primary National Strategy, is commercial in confidence.

The Schools Directorate within the DfES has overall responsibility for overseeing the National Strategies contract. There are nine members of staff in Schools Directorate who are engaged in overseeing the National Strategies contract. They are supported by a range of colleagues, within the Schools Directorate and elsewhere, who have policy interests in the services and outcomes of the Strategies' work.

A team of 12 staff are engaged in the Department on policy matters covered by the Primary and Secondary National Strategies. Six of these staff have worked on the revision of the frameworks as part of their duties, as well as senior managers to whom the team reports. Other staff from outside the team have been involved in reviewing the frameworks, including those responsible for early years education, those responsible for the education of children with special educational needs, and those responsible for contract management of the Strategies' contract.

Capita Strategic Children Services has a core team of nine of the National Strategies senior staff engaged on reviewing the Primary frameworks. In addition, there has been input from 20 or so educational advisers within the National Strategies, as well as 12 external specialists. The National Strategies has also benefited from extensive engagement with a range of educational partners, professional associations, head teachers and teachers who have all contributed to the development of the frameworks.

Religious Schools

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will bring forward measures to enable any charitable organisation run by a minority philosophical faith group, or groups, whose schools do not receive Government funding due to their small size to set up a single academy with the power to manage multiple schools affiliated to that academy. [88599]

Jim Knight: There is no reason why, under current legislation, such a group could not bring forward proposals to establish an academy, provided of course that the potential sponsors can fully meet the conditions required of sponsors and for the establishment of individual academies.

School Dinners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children receive school dinners; and how many in each category received school dinners on the same date in 2005. [88803]

Jim Knight: The only available information relates to free school meals and is given in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: School meal arrangement — position in January each year: 2005 and 2006 (provisional) — England

	Primary schools[1]		Secondary schools[1]	
	2005	2006[2]	2005	2006[2]
Number of pupils on roll[3]	4,205,670	4,150,590	3,317,590	3,309,720
Number of pupils taking free school meals on the census day	565,830	553,690	335,140	328,750
Percentage of pupils taking free school meals on the census day[4]	13.5	13.3	10.1	9.9
Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	713,680	666,890	465,520	448,680

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: School meal arrangement—position in January each year: 2005 and 2006 (provisional)—England

	Primary schools[1]		Secondary schools[1]	
	2005	2006[2]	2005	2006[2]
Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	17.0	16.1	14.0	13.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Provisional.
[3] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration status.
[4] The number of pupils taking free school meals on the Census day expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils on roll.
[5] The number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils on roll.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Schools' Census

Secondary Schools

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when the next Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey is planned to be carried out. [84207]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Subject to suitable contract arrangements, the survey will be conducted in spring 2007.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department in each year since February 2004. [88557]

Beverley Hughes: The number of staff identity passes that have been reported lost or stolen in each year since February 2004 are:

	Number of passes lost	*Number of passes stolen*
2004[1]	139	9
2005	231	27
2006	184	7
Total	554	43

[1] From February

Sir Alistair Graham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1378-79W, on Sir Alistair Graham, what his remuneration was at the Leeds Training and Enterprise Council. [85469]

Bill Rammell: The salary of the Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) chief executive—the only executive board member—was determined by the TEC board on the recommendation of the chairman of the TEC board remuneration committee and the chairman of the TEC board.

Note 5 of the accounts for the Leeds TEC Ltd. for the year ended 26 March 2000 show total emoluments relating to one director of £99,051.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to Question 80515, how much Sir Alistair Graham has claimed in *(a)* remuneration and *(b)* expenses in each year since he was appointed Northern Chairman of the Appeals Panel; and how many appeals he has chaired in each year. [85984]

Bill Rammell: Sir Alistair Graham took up the post of the Chair of the Appeals Panel for Students with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities for Northern England on 10 March 2002. Since then Sir Alistair has chaired a total of four appeals: two in May 2002, one in December 2002 and one in September 2003. He was paid a £600 fee for each appeal hearing chaired.

Due to changes in the Learning and Skills Council's accounting systems complete information on expenses claims is not held. However, claims of £76.20 and £94.10 were made for two of the panels.

Sure Start

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many childcare places were created through *(a)* Sure Start, *(b)* other public provision and *(c)* private provision in (i) 2001-02, (ii) 2002-03, (iii) 2003-04 and (iv) 2004-05, broken down by region; and what the occupancy rates were in each case. [89139]

Beverley Hughes: The following table contains the total number of new childcare places created in each region in each year from 2001-05. Data on whether places were created through Sure Start, private or other public provision are not available. Data are also not available on occupancy rates.

Region	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
East of England	8,930	9,791	16,528	6,120
East Midlands	5,735	10,607	11,188	4,740
London	10,995	11,215	18,166	14,294
North East	4,579	5,351	8,497	3,081
North West	11,939	11,251	24,507	10,693
South East	14,777	6,976	21,856	13,527
South West	9,906	8,996	9,960	7,213
West Midlands	8,674	10,761	13,054	5,466
Yorkshire and Humberside	7,244	12,181	12,107	7,452
Total	82,779	87,129	134,864	72,585

Note:
Data from 2001-03 are provided by local authorities and include both registered and unregistered places. Data from 2003-05 are provided by Ofsted and include only registered places.

Teachers

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1462W, on teachers, (1) what changes the National Assessment Agency has made to the data collection process since the publication of SFR 32/2005; [86026]

(2) what the cause was of the errors in SFR 32/2005. [86028]

Jim Knight: Up to and including 2005, data on non-core teacher assessments was collected as an aggregate value in a variety of formats including paper forms. For 2006 NAA have changed the data collection so that all teacher assessment data including non-core is collected at an individual pupil level. The data is collected electronically alongside core subjects using the Common Transfer File format (CTF). The CTF is the same standard that is used for transferring pupil data from one school to another. The change to pupil level data has also reduced the burden on schools by removing the need to transcribe and manipulate the source data. The NAA supports the Protocol on Data Sharing and Rationalisation in the Schools Sector and recognises a collective responsibility to minimise the burdens of data collection on schools and local authorities and to ensure that data collected is used effectively to support individual learning, whole school improvement and system-wide capacity building.

Errors can occur at any stage of the data collection process. Our investigations indicate that most of the errors in SFR 32/2005 were in the data supplied by schools or due to data being supplied in the wrong format.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1462W, on teachers, how many statistical first releases published by his Department *(a)* were found to contain errors following their publication and *(b)* had corrections published on his Department's website subsequent to their initial publication in each year since 2000. [86027]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table for the years 2003 to 2006[1].

1 The information is not readily available for errors corrected before July 2003 due to the functionality of the Department's website (information on updates and their nature is only stored from July 2003)

Errors and Corrections in Statistical First Releases (SFRs) from 2003[1] to 2006[2]

	Total number of SFRs published	*Number of SFRs with errors detected[3]*	*Number of errors[4]*	*Of which, errors were corrected in:*			
				2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
2000	59	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
2002	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003	42	2	2	0	0	0	2
2004	55	5	6	0	3	2	1
2005	64	6	13	0	0	5	8
2006[5]	39	2	2	0	0	0	2
Total	349	15	23	0	3	7	13

[1] 2003 figures only include errors corrected from 1 July 2003.
[2] 2006 figures only include errors corrected before 31 July 2006.
[3] All errors that are detected in Statistical First Releases are corrected and re-published on the Department's Research and Statistics Gateway
[4] For the purposes of this question, an error is defined as an occurrence where figures have been updated in a statistical first release due to problems detected with the underlying data or with the methodology. The term 'error' does not include changes to figures that are a normal part of the Department's cycle of checking data with providers (leading to provisional, revised and final figures)
[5] Total SFRs published to the 31 July 2006

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers employed in primary schools qualified via *(a)* a teaching degree, *(b)* a one year post-graduate certificate in education course and *(c)* other methods in each of the last five years. [89051]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of newly qualified full and part-time regular teachers employed in nursery and primary schools in each March between 2000 and 2004, having qualified in the previous calendar year, by method of qualification. 2004 is the latest year available.

Newly qualified[1] full and part-time regular teachers in service in the maintained nursery and primary sector in each March 2000-2004, having qualified in the previous year, by method of qualification

	Undergraduate[2]	*Postgraduate[3]*	*Other[4]*	*Total*
2000	5,410	3,580	160	9,150
2001	4,250	3,650	270	8,170
2002	4,130	4,330	440	8,900
2003[5]	4,010	4,410	1,060	9,480
2004[5]	3,560	4,600	1,620	9,780

[1] Includes teachers gaining qualified teacher status in England.
[2] Degree level routes to achieving QTS, eg BEd.
[3] Includes all post graduate routes to achieving QTS eg PGCE. Also includes those qualifying through SCITTS and the Open University.
[4] Includes employment based routes to QTS and others whose method of qualification is not recorded.
[5] Provisional estimates. (The number of teachers in service for these years may be underestimated due to the late receipt of service information.)

Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the average number of teachers who regularly watch Teachers' TV; and what the annual cost was of Teachers' TV since its inception. [89100]

Jim Knight: Teachers' TV aims to help raise standards in classrooms by helping to share good practice, support continuing professional development, offer classroom resources, and provide education news and information. The annual cost for Teachers' TV is c. £17.5 million.

The channel's target audience includes teachers, school leaders, teaching assistants and school governors. We currently estimate that 280,000 households watch Teachers TV on a monthly basis. Of these, almost 90,000 are from the school work force. At least 637,000 people watched Teachers' TV (on digital TV) between launch and the end of July 2005.

Audience measurement figures for the year ending 31 July 2006 will be published in early 2007.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the value for money of the Teachers' TV service; and if he will make a statement. [89101]

Jim Knight: Teachers' TV aims to help raise standards in classrooms by helping to share good practice, support continuing professional development, offer classroom resources, and provide education news and information. The channel's target audience includes teachers, school leaders, teaching assistants and school governors.

The Teachers' TV Board of Governors, an advisory non-departmental public body, meets monthly and its role includes holding the Teachers' TV supplier to account for the public funds it receives via an annual performance review.

In its annual report, published in December 2005, the board of governors stated that 'at an average cost per viewer per programme watched of £2.70, Teachers' TV is a cost effective way of supporting CPD delivery to the schools workforce'.

Tuition Fees

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the overall cost to public funds of increasing tuition fees by *(a)* £1,000 and *(b)* £100 if they are deferred until graduation and then repaid over (i) five and (ii) 10 years. [81112]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* The costs of fee loans (steady state in 2006/07 terms) were published on 10 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 22WS. For an average fee of £3,010 the costs would be around £620 million and for an average fee of £3,910 the costs could be upwards of £810 million[1]. In each case, we have used our existing assumptions: that a tuition fee loan is available to meet the full cost of tuition fees, that the total cost of providing tuition fee loans over their lifetime is 33 per cent. of their face value and that 80 per cent. of eligible students take them up. These estimates are approximate as significant changes in the fee level would be likely to have an effect on assumptions. The Government's policy is to have income- contingent loans where repayments are tied to salary (i.e. graduates make repayments of 9 per cent. of salary in excess of £15,000 per annum) and the repayment period is not pre-determined, so estimates based on fixed repayment periods of five and 10 years have not been made. The maximum fee cannot be raised by more than inflation until 2 January 2010 and only then with the approval of both Houses of Parliament.

[1] Cost estimates rounded to nearest £10 million.

Working Together

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1989-90W, on working together, if he will list the respondents who *(a)* agreed or strongly agreed that the Government should attempt to set out a clearer policy for professionals including the health service and youth workers on when to share information with social services and the police to protect sexually active children from harm and abuse and *(b)* agreed that there was a case for information always being shared in some circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [87312]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

G8 Summit (St. Petersburg)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he made to his G8 counterparts on putting *(a)* Darfur and *(b)* Gaza on the agenda for the G8 summit in St. Petersburg. [87471]

Mr. McCartney: I have been asked to reply.

The UK takes every opportunity to press our international partners about the situation in Darfur and Gaza. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister reported back to the House on the G8 Summit in a statement on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 153. In it he said he had discussed Sudan with several G8 leaders and with Kofi Annan. They agreed that the situation in Darfur continued to be unacceptable and that there was a need for a UN force to deploy quickly.

At the G8 summit, there were long discussions on the situation in the Middle East, including Gaza. Leaders agreed a statement, which outlines the steps required of both sides to create the conditions for a sustainable cessation of violence in the Middle East, and to lay the foundations for a more permanent solution in the region. The UK has pushed strongly for a Temporary International Mechanism to help meet the basic needs of Palestinians. The European Community has committed €105 million to it. G8 leaders decided that the mechanism should be expanded immediately to provide wider assistance to the people of Gaza. We are working closely with the Quartet and others to ensure that this happens.

NORTHERN IRELAND

MI5

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether an agreement has been reached on responsibility for the costs of *(a)* operations of MI5 in the Province and *(b)* its new headquarters; and if he will make a statement. [87976]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

I have nothing to add to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Foyle (Mark Durkan) on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 475.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Health and Safety (Temperatures)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has issued on the acceptable minimum and maximum temperatures in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school classrooms; [88786]

(2) what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has issued on minimum and maximum temperatures on school buses. [88816]

Mrs. McGuire: I shall answer both of these questions together and would also refer the hon. Member to the responses given to her questions to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1434-435W.

The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 require employers to provide reasonable working temperatures for employees in indoor workplaces, including those working in schools. The Regulations are accompanied by an Approved Code of Practice and guidance.

Since April 2005, the HSE has made available general guidance on temperatures and thermal comfort for all indoor workplaces on the HSE website: http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/thermal/index.htm. This guidance applies to employees and staff working in schools, but excludes transport such as school buses.

Minimum temperatures for classrooms are given as 18°C in the Education (School Premises) Regulations, SI No2, 1999, which are a responsibility of the Department for Education and Skills. DfES has recently issued guidance about maximum and minimum temperatures in classrooms on the popular questions website: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/popularquestions/ This explains that:

"heat stress and dehydration can be serious problems at temperatures above 35°C so that should be regarded as the maximum reasonable temperature for prolonged periods of time in school classrooms. This temperature is above comfort temperatures but healthy children should be able to cope with this if they are given generous supplies of cool water to drink. More sensitive children may experience problems at much lower temperatures and staff need to watch for signs of heat stress at temperatures above 28°C."

We are not aware of any specific guidance issued in respect of temperatures in school buses.

Heat Waves (Pensioners)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Department of Health on the mortality rates of pensioners during heat waves and if he will make a statement. [88374]

James Purnell: Ministers for both Departments regularly discuss a range of issues of mutual interest. Internal discussions or advice are not normally disclosed.

Post Office Card Account

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the migration process for Post Office card account users to a successor Post Office based account in 2010. [89129]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions and Post Office Ltd. are working together with the best interests of our joint customers in mind as we develop our plans to move people from the Post Office card account. Our priority will be to ensure that this is a straightforward process for our customers and to help the Post Office manage the transition from Post Office card accounts to other products. I have regular meetings with Alan Cook (Managing Director of Post Office Ltd.) and other senior Post Office officials to discuss the future strategy.

Post Office Ltd. is planning a three-month pilot when it will be writing to 10,000 existing Post Office card account customers to encourage them to open one of its new Instant Saver accounts.

Sure Start

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Dunfermline and West Fife have received the Sure Start maternity grant since 2001. [89044]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office. Such information as is available is in the following tables:

Sure Start maternity grants for Great Britain

	Number of awards
2001-02	201,380
2002-03	232,410
2003-04	237,780
2004-05	235,920
2005-06	237,510
2006-07 (to 30 June)	57,520

Sure Start maternity grants for Scotland

	Number of awards
2001-02	17,100
2002-03	19,580
2003-04	19,650
2004-05	19,050
2005-06	18,370
2006-07 (to 30 June)	4,480

Sure Start maternity grants for Fife Social Fund District

	Number of awards
2001-02	1,190
2002-03	1,510

Sure Start maternity grants for Fife Jobcentre Plus District

	Number of awards
2003-04	1,470
2004-05 (to 31 December)	1,080

Sure Start maternity grants for area covered by Forth Valley and Fife Jobcentre Plus District

	Number of awards
2004-05 (from 1 January)	610
2005-06 (to 31 December)	1,720

Sure Start maternity grants for area covered by Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside Jobcentre Plus District

	Number of awards
2005-06 (from 1 January)	960
2006-07 (to 30 June)	900

Notes

1. Data are not available by parliamentary constituency but only by Jobcentre Plus District, and before Jobcentre Plus Districts were used for the administration of the Social Fund, by Social Fund District.

2. The area covered by the parliamentary constituency of Dunfermline and West Fife used to be part of Fife Social Fund District. On 1 April 2003, Fife Jobcentre Plus District was formed by adding part of Tayside Social Fund District to Fife Social Fund District. From January 2005, for Social Fund purposes, Fife Jobcentre Plus District was added to most of Forth Valley and Dunbartonshire Jobcentre Plus District and part of Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Jobcentre Plus District to form Forth Valley and Fife Jobcentre Plus District. From January 2006, for Social Fund purposes, part of Grampian and Tayside Jobcentre Plus District was added to Forth Valley and Fife Jobcentre Plus District to form Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside Jobcentre Plus District.

3. Different tables thus refer to different areas and so data in one table is not comparable with data in another.

4. Figures are for all awards, irrespective of whether the award was made to the mother or her partner.

5. Some women will have received more than one Sure Start Maternity Grant since 2001-02.

6. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

TREASURY

British Citizenship

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people who had newly acquired British citizenship were contacted by the Inland Revenue in 2004-05. [88384]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

Clostridium Difficile

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths from clostridium difficile there were in the latest year for which figures are available. [88167]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths from *Clostridium difficile* there were in the latest year for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (88167)

Special analyses of deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* are undertaken annually by the Office for National Statistics for England and Wales. These are published in Health *Statistics Quarterly (HSQ)* . The latest year for which such figures are available is 2004. Information on the numbers of deaths between 1999 and 2004 involving *Clostridium difficile* was published in *HSQ* 30 in May 2006.[1] The number of deaths due to *Clostridium difficile* is difficult to estimate, the *HSQ* article explains the issues involved. The number of death certificates mentioning *Clostridium difficile* in 2004 was 2,247 and the number where it was the underlying case of death was 1,245.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2006) Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* England and Wales, 1999-2004 *Health Statistics Quarterly* 30.56-60

Consignment Relief

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of low value consignment relief on small businesses; [87419]

(2) if the Government will abolish low value consignment relief. [88429]

Dawn Primarolo: Import VAT is not chargeable on commercial consignments of goods with a value below £18 that are imported into the UK from outside the EU. The Government have received a number of representations from stakeholders on this issue, including small businesses, who have provided information on the impact of the relief. The Government continues to keep this relief under review.

Correspondence

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer why there was a delay of six months in replying to the letter of 21 November 2005 from the hon. Lady for North Down on tax credits. [76401]

Dawn Primarolo: I very much regret the delay in replying to the hon. Lady.

I asked HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) officials to let me have a report and to ensure the hon. Lady's constituent continued to receive their tax credits payments in the meantime. I am sorry to say HMRC's report was delayed and I sincerely apologise for not keeping the hon. Lady in touch with what was happening.

HMRC will write to the hon. Lady again once the problem affecting her constituent's claim is resolved.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer why the Paymaster General has not replied to the letters addressed to her of 13 October 2005, 21 December 2005, 17 February 2006, 4 April 2006 and 19 May 2006 from the hon. Member for Blackpool South with regard to his constituent Tina Bannister; and when he expects her to do so. [86102]

Dawn Primarolo: I very much regret the delay in replying to the hon. Member's letters. I have now done so.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Director of the Tax Credit Office will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 26 May. [87935]

Dawn Primarolo: The Director of the Tax Credit Office replied to the hon. Gentleman on 21 July 2006.

Insurance Premium Tax Fraud

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs regarding insurance premium tax fraud. [89124]

Ed Balls: The Treasury has regular discussions with HM Revenue and Customs on a wide range of issues.

Long-term Unemployment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are in long-term unemployment in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Dunfermline and West Fife. [88571]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployment. I am replying in her absence. (88571)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of long-term unemployed (more than 12 months), resident in the UK, Scotland and the Dunfermline and West Fife Parliamentary Constituency for the 12 months ending December 2005.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached, shows the number of people, resident in the UK, Scotland and the Dunfermline and West Fife constituency, who have been claiming JSA for more than 12 months, in June 2006 and as a proportion of the resident population of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59).

Table 1: Number of long-term unemployed[1] persons, aged 16 and over, resident in the United Kingdom, Scotland and the Dunfermline and West Fife parliamentary constituency: 12 months ending December 2005

Area	*Number (Thousand)*
United Kingdom	310
Scotland	31
Dunfermline and West Fife	1

[1] Over 12 months.
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual Population survey.

Table 2: Long-term claimants[1, 2] of Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the United Kingdom, Scotland and the Dunfermline and West Fife parliamentary constituency: June 2006

Area	*Number*	*Proportion[3, 4] of resident population of working age (percentage)*
United Kingdom	150,515	0.4
Scotland	13,459	0.4
Dunfermline and West Fife	285	0.5

[1] Computerised claims only. Data rounded to nearest 5.
[2] Over 12 months.
[3] Proportion of resident mid-2004 population estimates of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59).
[4] Proportion for Dunfermline and West Fife constituency uses denominators based on 2001 Census data adjusted to be consistent with 2001 mid-year population estimates for local authorities.

Office for National Statistics

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on legal and other advice given to the Office for National Statistics by Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 2001 and if he will make a statement. [88258]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how much was spent on legal and other advice given to the Office for National Statistics by Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 2001. I am replying in her absence. (88258)

The amounts spent on legal and other advice from 2001 to date are as follows:

	Amount (£)
2001	170,745
2002	200,809
2003	152,696
2004	Nil
2005	2,350
2006	Nil to date

Office of Government Commerce

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when the contract for legal services to the Office of Government Commerce is next likely to be subject to competitive tendering and if he will make a statement; [87603]

(2) how many organisations submitted bids for the provision of legal services to the Office of Government Commerce when it was last tendered and if he will make a statement. [87604]

John Healey: Core legal services are provided to OGC by an in-house team of Government lawyers. OGC has no plans to change this arrangement.

Some additional legal services are supplied for specific projects within OGC on a case by case basis by external lawyers. These services are procured as and when required in accordance with the procurement rules applicable to the nature and value of the particular contract.

A contract for the provision of professional legal services to OGC was signed with DLA in May 2003. No new work has been placed under this contract since December 2005. Information on the number of bidders is not available.

Personal Debt

Willie Rennie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average amount of personal debt per person and *(b)* total amount of personal debt was in (i) the UK, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Dunfermline and West Fife in the last year for which figures are available. [88440]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 25 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on personal debt in the UK. I am replying in her absence. (88440)

We are unable to provide levels of total personal debt for Scotland or by region. The following table shows estimates for the whole of the UK.

2005

	£ million
Total personal debt (end-year)	1,275,740
Average personal total debt[1] (end-year)	26,730

[1] For average per head figures, the denominator is population aged 16+

The estimates of debt and income are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. Estimates for households alone are not available. NPISHs are legal entities which are principally engaged in the production of non-market services for households and whose main resources are voluntary contributions by households. Examples of NPISHs are charities; relief and aid organisations; educational establishments; Trade Unions; Professional Associations, Political Parties and Religious Organisations, and Sports Clubs and Associations.

Further data are available from table A64 in United Kingdom Economic Accounts which is available at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Reading Training for Work Programme

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on the nationwide expansion of the Reading training for work programme in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [84809]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The National Grid Young Offender Programme is funded by National Grid. Some small costs are incurred by prisons through providing travelling expenses to the young people on the programme.

Sir David Varney

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) to whom Sir David Varney will report in his role as senior adviser on Transformational Government and what his job description is; [88368]

(2) what the budget is for the Transformational Government project and what resources Sir David Varney will be able to draw upon from within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Government Departments and agencies to assist him in his work; [88369]

(3) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* terms of reference are of the Transformational Government project and how its effectiveness in meeting its purpose will be measured; [88370]

(4) by when the Transformational Government project is expected to complete its work and whether it will publish its findings. [88371]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1064-65W.

Smog

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths have been attributed to smog in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK in each year since 1997. [88178]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths have been attributed to smog in (a) London and (b) the UK in each year since 1997.

There are no routine data for smog-related deaths collected by ONS.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his latest assessment is of the performance of the tax credits IT system; what availability problems there have been over the last six months; and if he will make a statement; [76430]

(2) if he will make a statement on outstanding problems with the national tax credit IT system; [81147]

(3) pursuant to paragraph 3.2 of the Report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration on Tax Credits in June 2005, what assessment he has made of the extent to which the tax credit system is now stable and performing well. [81783]

Dawn Primarolo: The performance of the Tax Credit System is continually monitored and is proving to be stable.

HMRC works closely with its IT supplier to resolve problems as quickly as possible to minimise the impact on claimant.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints relating to tax credits have been received by tax credit contact centres in each quarter since June 2002; and if he will make a statement. [76471]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of complaints received about tax credit contact centres since April 2004. Information before this date is not available.

Quarter	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
1	226	235
2	261	219
3	201	248
4	207	382

Note:
Figures from NI are included only from 18 June 2004.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investigations are ongoing into organised tax credit fraud; and if he will make a statement. [76994]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts: The

Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report, Part 2, available at http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/05-06/05061159.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the number of arrests for tax credit fraud in each month since December 2005; and if he will make a statement. [78391]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of arrests for tax credit fraud can only be provided from January 2006 as they were only recorded centrally from that date. The following table shows the numbers in each month since January 2006.

End of month	*Arrests*
2006	
January	7
February	10
March	12
April	7
May	3

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reform the tax credits system; and if he will make a statement. [81523]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1286, to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field).

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his oral answer of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 495, on tax credits, what the evidential basis was for the statement that the vast majority of families are receiving their tax credits at the right time and correctly. [81796]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to HMRC's publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics: finalised awards 2004-05, Supplement on payments 2004-05" available at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-payments-0405.pdf. and to "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" available on the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/index.htm

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many instances of tax credit fraud have been recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [82105]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what average length of time has been taken to process changes in tax credit awards since the new security measures were implemented; [87333]

(2) what average length of time the Tax Credit Department took to process changes in awards of *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [87334]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 18 July 2006, *Official Report* column 364W.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much has been paid in tax credits to *(a)* overseas nationals *(b)* non-British nationals of EU countries and *(c)* nationals of EU8 countries in each of the last five years; [88570]

(2) what information is *(a)* collected and *(b)* held for the last five years on (i) residency and (ii) nationality related tax credit fraud by overseas nationals and if he will make a statement. [88569]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects tax credit application forms to be available through *(a)* the national helpline and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus. [88621]

Dawn Primarolo: They are available.

TRANSPORT

Computer Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88752]

Derek Twigg: Tables showing the information, where it is readily available, as requested for DfT(c) and its Executive agencies have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Where the information is not readily available it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Websites

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many websites are owned by the Department other than the official website; and what research is undertaken by the Department on accuracy of information before it refers to external websites in answers to parliamentary questions. [83349]

Gillian Merron: In addition to the official DfT website, the Department owns 44 live public facing websites. This figure includes all Executive agency websites (some of which have been incorporated into Directgov/Transport Office or are in the process of migrating into Directgov/Transport Office) and database sites. This figure does not include NDPB websites or the three sites operated by the Air, Marine and Rail Accident Investigation Branches, who report independently to the Secretary of State for Transport.

In answering past parliamentary questions, we at times refer hon. Members to external websites. Officials will normally check the addresses of any external

websites to ensure that they work, and will make every reasonable effort to confirm that the information contained on any such website is available at the time.

Hybrid Engines

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans are in place to introduce low emission hybrid engines into public transport vehicles. [88055]

Gillian Merron: While it is not the Department's strategy to promote any specific technology for achieving lower emissions, work continues with our European partners to develop appropriate technology-neutral standards to reduce pollutant and other emissions. Specific decisions on vehicle choice are for the largely private sector companies who operate services.

Some operators have already introduced hybrid buses into service or are trialling these buses with a view to wider use. For example, 10 hybrid buses are in service on Newcastle's Quaylink service and six hybrid buses are being trialled on London's 360 route.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88974]

Derek Twigg: The Department was formed in May 2002. Tables showing the IT contracts awarded by the central Department and its Executive agencies since May 2002 have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88975]

Derek Twigg: The Department was formed in May 2002. A table showing the information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1071W, on judicial review, where information is held indicating on what occasions individuals and organisations have applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department; and how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public may have access to that information. [85387]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. The information will be held on the files of Her Majesty's Court Service, of the Department for Transport, and of the Treasury Solicitors Department. Where information is not already publicly available, it is open to hon. Members and members of the public to make a request for information relating to individual cases. Some information is also available on Her Majesty's Courts Service website (www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk) and other legal research databases, although these may be selective and are likely to be confined to cases that proceeded to judgment.

Private Aircraft Security Procedures

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures he is taking to ensure that passengers using private aircraft are subject to the same security procedures as those using commercial airlines; and if he will make a statement. [87944]

Gillian Merron: The Government take a proportionate approach to aviation security. Measures are adjusted to take account of the practicalities of different types of operation. These measures are kept under review.

Railways

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the *(a)* technical and financial contracts, *(b)* technical consultants used on a call-off basis and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by (i) the Health and Safety Commission and (ii) the Health and Safety Executive relating to railway matters in 2005-06; what the nature was of the assignment for each consultant; and what the value was of work done by each consultant. [85788]

Derek Twigg: The *(a)* technical and financial contracts; *(b)* technical consultants used on call-off basis; and *(c)* financial consultants used on a call-off basis by the (i) Health and safety Commission and (ii) Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on railway matters in 2005-06 are set out as follows. All three contracts were let by the Health and Safety Executive:

Nature of the assignment	*Consultant*	*Value of work done (£)*
(a) Phase 2 of research covering the post Hatfield incident investigation into the formation of rolling contact fatigue cracking in a range of rails	The University of Newcastle (during this project researchers transferred from the University of Sheffield)	55,000
(b) Follow up research project into initial research to determine tramway wheel and rail profiles to minimise the risk of derailment	Health and Safety Laboratory	20,000
(b) Phase 3 of research into the crashworthiness of welded aluminium railway vehicles	Health and Safety Laboratory	45,000
(c) None	—	—

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list *(a)* the consultants used in connection with the transfer of the Strategic Rail authority to DfT Rail, *(b)* the (i) private finance initiative and (ii) public-private partnership external consultants used by (A) his Department and (B) each of its agencies and *(c)* the external consultants used by (1) his Department and (2) each of its agencies,

excluding public-private partnership and private finance initiative contracts, in 2005-06; and what the *(x)* nature and *(y)* cost of the work done by each consultant was in each case. [85789]

Derek Twigg: Information about external consultants used by the central Department and its Executive agencies have already been provided in response to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz), on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1890W, and tables placed in the Libraries of the House.

Where the central Department and its Executive agencies have used consultants in connection with the private finance initiative and public-private partnerships these tables have been revised to highlight this and placed separately in the Libraries. It should be noted that five Agencies (GCDA, VGA, MCA, DSA and DVLA) did not use PPP/PFI consultants during this period.

It has not been possible to gather the data regarding the transfer of the Strategic Rail authority to DfT Rail Group. The central Department and its Agencies currently have separate accounting systems. This means that it has not been possible in all cases to provide the level of detail requested in relation to actual expenditure. The central Department and the DVLA have only been able to provide this information in relation to committed spend (i.e. orders raised and contracts awarded during the period in question).

Road Surfaces

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it remains Government policy to resurface all concrete roads with quieter materials by March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [88318]

Dr. Ladyman: The target stated in the 10 year plan for the reduction of noise from motorway and trunk road network is that 60 per cent. of the network, including all concrete stretches, will be surfaced with quieter surfacing by March 2011. We have a policy of using quieter surfaces as a matter of course whenever a road needs to be resurfaced, but not to resurface ahead of maintenance requirements.

To date the Highways Agency has resurfaced approximately 30 per cent. of the strategic road network with quieter materials.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

AONBs

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many areas of outstanding natural beauty there are in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [89058]

Barry Gardiner: There are 40 areas of outstanding natural beauty in England and Wales; four of these are entirely in Wales; 35 entirely in England; and also the Wye Valley which is in both Wales and England.

Area-based Initiatives

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which towns in Cornwall have been engaged in the Coastal and Market Towns Initiative; how much *(a)* central and *(b)* local government funding has been spent on each; and which have completed the process and produced a final report. [87524]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows, for each Cornish town engaged in the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, how much *(a)* central and *(b)* local government funding has been granted, and the expected completion date for each town's Strategic Action Plan.

£

Town	*Community strategic plan produced/expected*	*South west RDA funding (central)*	*MCTA interim funding*[1]	*Local authority funding*
Bodmin	July 2005[2]	60,000	9,984	[3]6,000
Camelford and Delabole	November 2004[2]	26,500	0	2,500
Hayle	September 2006	60,000	0	[3]6,000
Helston	September 2006	55,000	5,000	[3]5,500
Launceston	April 2004[2]	50,000	500	[3]5,000
Looe	March 2007	43,650	0	4,850

[1] Awarded to those towns requesting additional support to help with the implementation stage of their plan.
[2] Indicates that the initiative has already been completed.
[3] Informed estimate indicated where data is unknown (it is a stipulation of each grant that a minimum of 10 per cent. grant should be provided by each local authority).

£

Town	*Community strategic plan produced/expected*	*South west RDA funding (central)*	*MCTA interim funding*[1]	*Local authority funding*
Lostwithiel	April 2004[2]	40,500	8,990	[3]4,500
Mevagissey	Withdrawn from initiative	25,000	0	[3]2,500
Penzance	March 2007	43,200	0	4,800
Saltash	June 2006[2]	30,000	5,000	5,500
St. Ives	September 2006	44,611	0	4,957

£

Town	Community strategic plan produced/expected	South west RDA funding (central)	MCTA interim funding[1]	Local authority funding
St. Just	December 2006	42,811	0	4,757
Torpoint	June 2006[2]	60,000	Will receive 6,000	6,000
Tamar Valley[4]	April 2003[2]	103,400	0	Unknown

[1] Awarded to those towns requesting additional support to help with the implementation stage of their plan.
[2] Indicates that the initiative has already been completed.
[3] Informed estimate indicated where data is unknown (it is a stipulation of each grant that a minimum of 10 per cent. grant should be provided by each local authority).
[4] This MCTI constituency comprises areas within both Devon and Cornwall.

Biosphere Reserves

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many biosphere reserves there are in England; and if he will make a statement. [89056]

Barry Gardiner: In England there are currently three Biosphere Reserves designated under the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme. They are:

1. Braunton Burrows (North Devon), designated in 2002.

2. North Norfolk Coast (Norfolk), designated in 1976.

3. Moor House—UpperTeesdale (Northumberland), designated in 1976.

All three of these sites are underpinned by national and European site protection legislation.

Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal or marine ecosystems which are internationally recognised under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme launched in 1971.

British Waterways

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what funding British Waterways received from his Department in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [87403]

(2) what funding British Waterways will receive from his Department in each of the next three financial years. [87405]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 July 2006]:* As part of the Spending Review 04 settlement, British Waterways was given an indicative grant allocation of £62.59 million for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

However, following a number of pressures on DEFRA's budget, this figure has been reduced to £55 million for 2006-07. A budget review exercise for 2007-08 is underway which is examining expenditure across the whole of DEFRA.

Carbon Emissions

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps *(a)* to co-ordinate and *(b)* to implement an integrated approach across Departments to reduce the UK's carbon emissions. [87473]

Ian Pearson: The Government already has an integrated approach to tackling climate change. The UK Climate Change Programme 2006 and the recently published Energy Review, set out the Government's plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in respect of the 2010, 2020 and 2050 climate change targets and includes a number of co-ordinated policies and measures from across Government Departments.

We are also working to set up an Office for Climate Change in the near future that will take up the drive for progress on the climate change agenda. The Office will have an important contribution to make and will be a shared resource, reporting to Ministers across Government.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter dated 5 June from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. D. Edwards. [88721]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was sent on 19 July 2006.

Countryside (West Midlands)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage the preservation of the countryside in the West Midlands. [88333]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* The West Midlands Region covers an area of 13,000km^2 and comprises two major conurbations—Birmingham, Coventry and the Black Country in the centre, and Stoke on Trent and the Potteries to the north. Around 80 per cent. of the land area is in agricultural or forestry use, with the Region having a greater proportion of Grades 1, 2 and 3 land (Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales) than the average for England.

The region has four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), three Environmentally Sensitive Areas, 14 National Nature Reserves, 60 Local Nature Reserves, 19 Special Areas of conservation, one Special Protection Area, 19 Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) and 439 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It is covered by 26 Character Areas, which describe and define its natural and man-made landscape.

Approximately 30 per cent. of the agricultural land in the West Midlands is managed under the provisions of agri-environment schemes. There are currently 4,890 live agreements and the annual spend totals £27.63 million. Coverage is increasing annually towards the target of 70 per cent. of the land to be included in entry level schemes by 2008.

The formation of Natural England, following the Rural Strategy 2004, brings together English Nature, parts of the Countryside Agency, and the environment and land-based activity of the Rural Development Service. The new agency will help land managers to improve biodiversity, landscape, access, recreation and sustainable food and farming.

In the financial year 2006-07, Natural England have offered a total of £890,000 in the form of grants for core funding and projects in the West Midlands. This includes 240,000 from the Sustainability Development Fund to the four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Cannock Chase, Malvern Hills, Shropshire Hills and Wye Valley.

In 2005-06 the Environment Agency habitat creation projects covered a total of 103 hectares in the West Midlands; these received funding totalling £147,000. These projects form part of the Environment Agency's work on Flood Risk Management. They endeavour to maximise the impact of its investment by protecting properties from flooding as well as enhancing the natural environment, in line with the DEFRA strategy, "Making Space for Water".

Departmental Spending

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* marine nature reserves, *(b)* national nature reserves, *(c)* national parks, *(d)* sites of special scientific interest, *(e)* biosphere reserves and *(f)* areas of outstanding natural beauty in England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [89057]

Barry Gardiner: There is considerable overlap in the geographic areas to which these designations apply. Moreover, funding from a variety of different multi objective mechanisms is available in these areas, in support of all these designations but also for other purposes not listed here. These mechanisms include, for example, the various agri-environment schemes which are funded by my Department, as well as wider funding such as lottery programmes and EU funds.

Total funding from these sources in support of each of these designations cannot therefore be calculated. However, it is possible to identify the following DEFRA funding via its grant in aid to the different delivery bodies involved, which is exclusively in support of one or more of the different designations listed.

English Nature's designated sites programme supports its work on Sites of special scientific interest, national nature reserves, biosphere reserves and marine nature reserves. The programme covers the cost of their work associated with these different designations including the management of land owned by English Nature and management agreements with landowners. The spend relating to this programme is set out in the following table.

£

Financial year	English nature spend	National park and the Broads authority Grant	Areas of outstanding natural beauty grant
1997-98	10,000,000	[1]23,840,000	[2]
1998-99	10,300,000	[1]23,322,667	[2]
1999-2000	12,400,000	[1]25,749,333	[2]
2000-01	13,800,000	25,666,000	[2]
2001-02	17,800,000	27,920,833	5,090,000
2002-03	18,800,000	32,993,854	6,200,000
2003-04	35,000,000	37,159,000	6,500,000
2004-05	40,700,000	35,756,154	7,200,000
2005-06	43,100,000	42,130,000	11,000,000

[1] These are estimate figures.
[2] £1.5 million to £2.0 million steadily increasing to £3.5 million in 2000-01

Notes:
1. All the figures for English Nature include a small element of EU and lottery funding. The figures for years 2003-04 onwards include salary and admin costs. Capital modernisation funding (years 2002-03 and 2003-04) and sheep national envelope funds (years 2003-04 and 2004-05) also received by English Nature have been excluded.
2. Funding for areas of outstanding natural beauty is provided by the Countryside Agency from the Grant in Aid provided by DEFRA. The sums involved are not ring-fenced by DEFRA. The Countryside Agency supplies 75 per cent. of core funding for areas of outstanding natural beauty (80 per cent. for Conservation Boards) with the remainder supplied by the constituent local authorities; and up to 50 per cent. of project costs with the remainder provided by third parties.
3. It is not possible for the Countryside Agency to provide precise funding figures prior to 2001, nor yet for 2006-07. The figures quoted are for the delivery of the full Countryside Agency areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty programme which includes core and project funding, information and publicity, legal advice, the initial set-up costs of creating the first two AONB Conservation Boards and the introduction of a sustainable development fund.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to his Department from the access to work scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget he plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of access to work funding for central Government Departments; and if he will make a statement. [89005]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA does not hold information centrally on the use of the access to work scheme. Managers access the scheme directly and liaise with their local service provider.

DEFRA is actively considering means by which it can continue to support disabled staff, following the withdrawal of access to work funding from 1 October 2006.

Dogs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* American pit bull terriers, *(b)* Staffordshire bull terriers and *(c)* American Staffordshire terriers are owned by residents in (i) the constituency of Hammersmith and Fulham and (ii) England; and if he will make a statement. [88056]

Mr. Bradshaw: The terms "American pit bull terrier" and "American Staffordshire terrier" are sometimes used to describe pit bull terriers which are prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Some people have been allowed to keep these dogs by adding them to the list of exempted dogs set up under the 1991 Act. Figures for legally held pit bull terriers, which have been described as American pit bull terriers and American Staffordshire terriers are available. However, no records are kept on the numbers of Staffordshire bull terriers as they are not a specified dog for the purposes of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

The following table gives the numbers:

Legally held dogs under section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

	Hammersmith and Fulham	*Number England*
American Pit Bull Terriers	1	1,067
American Staffordshire Terriers[1]	1	3

[1] For the purposes of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, an American Staffordshire terrier is a pit bull terrier type dog. The figures reflect the type names as provided by the owners.

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will undertake *(a)* an assessment of and *(b)* a public consultation on the merits of (i) encouraging and (ii) requiring dogs to have identifying microchips implanted at birth for the purposes of improving animal welfare. [87760]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Local Government Act 1988 repealed the old dog licence on the grounds that it cost more to administer than the revenue it produced. Recent information shows that there has been very little change in the population of dogs and the number of straying dogs since 1988. There is no evidence to suggest that the opinion of dog owners has changed and that any new scheme introduced would be adopted.

We currently have no plans to reintroduce a dog licence, or to introduce requirements for dogs to be microchipped. Responsible dog owners voluntarily undertake having their pets permanently identified and registered on nationwide databases. We also continue to support voluntary identification. The effectiveness of dog licensing was also limited by the fact that in the last year licenses were administered, only 44 per cent. of owners applied for their licence.

Energy Crops

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many tonnes of each category of energy crop were cultivated in *(a)* 1999, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2005; and what estimate he has made of production of each energy crop in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2012; [89161]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to promote the cultivation of energy crops. [89162]

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the level of energy crops available for biomass energy generation; and what steps he is taking to increase it. [88438]

Ian Pearson *[holding answers 25 July 2006]:* Information on the cultivation of energy crops is only available for crops planted under DEFRA's Energy Crops Scheme. The first plantings were in 2001 for short rotation coppice (which is harvested on a three-year cycle) and 2002 for miscanthus (harvested annually from the second year). Based on actual plantings from 2001-05 and forecasts prepared in 2005 for plantings in 2006-09, based on industry estimates at that time, and assuming average yields of 9 and 14 tonnes per hectare for short rotation coppice and miscanthus respectively, the estimated yields are as follows:

Estimated yields

	Oven dried tonnes	
	Short rotation coppice	*Miscanthus*
2005	1,700	1,900
2009	18,000	250,000
2012	100,000	500,000

However, actual planting will depend on commercial decisions by growers and is likely to be influenced by the nature of contracts and support which are available.

The Government currently provides support to help establish energy crops, develop supply chains, and create end-use markets. The Government set up a Biomass Task Force in 2004 to identify the barriers to developing biomass energy, including energy crops, and to recommend ways to overcome the problems. The Government's response to the Task Force report was published in April 2006 and sets out 12 key initiatives and over 60 associated actions to help realise optimum use of biomass as a resource. These measures include agreement in principle to support energy crops under the new Rural Development Programme for England, further grant support for biomass supply chains, a capital grant scheme for biomass boilers, a commitment to consider using biomass in the Government estate, and the establishment of a new biomass energy centre to provide expert information and advice to industry and the public. We also intend to publish a UK Biomass Strategy in the coming year.

Support for miscanthus under the new Rural Development Programme for England is subject to clarification of issues with the European Commission which remain to be resolved.

EU Food Designations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many successful applications for the European Union's *(a)* Traditional Speciality Guaranteed designation, *(b)* Protected Geographical Indication designation and *(c)* Protected Designation of Origin status have been made by (i) the UK and (ii) each of the European Union member states since the designation's inception. [88777]

Barry Gardiner: The number of successful applications made by (i) the UK and (ii) each of the

EU member states for the three designations under the European Union's Protected Food Names Scheme since its inception is as follows:

	(a) Traditional speciality guaranteed	*(b) Protected geographical indication*	*(c) Protected designation of origin*
(i) The UK	1	20	15
(ii) Other EU member states			
Austria	—	4	8
Belgium	5	2	2
Cyprus	—	—	—
Czech Republic	—	3	—
Denmark	—	3	—
Estonia	—	—	—
Finland	3	—	1
France	—	78	69
Germany	—	32	37
Greece	—	23	61
Hungary	—	—	—
Ireland	—	2	1
Italy	1	50	105
Latvia	—	—	—
Lithuania	—	—	—
Luxembourg	—	2	2
Malta	—	—	—
Netherlands	—	1	5
Poland	—	—	—
Portugal	—	39	54
Slovakia	—	—	—
Slovenia	—	—	—
Spain	3	41	56
Sweden	2	2	—

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps have been taken to encourage UK food producers to apply for the European Union's *(a)* Traditional Speciality Guaranteed designation and *(b)* Protected Designation of Origin status. [88779]

(2) what steps have been taken to encourage UK food producers to apply for the European Union's Protected Geographical Indication designation. [89060]

Barry Gardiner: For a number of years now we have been actively seeking to raise awareness about the European Union's Protected Food Name Scheme and encourage more UK applications. The scheme provides a means for farmers to add value to their produce and market it in a more imaginative way, particularly given consumers' growing interest in food with a clear regional provenance. Promotion of the scheme forms part of our wider strategy of support for the quality regional food sector.

DEFRA has written to a large number of trade associations and producers to remind them of the economic benefits to producers of achieving protected name status. We have also written to a large number of trade associations and producers to remind them of the economic benefits to producers of achieving protected name status.

In addition, the Department has held positive meetings with a number of key organisations including the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, the Meat and Livestock Commission, the British Pig Association and the Milk Development Council to discuss possible applications.

We have also commissioned research to determine the awareness, perception, and attitudes towards, the EU protected food name schemes among UK retailers available on the DEFRA website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodrin/foodname/reglocal/adasresearchpdo.pdf and contributed to press articles promoting the scheme.

Finally, we have tasked Food from Britain with working with the Regional Food Groups and producers to raise awareness of the scheme and encourage more applications.

I am pleased to say that all this effort is bearing fruit. There are currently 36 UK products registered including Stilton Cheese (PDO), Scotch Beef (PGI), Welsh Lamb (PGI), Cornish Clotted Cream (PDO) and Arbroath Smokies (PGI). A further 24 applications are currently being considered.

EU Directives

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department are employed on implementing and administering EU directives, regulations and policies. [86750]

Barry Gardiner: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed on implementing and administering EU directives, regulations and policies is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost

Farm Livestock

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has issued on the acceptable minimum and maximum temperatures for the rearing and transportation of farm livestock. [89047]

Mr. Bradshaw: Responsibility for the welfare of farm animals rests with my Department.

DEFRA's welfare codes for the main farmed livestock, include advice on maintaining temperatures within limits which are not harmful to farm animals. These are available on the DEFRA website at: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/on-farm.htm#welfarecodes Similarly, DEFRA has issued guidance on the welfare of animals in hot weather. This guidance is available on the DEFRA website at: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/heat/index.htm

There is an obligation on those looking after animals to avoid causing them unnecessary suffering. It is an offence if the welfare of an animal is compromised as a result of a failure to take appropriate action in response to extremes of temperature.

Fisheries Grant

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the

fisheries grant was for each year between 2000 and 2006. [84675]

Mr. Bradshaw: The amount of fisheries grant for each of the years between 2000 and 2006 was as follows

	£
2006 to date	680,039.71
2005	5,719,432.56
2004	10,050,612.33
2003	3,398,786.30
2002	7,839,180.08
2001	1,339,029.85
2000	0

This covers payments of grant made in England under the Fisheries Instrument for Financial Guidance (FIFO) and the former Harbour Grants scheme.

Flood/Coastal Defences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the change in the condition of flood and coastal defences based on *(a)* the interim results of the updating of the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database and *(b)* the most recent previous estimate of the defences. [87629]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England, from both rivers (those designated as "main") and the sea, and has assumed responsibility for some 1,800 additional watercourse lengths transferred from other operating authorities over the last three years. The Agency uses the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database (NFCDD) to monitor the condition of its assets, with a review of progress held on a quarterly basis. The frequency of individual asset inspection depends on the level of flood risk involved. A comparison of quarterly figures is as follows:

Asset condition—comparison of quarterly figures from NFCDD 2005-06

	2005		2006		
	July	*October*	*January*	*April*	*July*
Defences—agency maintained					
Total length recorded (kilometres)	12,155	14,051	15,247	17,969	19,304
Percentage urban in conditions 1 and 2	51	51	54	59	59
Percentage urban in condition 3		43	41	36	36
Percentage in urban conditions 4 and 5		6	5	5	5
Defences—3rd party maintained					
Total length recorded (kilometres)	7,456	8,479	9,613	9,930	10,972
Percentage urban in conditions 1 and 2	50	44	48	42	47
Percentage urban in condition 3	—	52	48	54	49
Percentage urban in conditions 4 and 5	—	4	4	4	4
Structures—agency maintained					
Total number recorded	13,140	13,783	13,967	14,304	14,941
Percentage urban in conditions 1 and 2	75	74	77	76	75
Percentage urban in condition 3	—	21	19	20	21
Percentage in urban conditions 4 and 5	—	4	4	4	4
Structures—3rd party maintained					
Total number recorded	29,371	29,130	29,177	27,997	26,538
Percentage urban in conditions 1 and 2	56	56	56	59	59
Percentage urban in condition 3	—	37	37	34	34
Percentage in urban conditions 4 and 5	—	7	7	7	7

Notes:
Condition Grade
1 = Very good, fully serviceable (no remedial work required).
2 = Good, minor defects (minor routine maintenance work required).
3 = Fair, some cause for concern, requires monitoring (significant maintenance work required).
4 = Poor, structurally unsound now or in near future (major remedial works required).
5 = Very poor, completely failed or derelict (requires complete reconstruction).
"3rd party maintained assets" are those on main rivers or the sea which are maintained by parties other than the Environment Agency such as other operating authorities, riparian owners etcetera.

Under DEFRA's High Level Target 2, the other operating authorities are responsible for ensuring that inspections of their assets are carried out and the results recorded on the NFCDD. Defra has not carried out any assessment of the results of these inspections.

Free Sat

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the BBC's development of Free Sat on affordable television reception in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [86046]

Barry Gardiner: The Department has made no such assessment. The proposed BBC Free Sat is a very helpful development. It will give greater choice to

consumers, both before and after digital switchover. It is particularly attractive to homes not currently served by digital terrestrial television in rural areas who have limited choice.

Genetic Use Restriction Technologies

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what criteria will be used to assess whether appropriate scientific data is available in relation to the field testing of products incorporating Genetic Use Restriction Technologies; and who will be responsible for making the assessment; [88416]

(2) what criteria will be used to assess whether appropriate scientific assessment of the ecological and socio-economic impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies has been carried out; and who will make that decision; [88418]

(3) what criteria will be used to determine that the conditions for the safe and beneficial use of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies have been validated; and who will make that decision. [88419]

Ian Pearson: It is for each party to the convention on biological diversity to assess whether:

(1) appropriate scientific data is available in relation to the field testing of products incorporating Genetic Use Restriction Technologies.

(2) appropriate scientific assessment of the ecological and socio-economic impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies have been carried out.

(3) the conditions for the safe and beneficial use of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies have been validated.

Decisions in the European Union on applications to approve genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are made on a case-by-case basis taking full account of a scientific assessment of the particular GMO and the risks associated with its use against the criteria in the EU legislation. An application for a GMO incorporating Genetic Use Restriction Technologies would be dealt with in the same way as any other GMO. Approval would only be granted if the evidence showed that a deliberate release of the GMO would not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Greyhounds

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has held with greyhound racing authorities in order to ensure all retiring greyhounds are properly cared for; and if he will make a statement. [87512]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department set up the Greyhound Welfare Working Group to examine the welfare aspects of greyhound racing, including arrangements for the dogs' retirement. The group includes representatives from animal welfare organisations and the greyhound racing industry.

The group will offer advice to Ministers and officials on future regulations, including a code of practice.

M40 (Noise)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish a copy of the noise map covering junctions 3 to 7 of the M40, drawn up to comply with European Directive 2002/49/EC. [88316]

Mr. Bradshaw: We aim to publish the information requested by summer 2007. It will be available on a website with the facility to search down to postcode level.

Marine Nature Reserves

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many marine nature reserves there are in England; and if he will make a statement. [89054]

Barry Gardiner: There is one Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) in England, Lundy Island, off the coast of North Devon.

The MNR arrangements are, in common with the other site safeguard provisions of the 1981 Act, based on the "voluntary approach" and are thus dependent on securing the co-operation of all the local interests concerned—for example, fishermen, divers, local authorities,—to agree the detailed provisions for protecting each site.

The development of marine nature conservation is more likely to make progress through the implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives. The EC Habitats Directive aims to contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity by establishing a network of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which, together with the sites designated under the EC Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas) are known as Natura 2000. These include marine sites as well as terrestrial sites. Some 36 marine sites were included in the initial list of possible SACs by the Government.

Melbourne Marine Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department for Transport, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* the Scottish Executive and *(d)* the Scottish Environment Protection Agency regarding the ship-to-ship oil transfer planning application by Melbourne Marine Services in the Firth of Forth. [89065]

Ian Pearson: The Department has taken part in discussions with the Department for Transport and the Scottish Executive in relation to obligations under the habitats directive and the ship-to-ship oil transfer planning application by Melbourne Marine services in the Firth of Forth.

The Department has not had contact with any local authorities or contact with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency in relation to the ship-to-ship oil transfer planning application by Melbourne Marine services in the Firth of Forth.

Migrant Labour (Farms)

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many migrant workers worked on British farms in 2005; and how many he estimates there will be in 2006. [69780]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

In 2005, 878 applications for work permits were approved under 'Agricultural Activities'.

Figures for the first four months of 2006, i.e. 1 January 2006-30 April 2006, shows that 280 applications for work permits were approved under 'Agricultural Activities'.

Moths

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential impact on biodiversity of trends in the numbers of common species of moths. [87966]

Barry Gardiner: The Government funds surveys and draws on evidence from many sources relating to different groups of plants and animals, and their habitats, to assess trends in biodiversity.

Moths are an important element of many ecosystems. They pollinate plants and, together with their caterpillars, provide food for many other species including birds, bats and small mammals. The decline in the number of common moths over the past 30 years, shown by the Rothamsted Insects Survey, is likely to affect other species.

National Nature Reserves

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many national nature reserves there are in England; and if he will make a statement. [89055]

Barry Gardiner: Currently, there are 220 national nature reserves in England covering 92,560 hectares. All national nature reserves are also classed as sites of special scientific interest.

National Parks

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many acres of national park there are in England; and if he will make a statement. [89053]

Barry Gardiner: The eight National Parks in England and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads together cover some 10,496 square kilometres or about 2,593,618 acres.

Natural England

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much was originally budgeted for the transition of English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency into Natural England; and if he will make a statement; [88684]

(2) how much the restructuring of English Nature, Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency to create Natural England cost in each year since 2003; [88692]

(3) how much has been paid to external consultants in establishing Natural England in each year since 2003; and from which budgets the funding came; [88697]

(4) whether the residual budgets from English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency will be carried forward into the budget of Natural England. [88698]

Barry Gardiner: This Department's original cost estimates for establishing Natural England were set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment, published in May 2005, to accompany the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill. The costs were forecast to be between £25.4 million and £36.8 million.

Actual annual costs incurred since 2003 for the establishment of Natural England are as follows:

	Annual costs (£ million)
2003-04	
2004-05	0.698
2005-06	9.12

The cost of external consultants in establishing Natural England has come from DEFRA's budget and are as follows:

	Costs (£)
2003-04	
2004-05	47,383
2005-06	2,067,565
2006-07	263,651

A final decision on the budget for Natural England in the 2006-07 financial year will be made soon. As not all the responsibilities of the Countryside Agency and Rural Development Service will transfer to Natural England, Natural England will not inherit all of those bodies' resources.

Organic Meat

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the measures in place to prevent farmers labelling their meat as organic without complying with UK and EU regulations; how many farmers were found to be doing so in each year since 1997; what action was taken against them; what recent discussions the Government have had with the certification bodies for the organic sector on preventing such action; and if he will make a statement. [88601]

Ian Pearson: Anyone who produces an organic agricultural product, or processes or imports an agricultural product for human consumption or animal feed, must be certified by an approved organic certification body. These bodies can sanction against breaches of the organic standards. However, they do not enforce action against uncertified production that

claims to be organic. The enforcement of the Organic Product Regulations rests with the relevant local authority.

The Department has regular contact with Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) in order to ensure that the regulations are effectively implemented. The Department does not keep statistics on the enforcement of the labelling part of the UK and EU Organic Regulations. Anyone who suspects the provenance of an organic product are encouraged to report the matter to their local trading standards office to investigate.

Research Establishments

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of Government research establishments funded by his Department are located in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [88862]

Mr. Bradshaw: The three DEFRA laboratory agencies, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) each have their headquarters and main laboratory facilities in England. The VLA also has 15 regional laboratories, of which one is in Scotland, two in Wales and 12 in England.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* office management and services staff and *(b)* scientific staff are employed at each public sector research establishment funded by his Department. [88863]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information for the three DEFRA laboratory agencies, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the Central Science Laboratory (CSL) and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) is as follows:

Agency	*Scientists (including veterinarians)*	*Management and administration*	*Total staff*
CEFAS	370	138	508
CSL	619	150	769
VLA	987	332	1,319

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to implement the recommendations of the Final Report of the Research Council Institute and Public Sector Research Establishment Sustainability Study Steering Group. [88864]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA is in discussions with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council on a Memorandum of Understanding to agree a framework for putting the principles of the Research Council Institute and Public Sector Research Establishment Sustainability Study (RIPSS) into practice. Issues around capital investment and risk in the context of DEFRA's ownership of its three laboratory agencies are being taken forward through the Department's Laboratory Strategy Programme. The other RIPSS recommendations, insofar as they apply to DEFRA, have been implemented or reflect existing practice.

Rural Payments Agency

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when meetings were held between Ministers from her Department and *(a)* the chief executive of the Rural Payments Agency, *(b)* members of the senior management team of the Rural Payments Agency and *(c)* Accenture since January 2003; and which Ministers were present. [66745]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 April 2006]:* DEFRA Ministers have met with the RPA chief executive, members of his senior management team and Accenture on a regular basis, including at single payment scheme stakeholder meetings. The Minister for Sustainable Farming and Food, and on occasion the Secretary of State, met with the RPA chief executive and/or his senior management team to specifically discuss matters related to the SPS on the following dates:

2005

17 May 2005
30 June 2005
19 July 2005
27 July 2005
13 September 2005
29 September 2005
4 October 2005
5 October 2005
13 October 2005
20 October 2005
8 November 2005
11 November 2005
1 December 2005
16 December 2005

2006

10 January 2006
30 January 2006
6 February 2006
14 March 2006
22 March 2006
28 March 2006
29 March 2006
5 April 2006
11 April 2006
12 April 2006
18 April 2006
19 April 2006
25 April 2006
4 May 2006
8 May 2006
10 May 2006
17 May 2006
24 May 2006
31 May 2006
7 June 2006

20 June 2006
21 June 2006
12 July 2006

Separate ministerial meetings involving Accenture were held on 12 May 2006, 26 July 2005 and 16 December 2005.

Dates of meetings prior to the general election in May 2005 are not readily available.

Single Farm Payments

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much it has cost to implement the subsidy system for the Single Farm Payment scheme. [76216]

Barry Gardiner: The total cost of implementing the Single Payment scheme (SPS) in England, including associated business processes and systems, was £105.4 million. This expenditure includes the cost of establishing entitlements; processing, validating, inspecting, paying and accounting for claims; populating new rural land and customer registers; creating a document management unit and communicating with customers via scheme literature, seminars and advertising. These systems will underpin the delivery of SPS and other schemes to 2012 and beyond.

The SPS 2005 scheme year payments In England amount to around £1,515 million (net of modulation).

SSSIs

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites of special scientific interest there are in England; and if he will make a statement. [89052]

Barry Gardiner: Currently, there are 4,120 sites of special scientific interest in England covering 1,074,216 hectares of land.

Sustainable Food and Farming

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of his Department's sustainable food and farming research budget has been spent in research establishments based in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [88860]

Mr. Bradshaw: The proportion expressed as percentages of the Department's sustainable farming and food research spent in research establishments i.e. research institutes in Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland is given in the following table.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Wales	13.5	14.7	16.5	17.9	17.3
England	18.1	19.5	21.9	20.5	17.4
Scotland	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.0	2.9
N Ireland	—	—	—	—	—

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of his Department's research and development budget has been spent on research establishments based in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [88861]

Mr. Bradshaw: The proportion expressed as percentages of the Department's research and development budget for research establishments i.e. research institutes in Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland is shown in the following table.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Wales	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.2	4.5
England	16.0	15.5	14.1	12.9	11.2
Scotland	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.2	0.9
N Ireland	—	—	—	—	—

Waste Collection

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much *(a)* garden and *(b)* kitchen waste was collected by local authorities in each year since 2000; [87160]

(2) what assessment he has made of the barriers to the use of *(a)* home composters for garden waste and *(b)* food waste digesters for kitchen waste; [87161]

(3) what estimate he has made of the level of use of *(a)* home composters for garden waste and *(b)* food waste digesters for kitchen waste; [87162]

(4) what his policy is on the use of *(a)* home composters for garden waste and *(b)* food waste digesters for kitchen waste. [87163]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answers 24 July 2006]*: Local authorities in England collected an estimated 798 thousand tonnes of organic material (kitchen and garden waste) for composting in 2000-01, 940 thousand tonnes in 2001-02, 1.2 million tonnes in 2002-03 and 1.4 million tonnes in 2003-04. It is provisionally estimated that this has increased to around two million tonnes in 2004-05. This organic waste is collected for centralised composting schemes from households via kerbside schemes or taken by householders to Civic Amenity sites.

Composting is high up the waste hierarchy and is supported by a range of policies that promote sustainable waste management. Composting, including home composting of kitchen and garden waste, is also likely to play an increasingly important role in diverting biodegradable waste from landfill in line with the Government's waste strategy objectives and obligations under the Landfill Directive.

The Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) indicate that over 34 per cent. households participate in home composting schemes, with 23 per cent. of British households composting both kitchen and garden waste. WRAP is working with local authorities and other partners to improve the uptake of home composting through the distribution of one million home composting bins to households across the country.

No estimate has been made by the Department on the level of use of food waste digesters for kitchen

waste, nor has any assessment been made of the use, (or barriers to the use) of these, or home composters. Advice and best practice for home composting is available from a range of organisations including WRAP: http://www.recyclenow.com/home_composting/.

Waste Disposal Prosecutions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region have been prosecuted for the illegal (i) transport, (ii) deposit and (iii) storage of waste in each of the last three years; and what total amount was paid in fines in each year. [88149]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency records the numbers of prosecutions it takes nationally for illegal waste disposal. The number of prosecutions taken for the illegal deposit of waste and the average fines paid for illegal dumping of waste, are shown in the following tables.

For section 33(1)a Environmental Protection Act 1990—illegal deposit

	Number
2002-03	269
2003-04	254
2004-05	232
2005-20	219

Average fines for illegal dumping

	Number
2002	2,286
2003	2,102
2004	2,191
2005	3,394

Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, was set up in 2004. Data held on Flycapture indicate local authorities are taking a wide range of enforcement action. Prior to April 2005 the 'actions taken' page of the Flycapture database was not mandatory and therefore the picture is patchy. However, data from 2005-06 indicate that local authorities reported 1,479 prosecutions for illegal dumping. The total amount paid in fines for this period is reported to be £268,243.

This Department does not hold national data on prosecutions taken for the illegal transport of waste.

Water Companies

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sanctions Ofwat can impose on water companies which fail to meet leakage targets; and whether he has discussed possible sanctions against Thames Water with Ofwat. [80615]

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what penalties are in place for water companies which fail to meet their leakage reduction target; and if he will make a statement. [81013]

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) is adequately fulfilling its statutory remit in respect of all water companies, with particular reference to Thames Water; what measures he is able to take to ensure that it does so; and if he will make a statement. [81091]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is responsible for setting leakage targets and has powers to deal with poor performance.

Should Ofwat conclude that the failure of a water company to manage leakage constitutes a failure of the duty under section 37 of the Water Industry Act to maintain an efficient water supply system, it has two options for regulatory action. It has powers to initiate enforcement action under section 18 of the Water Industry Act to require the water company to take specified steps to reduce the level of leakage. Since April 2005, it also has powers to impose a financial penalty under section 22A of the Water Industry Act.

I have discussed with Ofwat the issues of leakage and enforcement options available, but Ofwat is independent of Ministers.

Following Thames Water's failure to meet its leakage, Ofwat announced it has secured a legally binding undertaking, committing Thames Water to £150 million of additional investment in replacing leaking mains. This is more than double the maximum imposable fine and will come from the shareholder, not the bill payer. Ofwat has also set revised leakage targets for the period up to 2010 to get the company's leakage reduction back on track and to take leakage down to 720 megalitres/day by 2009-10 rather than the old target of 725 megalitres/day. It is right that the consumer does not bear the burden of the increased investment needed for Thames Water to deal with its failure to meet its leakage targets.

Ofwat will closely monitor the company's progress. Subsequent failures will lead to further enforcement action, including fines if appropriate, from 2007. Ofwat will not hesitate to use its tough powers against any company that clearly fails to meet its responsibilities to consumers.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1858W, on water companies, what the evidential basis is in each region for the improvement in *(a)* efficiency, *(b)* drinking water quality and *(c)* water environment, broken down by region; and what the leakage rates have been in each region in each year since 1980. [86241]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat sets demanding efficiency targets at each price review. The companies judged to be least efficient by Ofwat must make the biggest reductions in costs. In addition, there are incentives for companies to beat Ofwat's efficiency assumptions, which reward the companies in the short term (up to five years) and customers, through lower bills in the longer term.

Ofwat estimates that savings from efficiency improvements between privatisation and 1 April 2005 have resulted in bills £90 lower than they otherwise

would have been. The price limits set by Ofwat in 2004 assume further savings in bills of at least £16 in the five years up to 2009-10.

The impact of past efficiency savings on the average household bill along with a reduction for future efficiency improvements are published at each price review in Ofwat's Final Determinations publication.

Drinking water in England and Wales is of a very high quality. Between 1994 and 2003 tests were taken according to the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 1989 that arose from the 1980 Drinking Water Directive. Table 1 shows a year-on-year improvement in compliance with the standards. Table 2 shows the reduction in the numbers of samples failing to meet standards.

Table 1: Drinking Water Quality

	Overall compliance with Regulatory standards (Percentage)
1994	99.28
1995	99.45
1996	99.70
1997	99.75
1998	99.78
1999	99.82
2000	99.83
2001	99.86
2002	99.87
2003	99.88
2004[1]	99.94
2005[1]	99.96

[1] New regulations applied from 2004

Table 2: Drinking Water Quality

	Total number of breaches of standard
1994	25,171
1995	17,341
1996	9,107
1997	7,434
1998	6,245
1999	5,148
2000	4,475
2001	4,054
2002	3,741
2003	3,418
2004[1]	1,145
2005[1]	955

[1] New regulations applied from 2004

Both bathing water quality and river water quality have also improved. Monitoring by the Environment Agency has shown compliance with the mandatory standard of the Bathing Water Directive has risen from 79.3 per cent. in 1990 to 98.8 per cent. in 2005. Compliance with its more stringent guideline standard has risen from 34.2 per cent. in 1990 to 83.8 per cent. in 2005.

In England, 62 per cent. of rivers were of good quality in 2004 compared with 43 per cent. in 1990. In all years since 1993 over 90 per cent. of rivers in Wales have been of good chemical quality. Table 3, shows the chemical quality of rivers from 1990-2004.

Further improvements in water quality are anticipated as the Water Framework Directive is implemented between now and 2015. Based on a more sophisticated understanding of water quality than existing assessment methods, this Directive sets demanding targets for the ecological and chemical quality of surface waters and chemical and quantitative quality of groundwaters.

Ofwat publishes leakage figures by company, in its annual security of supply, leakage and efficient use of water report. Table 4, shows leakage rates from 1990-91, which is the earliest year that figures are available.

Table 3: River and Canal Water Quality: Chemical quality of rivers and canals[1]: 1990[2], 1995, 2000-04, England, Wales, Northern Ireland

	Length in km[4]									
	Good		*Fair*		*Poor*	*Bad*		*Percentage of total*		
Years[3]	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*Total*	*Good*	*Fair*	*Poor or bad*
EA Region										
North West										
1990	719	598	556	436	648	204	3,161	42	31	27
1995	1,159	1,927	1,027	695	758	132	5,697	54	30	16
2000	2,151	1,361	1,196	500	469	55	5,732	61	30	9
2001	2,231	1,271	1,255	559	367	65	5,748	61	32	8
2002	2,252	1,313	1,122	568	441	44	5,740	62	29	8
2003	2,209	1,294	1,149	638	371	78	5,740	61	31	8
2004	2,134	1,413	1,145	581	386	90	5,748	62	30	8
North East										
1990	840	1,603	557	441	607	176	4,224	58	24	19
1995	2,107	1,781	872	626	764	82	6,232	62	24	14
2000	1,629	2,527	1,120	518	402	45	6,240	67	26	7
2001	1,724	2,336	1,214	558	376	25	6,233	65	28	6
2002	2,097	2,132	1,118	484	380	50	6,261	68	26	7
2003	2,121	2,070	1,015	498	406	48	6,157	68	25	7
2004	1,965	2,399	961	448	382	44	6,200	70	23	7

Table 3: River and Canal Water Quality: Chemical quality of rivers and canals[1]: 1990[2], 1995, 2000-04, England, Wales, Northern Ireland

	Length in km[4]									
	Good		Fair		Poor	Bad		Percentage of total		
Years[3]	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total	Good	Fair	Poor or bad
Midlands										
1990	450	1,519	1,619	968	956	131	5,643	35	46	19
1995	777	2,183	2,121	885	548	66	6,579	45	46	9
2000	1,191	2,779	1,677	613	401	22	6,682	59	34	6
2001	1,280	2,949	1,468	552	424	14	6,686	63	30	7
2002	1,254	2,961	1,436	644	366	23	6,684	63	31	6
2003	1,187	2,721	1,570	741	464	44	6,726	58	34	8
2004	1,227	2,515	1,770	645	496	51	6,703	56	36	8
Anglian										
1990	36	759	1,691	1,189	786	102	4,564	17	63	19
1995	250	1,638	1,468	850	580	28	4,815	39	48	13
2000	591	1,785	1,442	628	345	25	4,815	49	43	8
2001	807	1,976	1,161	533	331	8	4,815	58	35	7
2002	640	1,981	1,267	520	404	4	4,815	54	37	8
2003	395	1,719	1,486	693	483	4	4,782	44	46	10
2004	348	1,666	1,569	758	454	9	4795	42	48	10
Thames										
1990	293	992	1,098	519	618	42	3,563	36	45	19
1995	534	1,299	1,160	573	216	13	3,796	48	46	6
2000	968	1,539	685	389	206	3	3,791	66	28	6
2001	1,032	1,537	711	395	112	2	3,789	68	29	3
2002	973	1,595	781	267	169	4	3,789	68	28	5
2003	833	1,600	764	384	188	15	3,784	64	30	5
2004	814	1,601	795	374	183	20	3,788	64	31	5
Southern										
1990	238	713	672	292	238	33	2,186	44	44	12
1995	276	972	585	217	152	20	2,222	56	36	8
2000	462	868	524	218	145	3	2,219	60	33	7
2001	353	943	549	202	176	1	2,223	58	34	8
2002	284	688	757	320	180	1	2,230	44	48	8
2003	236	545	826	395	219	5	2,226	35	55	10
2004	261	633	749	337	247	6	2,233	40	49	11
South West										
1990	1,644	2,700	1,301	695	363	68	6,771	64	29	6
1995	2,331	2,276	1,042	224	174	43	6,090	76	21	4
2000	2,753	2,198	768	184	144	1	6,047	82	16	2
2001	2,786	2,184	771	153	166	1	6,061	82	15	3
2002	2,568	2,473	687	158	161	13	6,061	83	14	3
2003	2,426	2,448	774	249	140	18	6,055	80	17	3
2004	2,443	2,389	788	244	172	17	6,052	80	17	3
England										
1990	4,197	9,164	7,670	4,643	4,297	772	30,742	43	40	16
1995	7,693	12,291	8,358	4,106	3,212	384	36,044	55	35	10
2000	9,934	13,345	7,515	3,064	2,127	154	36,138	64	29	6
2001	10,426	13,478	7,200	2,978	1,963	123	36,167	66	28	6
2002	10,286	13,416	7,237	2,997	2,115	141	36,191	65	28	6
2003	9,577	12,512	7,627	3,638	2,289	213	35,856	62	31	7
2004	9,386	12,703	7,795	3,446	2,340	236	35,906	62	31	7

[1] Based on the GQA chemical classification system.
[2] Figures are three-year averages ending in the year shown
[3] Lengths are rounded to the nearest 1 km and may not exactly sum to totals.
[4] As the length of monitored rivers greatly increased in 2002, data are shown here for only those rivers that were being monitored before 2002.
Source publication:
e-Digest of Environmental Statistics, Published August 2005, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm

Table 4: Water Company leakage rates

Total leakage	*1990-91*	*1991-92*	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*
Anglian	195.39	152.67	272.85	279.87	298.35	313.49	275.69	290.06
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	7.53	9.23	27.3	26.8	27.48	27.48	28.51	26.27
Bristol	56.41	17.55	63.77	51.9	58.7	65.53	64.83	59.34
Cambridge	12.38	12.89	16.05	15.74	15.42	15.98	15.92	14.4
Dee Valley	11.57	8.96	18.97	18.45	13.65	14.57	12.99	12.19
Dwr Cymru	306	303.1	383.42	386.63	390.13	412.94	357.15	329.42
Essex and Suffolk	—	—	95.92	94.45	97.97	90.27	84.77	82.18
Folkestone and Dover	17.34	10.57	14.33	12.84	12.28	12.73	11.57	8.71
Mid Kent	75.5	24.85	39.48	43.05	40.28	39.68	38.23	36.06
North Surrey	34.44	29.36	29.7	28.72	29.38	31.35	27.46	
United Utilities	772.2	896.21	944.87	897.2	873.56	789.01	665.86	578.78
Northumbrian	—	—	180.29	181.61	186.68	189.81	192.39	184.47
Portsmouth	42.44	27.28	33.42	32.99	32.66	30.34	30.3	32
Severn Trent	401	373	569.53	613.7	665.45	632.07	478.6	398.99
South East Water	93.79	73.06	89.66	101.93	104.94	94.17	98.8	107.92
South Staffs	74.35	43.19	87.28	88.91	94.93	92.92	90.12	81.84
South West	140	120	157.82	151.65	144.95	142.01	129.08	101.06
Southern	192.9	117	160.61	141.4	132.59	119.99	112.73	98.78
Sutton and East Surrey	—	—	34.71	31.31	26.96	26.06	27.2	25.93
Tendring Hundred	4.4	4.7	5.56	6	6.11	6.38	6.32	5.75
Thames	688	648	802.99	929.54	1,077.58	1,108.69	1,082.92	905.55
Three Valleys	115	165.7	175.3	161.1	157.61	168.12	171.85	—
Three Valleys/North Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	172.58	137.61
Wessex	94.8	95.5	136.67	137.01	140.09	132.55	128.76	109.75
Wrexham	8.2	4.48	7.61	6.11	7.34	7.41	7.79	7.47
York	6.15	8.64	11.08	10.98	10.43	9.93	9.79	—
Yorkshire	455.7	334	493.77	514.3	535.71	485.04	419.76	—
Yorkshire and York	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	377.21

Total leakage	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Anglian	205.77	190	194.17	224.34	192	216.11	214.4
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	25.7	22.66	22.52	22.38	22.17	22.2	22.19
Bristol	56.38	54.02	54.55	54.59	53.25	53.35	53.47
Cambridge	13.07	12.81	13.26	13.76	13.93	13.55	14.16
Dee Valley	11.89	12.52	11.55	11.34	11.01	10.36	10.63
Dwr Cymru	306.01	288.4	260.16	245.22	233.62	231.3	225.97
Essex and Suffolk	76.35	73.4	72.39	72.95	66.95	70.2	66.77
Folkestone and Dover	8.71	8.47	8.6	8.43	8.39	8.17	8.4
Mid Kent	30.08	29.18	28.88	28.69	27.64	29.69	28.7
North Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Utilities	510.27	487	463.26	452	464.91	479.19	499.57
Northumbrian	170.72	167.8	163.59	161.36	152.78	160.19	154.92
Portsmouth	30.48	30.25	30.02	29.77	29.69	29.5	29.86
Severn Trent	344.25	340.1	340.24	340.28	513.77	512.01	502.02
South East Water	97.56	96.59	85.43	74.59	72.1	69.15	69.3
South Staffs	77.11	75.6	72.21	71.49	71.4	71.42	74.32
South West	91.64	83.7	83.6	83.46	83.74	83.8	83.14
Southern	94.84	92.69	91.68	91.95	91.9	91.6	91.57
Sutton and East Surrey	24.94	24.38	24.42	24.45	24.41	24.47	24.33
Tendring Hundred	5.49	5.39	5.52	5.16	5.19	5.07	5.01
Thames	770.39	661.9	687.89	864.91	943.29	946.04	914.61
Three Valleys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Three Valleys/North Surrey	144.8	140.28	157.1	152.48	152	148.96	—

Total leakage	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Wessex	100.29	88.31	84.23	79.31	74.84	74.87	72.64
Wrexham	7.43	—	—	—	—	—	—
York	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and York	342.24	316.5	304.42	296.72	295.82	295	292.73

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87063]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is as follows:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office services recruitment: April 2000-March 2001

	Date	£
Overall recruitment advertising costs	2000	56,707
Specialist recruitment		
Regional medical officer	April 2000	7,535
Research analysts	May 2000	9,640
Management accountant	May 2000	8,525
Technology manager	May 2000	13,488
ICT manager	May 2000	12,546
Chief executive, FCO services	May 2000	16,880
Economists	July 2000	33,901
Conflict management adviser	July 2000	32,672
Information officer	July 2000	5,750
Research Analysts	July 2000	26,097
Accountants	September 2000	69,243
Regional financial officer	January 2001	25,206
Assistant legal adviser	March 2001	23,966

Foreign and Commonwealth Office services recruitment: April 2001-March 2002

	Date	£
Overall recruitment advertising costs	2001	194,061
Specialist recruitment:		
Regional medical officer	May 2001	22,920
Research analysts	May 2001	25,208
Nurse	May 2001	28,242
Employment law officer	June 2001	30,764
Research officer	July 2001	37,900
Head of HR statistics	July 2001	43,952
Accountants	July 2001	37,683
Regional medical officer	July 2001	21,444
Auditors	October 2001	24,945
Research analysts	November 2001	34,427
Forward planner	January 2002	28,025

Foreign and Commonwealth Office services recruitment: April 2001-March 2002

	Date	£
Communications support worker	February 2002	8,713
Legal researcher	February 2002	3,604
Assistant legal adviser	February 2002	30,870
Senior editor	February 2002	33,259
Generalist recruitment		
Administrative assistants	2001	20,293
Executive assistants	2001	37,634
Operational officers	2001	38,913
Management officer	March 2001	60,340
General advertising		
Diversity advertising	2001	203,050

Foreign and Commonwealth Office services recruitment: April 2002-March 2003

	Date	£
Contracts manager	April 2002	3,800
Deputy head of global procurement	April 2002	5,690
Professional and technology officer	April 2002	8,323
Assistant workshop supervisor	May 2002	180
Nursery nurse	April 2002	353
Nursery manager	July 2002	2,841
Head of technical security	May 2002	12,288
Field investigating officers	September 2002	7,350
Mail room assistants	November 2002	900
Assistant Government butler	March 2003	5,228
French/German translator	March 2003	157
Nursery assistant	March 2003	2,323
I.T helpdesk, systems developer, I.T analyst	March 2003	7,936
Computer and electronic engineer apprentice	March 2003	9,212
Nursery assistant	March 2003	2,323
Specialist recruitment		
Accountants	April 2002	28,810
Research analysts	May 2002	20,765
1st Secretary France/2nd Secretary Taiwan	September 2002	22,661
2nd Secretary science and technology	September 2002	13,980
Managing editor	September 2002	9,819

Foreign and Commonwealth Office services recruitment: April 2002-March 2003

	Date	£
Financial officers	September 2002	14,981
Chief accountant	January 2003	22,497
Generalist recruitment		
Administrative assistants	2002	33,690
Executive assistants	2002	37,288
General advertising		
Diversity advertising	2002	183,109

Foreign and Commonwealth Office services recruitment: April 2003-March 2004

	Date	£
Field investigating officers	October 2003	7,530
Nursery assistant	November 2003	485
HR advisor positions	December 2003	5,300
Finance managers for supply chain—ICT and estates group officer	January 2004	7,424
Executive assistant	February 2004	2,047
IT helpdesk officer	March 2004	10,760
Specialist recruitment		
Independent monitor	April 2003	21,067
Research analysts	April 2003	21,326
Science and technology officer	July 2003	12,455
Assistant librarians	August 2003	7,500
Clinical services manager	September 2003	11,784
Finance Officer	September 2003	10,756
Chief librarian	January 2004	8,215
Nurse-Dhaka	February 2004	14,003
Generalist recruitment		
Administrative assistants	2003	18,817
Executive assistants	2003	29,977
Operational officers	2003	35,393
General advertising		
Diversity advertising	2003	156,844

Foreign and Commonwealth Office services recruitment: April 2004-June 2004

	Date	£
IT helpdesk officer	April 2004	10,496
Field investigating officers	June 2004	17,540
Generalist recruitment		
Administrative assistants	2004	8,485
Executive assistants	2004	49,702

Generalist recruitment information for 2000 can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the current threat to the authority of the Afghanistan government by non-statutory and illegal armed groups in Afghanistan; and what progress has been made towards their disbandment in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact. [86559]

Margaret Beckett: Although non-statutory and illegal armed groups present an obstacle to extending the authority of the Afghan Government, we do not assess that they pose a serious threat to stability. We assess that the recent upsurge in violence in the south of Afghanistan is in part—if not wholly—a response to the Coalition's current vigorous activity in the area, and that overall it does not represent an increased threat to the stability of the Afghan state. However, the International Community and the Afghan Government are monitoring the situation closely.

The Afghanistan Compact sets the goal for disbandment of all illegal armed groups by the end of 2007. Since the start of the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups process in June 2005, over 24,000 weapons have been handed in.

Africa (Chinese Migrant Workers)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact on each African state's economy of Chinese migrant workers. [86722]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made no assessment of the impact on each African state's economy of Chinese migrant workers. The best way for Africa to reduce poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals is through increased trade and investment. The movement of people to Africa, where well managed, can bring benefits to African economies and new skills, technology and knowledge which support growth and development. The Government have raised common issues of interest in Africa with the Chinese Government and we will continue to encourage China to engage with Africa in a way that reinforces the principles set out in the African-led New Partnership for Africa's Development agenda of democracy, transparency, promotion of peace and stability, competitiveness and sustainable growth.

African Migrants

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who represented the UK at the European-African Migration Conference in Morocco; and what the UK's policy is on *(a)* African migration to Europe and *(b)* Africans who migrate to the Canary Isles. [86724]

Mr. Hoon: I represented the UK at the Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development that took place in Rabat from the 10-11 July.

The UK continues to work closely with EU and African partners to address migratory flows from Africa across the Mediterranean. In December 2005, at

the last European Council under the UK presidency, member states agreed the "Global Approach to Migration" paper, a comprehensive, practical guide to managing migration in partnership with third countries in Africa and the Mediterranean. It lays out a number of priority actions, including:

following the Rabat conference on West Africa, the development of regional initiatives examining further migration routes through co-operation with source, transit and destination countries;

enhanced co-ordination and increased sharing of information within member states' networks of Immigration Liaison Officers on key illegal immigration routes in Africa;

support for a Regional Protection Programme in Tanzania, designed to strengthen the capacity of Tanzanian institutions to protect refugees;

a risk analysis compiled by Frontex, the EU Border Agency, on irregular migration flows through Africa, and two feasibility studies, one exploring the possibility of a regional network to reinforce maritime controls and surveillance in the Mediterranean and a second to examine the technical feasibility of establishing a surveillance system to cover the entire southern EU maritime border.

The UK particularly supports work that seeks to strengthen the commitment of all partners, African and European, to work together to maximise the benefits of well-managed legal migration and minimise the risks of uncontrolled, illegal immigration.

In addition to this long-term approach, the UK is also working to address the impact of sudden influxes of migrants. In response to the ongoing crisis in the Canaries, the UK is deploying two immigration officials to the area to assist in conducting nationality and identity interviews with intercepted migrants. Malta also faces acute socio-economic challenges as a consequence of illegal sea-borne migration from North Africa. In response to a request from the Maltese authorities via Frontex, the UK has deployed an official to Malta to assist with nationality and identity interviewing, offered strategic advice on returns and, pending the outcome of a forthcoming planning meeting, will assess the possibility of offering further assistance through an expert in maritime intelligence and experts in de-briefing irregular migrants for the purposes of intelligence gathering.

British Embassies (Security)

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Group Four Security provides security services at British embassies abroad. [87125]

Mr. Hoon: Our 233 diplomatic missions abroad have delegated authority to arrange contracts for security services locally. Details of these contracts are not held centrally in London and could be established only at a disproportionate cost. However, at a recent management conference to discuss administration issues for our posts in Europe, it emerged that Group Four is the largest security provider for these posts.

Chevening Scholarships

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening Scholarships were awarded in each of the last three years. [88002]

Mr. Hoon: The number of Chevening Scholarships awarded in each of the last three years were 2,387 in the academic year 2002-03; 2,401 in 2003-04 and 2,124 in 2004-05.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening Scholarships were awarded to students from *(a)* India, *(b)* Malaysia, *(c)* China, *(d)* Pakistan and *(e)* Korea in each of the last five years. [88003]

Mr. Hoon: The number of Chevening Scholarships awarded to students from the countries listed is set out as follows:

Country	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
India	135	130	133	121	130
Malaysia	54	48	57	56	36
China (including Hong Kong)	224	211	290	311	277
Pakistan	51	51	57	62	52
Korea (South)	66	82	75	71	67

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in her Department in each month since March 2005. [88758]

Mr. Hoon: As my right. hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) explained to the hon. Member in his answer of 23 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1795-97W, while core IT equipment is centrally provided, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office also operates a devolved system of budgeting under which Directorates and overseas posts have freedom to buy a range of IT and other equipment to support their work.

These purchases are not recorded centrally and a full answer would require extensive research and could not be provided without incurring excessive cost.

Departmental Employees (Criminal Activity)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of her Department's employees have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997. [88454]

Mr. Hoon: We do not keep records which show specifically when criminal activity may have been a reason for disciplinary proceedings to be instigated. Members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office can be dismissed for gross misconduct because they have failed to adhere to staff regulations which form part of the terms and conditions of service. The total number of UK based staff who were dismissed for reasons of misconduct, but not necessarily involving criminal activity, are as follows:

	Number
1997	—
1998	—
1999	—
2000	—
2001	1
2002	1
2003	5
2004	2
2005	2
2006 to date	3

We do not keep historical data of staff who have been suspended. The current position is that there are three members of staff suspended from duty.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was paid to her Department from the Access to Work Scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget she plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government departments; and if she will make a statement. [89020]

Mr. Hoon: The total amount received from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for Access to Work funding last year was £88,900.59. This figure does not include funding claimed by staff direct from the DWP. Staff who do claim such support are under no obligation to notify the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

From October 2006, when Access to Work funding from the DWP will cease, these costs will be covered from central FCO Human Resources budgets.

Environmental Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if she will make a statement. [81184]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to managing its estate in a sustainable manner and has operated an ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System (EMS) at our main building in London since 2002, extended to the old Admiralty building in 2004. We are integrating this EMS with the EMS operating on our rural site at Hanslope Park in Buckinghamshire and plan to extend ISO certification to Hanslope Park in the autumn.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the recent decision of the Argentine Parliament to establish a commission which will investigate how to win control of the Falkland Islands. [86425]

Mr. Hoon: The Argentine Congressional Observatory on the Falkland Islands was established on 29 June, with the purpose of bringing together Argentine academics and legislators to promote communication and dialogue about the Falkland Islands.

The Government and the Falkland Islands Government remain ready to explore ways of improving practical co-operation with Argentina on issues of mutual benefit. However, we have made consistently clear to the Argentine Government that there can be no negotiations on sovereignty unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish.

Hobsbawn and Macauley Communications

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much her Department has paid to Hobsbawn and Macauley Communications for services in each year since 1997. [88062]

Mr. Hoon: No payments have been made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to this supplier in the UK in this period. Information is not held centrally on payments made by posts to suppliers and it would incur disproportionate costs to ask posts to provide this information.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which IT contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88991]

Mr. Hoon: The only significant IT contract cancelled by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the last five years was the Focus Programme, as outlined in a written statement on 28 April 2003, *Official Report*, column 2WS. The net cost of cancelling the relevant contract was £7 million, as set out by the then Foreign Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) in answer to a written question from the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 7 May 2003, *Official Report*, column 738W.

Lebanon

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects the Security Council to consider the proposed UN stabilisation force in Lebanon; and if she will make a statement. [87755]

Mr. Hoon: We welcome the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. The resolution's objectives are clear: to bring about a full cessation of hostilities; to create the space for an urgent humanitarian relief effort; and to begin a process leading to a permanent ceasefire and a durable peace.

Urgent work is under way to strengthen the UN force in Lebanon as quickly as possible, to carry out the range of important new tasks set out in UNSCR 1701. The force will need to be built up from around 2,000 at present to a maximum of 15,000. This is the responsibility of the UN, which will need to work quickly with potential troop providers to build up the force and agree operational plans.

We strongly welcome the contributions announced by EU member states at the 25 August General Affairs and External Relations Council.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment had been made prior to 12 July of progress towards the general disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militia in Lebanon in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1559. [88119]

Margaret Beckett: In his report of 26 April 2006 to the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1559 noted that the Government of Lebanon had taken measures to limit the existence of Palestinian arms outside the refugee camps, but more remained to be done. The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy also recorded that there had been no noticeable change in the operational status and capabilities of Hezbollah.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the names are of the *(a)* Lebanese and *(b)* non-Lebanese militias within Lebanon that must be disarmed in accordance with Resolution 1559. [88120]

Margaret Beckett: UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1559 does not specify individual militias within Lebanon. In his report to the Security Council on 8 October 2004, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Implementation of UNSCR 1559 identified the most significant remaining armed group in Lebanon as Hezbollah. He also referred to the need to disarm the Palestinian armed groups in Lebanon.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the most recent assessment prior to 12 July was of *(a)* the size and active strength of the Hezbollah militia and *(b)* progress towards its disarmament. [88121]

Margaret Beckett: Prior to 12 July, the Ministry of Defence assessed that Hezbollah's military wing comprised some 1,000 full time personnel, augmented by reservists in times of crisis, and possessed as many as 13,000 rockets.

In his April 2006 report, the Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General noted that

"the provisions of resolution 1559 (2004) calling for the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory, and strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government have not yet been fully implemented".

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the last discussion prior to 12 July took place between her Department and the government of Lebanon regarding the disarmament of Hezbollah in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1559; and if she will make a statement. [88122]

Margaret Beckett: There is regular and close contact between the UK and the Government of Lebanon, including discussions about the disarmament of Hezbollah in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1559. The subject was discussed when my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Fuad Siniora, on 9 May this year. The UK supports full implementation of UNSCR 1559, including the disarmament of Hezbollah and the efforts of the Lebanese Government to assert its sovereignty and authority throughout its territories.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the extent of Hezbollah involvement in terrorist activity was last reviewed; and what the finding of the review were. [88125]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are keeping Hezbollah's activities under constant and active review. We have condemned Hezbollah's recent actions. Hezbollah's External Security Organisation has been a proscribed organisation in the UK since 2001. As the Minister of State for Policing, Security and Community Safety my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty) told the House on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 490, the list of proscribed organisations is kept under constant review.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will arrange for a copy of the most recent report of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the implementation of UNSCR 1559 to be placed in the Library. [88126]

Margaret Beckett: A copy of the April 2006 report from the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the implementation of UN Security-Council Resolution 1559 will be placed in the Library of the House. I will also arrange for officials to send a copy of the report to the right hon. Member.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what form of support the UK Government have provided to the Government of Lebanon over the last five years to the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory; and if she will make a statement. [88128]

Margaret Beckett: The UK played a leading role in passing UN Security Council Resolution 1559 in September 2004. This called for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and supported the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory. Since Syrian troops withdrew in April 2005, we have been giving practical assistance to the Lebanese Government to

help it assert its authority over its territory. This has included sending UK experts to advise on security sector reform, training courses for the Lebanese security forces and a visit by a UK military team to review equipment requirements for the Lebanese armed forces in its new role.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment had been made prior to 12 July 2006 of progress towards the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1559; and if she will make a statement. [88129]

Margaret Beckett: When the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1559 presented his report to the Security Council on 26 April 2006 he concluded that the Government of Lebanon still did not fully exert control over all Lebanese territory. He noted that

"the primary factors impeding the extension of Lebanese Government control over all of Lebanon's territory are the existence of armed groups outside the control of the Lebanese Government and uncertainty over the exact boundaries of the Lebanese territory. Timely implementation of tangible measures towards the disarming and disbanding of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and towards the delineation of the border between the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon will be an important step towards the extension of the Government's control over all its territory".

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries the Government have held discussions on the possibility of a new United Nations force for Lebanon; and with which other countries discussions are planned. [89156]

Mr. Hoon: There are ongoing meetings in New York on details of the new United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. A number of countries have indicated a willingness to contribute. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has spoken to UN Secretary General Annan as well as his Lebanese, French and Italian counterparts. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has also been in regular touch with her US and Egyptian counterparts.

During the visit to the region of the Minister of State for the Middle East, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), on 22 to 24 July, he discussed this with his Lebanese, Israeli and Jordanian interlocutors. More recently my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed this matter with the French Foreign Minister.

We also remain in regular contact at official level with our international partners.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received regarding the setting up of a reconstruction fund for Lebanon; and if she will make a statement. [89157]

Mr. Hoon: We will play our full part in the humanitarian and reconstruction effort. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has been in direct touch with Lebanese Prime Minister Siniora about ways in which the UK can support the recovery effort, including through providing emergency bridging to help the flow of assistance. During his visit to Beirut on 15 August, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development announced an additional £6 million of humanitarian assistance, bringing the total contribution to £12.5 million. UK funding has so far helped to provide and deliver food, water, health, hygiene, other essential supplies and mine-clearing activities.

Middle East

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to visit the Middle East. [87556]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary continues to be engaged with developments in the Middle East and will travel to the region soon. On 21 July my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, visited Cyprus to see British evacuation operations and meet British nationals who have been evacuated from Lebanon. On 22-24 July the Minister of State for the Middle East, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) visited the region. On 22 July he met with Lebanese Prime Minister Siniora and Lebanese Foreign Minister Salloukh and others. On 23 July he met Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Livni to raise our concerns about the situation. On 24 July, he also visited Amman meeting with Jordanian Prime Minister Bakhit and his Royal Highness Prince Faisal.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister intends to visit the region, in particular Israel and Palestine, over the coming period, and will consult those there and of course members of the Quartet on the best way forward. Our priority must be to create the conditions for an early resumption of negotiations based on the Quartet Roadmap. Negotiation is the only viable way to bring peace and prosperity to the people throughout the Middle East.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she last met the Scottish First Minister; and what subjects were discussed. [88765]

Dr. Howells: Ministers have regular dialogues with ministerial colleagues in the Scottish Executive, discussing a wide range of issues of mutual interest. It is not our practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Nigeria

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the UK Government have had with *(a)* the Nigerian Government and *(b)* the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Committee on the transparency of the forthcoming Nigerian presidential elections. [88298]

Mr. McCartney: Our high commission in Abuja regularly discusses preparations for elections in 2007 with the Nigerian Government. We are also working

closely with Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure elections are peaceful and as transparent as possible. Most recently, officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development discussed election preparations with the chairman of INEC in London on 11 July.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government plan to send monitors to the forthcoming Nigerian presidential elections. [88299]

Mr. McCartney: The Government's contribution to external monitoring of elections in Nigeria next year will principally be through the EU's Election Observation Mission. We plan to send observers as part of this mission.

A team from our high commission in Abuja will also participate in elections monitoring.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what administrative functions for which her Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment she has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81552]

Mr. Hoon: None of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office administrative functions, which would normally be managed in the UK, are outsourced overseas.

Some customer-facing aspects of our overseas visa operation are outsourced to commercial partners in several countries. This provides applicants with more convenient locations at which to apply and has eliminated queues and attendant security problems at our diplomatic missions. Precise details vary from country to country and are set out in commercial service level agreements. Local partners receive applications with supporting documents which are sent on to visa sections in diplomatic posts. Under no circumstances do they assess applications or advise on likely outcomes. We are considering further expansion of this activity through a public contract procurement process.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by her Department or public bodies for which she is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83181]

Mr. Hoon: This information is not held centrally and to collate it would incur disproportionate cost.

Royal Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2152W, on the Royal visit (USA), what elements made up the other reimbursements to the household totalling £8,497.45 referred to in the answer. [87798]

Margaret Beckett: The elements of the other reimbursements to the household totalling £8,497.45 referred to in the reply I gave my hon. Friend on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2152W, are made up as follows:

Daily Allowances
Travel Insurance
Stationery
Telephone costs
Taxis
Toll charges
Airport parking
Fuel charges
Hotel room charges
Meals
Laundry
Combination padlocks
Gratuities

Russian Federation

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the extent to which the Russian Federation is complying with the provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty. [86250]

Mr. Hoon: The UK, with other G7 members, has encouraged Russia to move forward during its G8 Presidency and ratify the Energy Charter Treaty, of which it is already a signatory and applies on a provisional basis.

The UK is concerned that the proposed Russian Gas Export law would appear to contradict several of the major provisions of the Energy Charter Treaty, including the provisions on Transit. Through the EU, we continue to work with Russia towards an agreed text for the Transit Protocol while at the same time emphasising to Russia the importance of open, transparent, efficient and competitive markets at all stages of the energy supply chain as the key to global energy security.

UN Small Arms and Light Weapons Review

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the UN Small Arms and Light Weapons Review conference; which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department attended the conference; and if she will make a statement. [87174]

Dr. Howells: It was very disappointing that the UN Small Arms Review Conference failed to agree an outcome document. However, we made progress on our main objectives. We secured consensus language on small arms transfer controls and increased support for integrating small arms control and armed violence reduction measures into development assistance.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member

for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas), represented the UK at the High Level Segment of the Conference, supported by officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence.

US-UK Extradition Treaty

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representations she has received on the US-UK Extradition Treaty in 2006. [88328]

Mr. McCartney: The hon. Member for Reigate (Mr. Blunt) raised concerns about the US-UK Extradition Treaty during a debate in this House on 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 166, following which my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn, the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) wrote to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 20 April about the matter. A copy of that letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any representations about the US-UK Extradition Treaty.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bankruptcy

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people have declared themselves bankrupt in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Dunfermline and West Fife in each year since 1997. [89043]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI only has responsibility for bankruptcies within England and Wales.

The following table shows the number of bankruptcy orders in England and Wales in each year since 1997.

England and Wales bankruptcy orders

	Number
1997	19,892
1998	19,647
1999	21,611
2000	21,550
2001	23,477
2002	24,292
2003	28,021
2004	35,898
2005	47,291

Bolt Guns

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what checks are made on people purchasing bolt guns; and if he will make a statement. [87513]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Captive-bolt stunning devices used in the slaughter of animals are not firearms within the definition of the Firearms Act 1968. They are regarded as tools of the trade and, as such, are not required to be held on a firearms certificate.

DNA Sequences

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he will require companies to check the use to which DNA sequences ordered from them are to be put prior to their dispatch to customers; [79988]

(2) if he will take steps *(a)* to license suppliers of DNA sequences and *(b)* to screen customers for the legitimacy of their proposed use of DNA sequences. [79989]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answers 26 June 2006]:* There are no specific regulations that govern the sale, supply, or purchase of DNA sequences. The potential chemical hazards associated with the sequence itself would be covered by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended); if DNA sequences were to be used to create a biological agent, the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2000 (as amended) are likely to apply. These provide for a high level of protection for human health and the environment (including animal and plant health). In addition, the Specified Animal Pathogens Order 1998 (SAPO), administered by DEFRA, regulates possession of nucleic acid derived from any animal pathogen specified under SAPO. In all cases the relevant containment and operating requirements laid down by HSE/Defra would need to be met.

Provisions in the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 place an obligation on managers of laboratories and other premises holding specified pathogens or toxins to notify the authorities and to comply with the security requirements which the police may impose.

There is a wide range of legitimate uses to which DNA sequences may be put and the imposition of onerous controls could discourage valuable scientific research and industry use. The Government do not believe that it is necessary to require suppliers of DNA sequences to be licensed or for them to screen customers or check the intended use of the sequences. But we will continue to monitor the situation as the relevant technologies develop.

Energy (Schools)

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to paragraph 3.35 of the Energy Review, Cm 6887, what plans he has to share with his counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government the practical lessons learned in the refurbishment of schools in England, including energy savings and carbon reductions. [86422]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The DfES and the Welsh Assembly Government will maintain contact throughout their respective building programmes, and officials will keep each other informed of major developments which impact on energy use in schools, or which influence Government

policy with respect to the design and construction of school buildings as they arise. There is extensive published material available from the DfES on its capital programme to support the design and construction of sustainable schools. This includes minimum standards that cover energy efficiency and renewable energy for new buildings and refurbishments within the schools capital programme.

Case studies for completed school projects, energy benchmarking data, exemplar design solution and details of demonstration projects are also publicly available from the DfES.

Parliamentary Questions

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many written questions to his Department remained unanswered at 25 July for between *(a)* two and four weeks, *(b)* between four and six weeks, *(c)* between six and eight weeks and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [87919]

Mr. Darling: According to the Department's parliamentary database the total number of unanswered parliamentary questions as at 25 July was 123.

Of these 100 were tabled for answer within the last 10 working days.

The number remaining unanswered for between two and four weeks is eight, of which only one was a named day question.

The number remaining unanswered for between four and six weeks is six, of which only one was a named day question.

The number remaining unanswered for between six and eight weeks is nine, of which named day questions totalled two.

The Department aims to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day and to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of them being tabled. This is not always possible but the Department makes every effort to achieve it.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much subsidy was paid to co-firing generators using wood supplies through the Renewables Obligation Certification Scheme in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2005 and what estimate his Department has made of subsidy costs to co-firing generators in 2008. [89041]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the Renewables Obligation, electricity suppliers can meet up to a specified percentage of their obligation through co-firing. In 2002-03 and 2005-06, this was 25 per cent. It will be 10 per cent. in 2008-09.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of the UK's total biomass requirements was supplied from harvesting of energy crops in 2005-06 and what he expects this percentage to be in 2012. [89042]

Malcolm Wicks: Short rotation coppice and miscanthus accounted for approximately 0.1 per cent. of the biomass co-fired in the 2005-06 Renewables Obligation compliance period—1 April to 31 May. The Government do not hold data on the use of energy crops in dedicated biomass plant.

The Government are keen to encourage the greater use of energy crops in co-firing, and the recent Energy Review Report (http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review/page31995.html) contains a number of proposals in this area. These will be subject to further consultation.

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the amount of UK-sourced wood that would be consumed by co-fired power stations in each year between 2006 and 2012. [89147]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the Renewables Obligation, electricity suppliers are currently allowed to meet up to 10 per cent. of their Obligation from co-firing of biomass in fossil fuel stations. This will decrease to 5 per cent. for the 2011-12 compliance period—1 April to 31 March.

Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 864-65W, on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive, what assessment he has made of the extent to which *(a)* the UK interpretation by the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML), as the appointed enforcement agency for RoHS, conforms with his Department's published guidance material, *(b)* his Department's guidance conforms with the European Commission's original intent and *(c)* the NWML guidance conforms with the European Commission's original intention for the Directive; and which guidance is to take precedence in the UK for the RoHS Directive. [R] [88425]

Malcolm Wicks: As I said in my earlier answer, the only legally binding texts are the Directive and UK Regulations. The European Commission and the UK Government have each issued non-statutory guidance documents that aim to clarify the intent of the original legislation. NWML will enforce the RoHS Directive in line with the UK RoHS Regulations (SI 2006 No. 1463).

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 864-65W, on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive, what assessment he has made of the UK interpretation by the National Weights and Measures Laboratory as the appointed enforcement agency for RoHS, of the parts of the European Commission's Frequently Asked Questions document relating to the exemption of fixed industrial manufacturing machinery as large-scale stationary industrial tools; and if he will ask the Commission to provide him with a report on whether guidance in that document is applied consistently across all member states. [R] [88426]

Malcolm Wicks: Large-scale stationary industrial tools are specifically mentioned as being outside the scope of Category 6 of the RoHS and WEEE Directives. The term 'fixed installations' does not appear in the Directive, but derives from Article 2 (1) of the WEEE Directive. In its Frequently Asked Questions non-binding guidance document, the European Commission refers to the definition of fixed installation that has been developed in connection to the Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive and lists them as outside scope.

Following discussions held in Brussels, the UK has understood that 'fixed installations' is a general derogation applying across all the categories in both Directives. Recently this understanding has been discussed by the Technical Adaptation Committee of Member States that is chaired by the Commission. It will now be up to the Commission to decide whether or not to revise its Frequently Asked Questions document, but as it stands that document currently reflects the UK's understanding.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 864-65W, on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive, if he will ask the Commission to assess whether the actions of *(a)* Germany *(b)* Spain and *(c)* other member states on the exemption of fixed industrial manufacturing machinery as large-scale stationary industrial tools are in conformity with the Directive, and what assessment he has made of whether the National Weights and Measures Laboratory's guidance goes beyond the requirements imposed by the Restrictions of Hazardous Substances Directive. [R] [88427]

Malcolm Wicks: Since RoHS is a Single Market Directive (based on Article 95 of the EU Treaty) that aims to harmonise member states' legislation on the restriction of the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, it should be implemented in the same way across the European Union.

Large-scale stationary industrial tools are specifically excluded from the scope of RoHS. The term "fixed installations" appears not in the text of the Directive, but in the European Commission's non-legally binding guidance document. This definition is currently under review but as it stands it reflects the UK's understanding.

NWML enforces the RoHS Directive in line with the UK RoHS Regulations (SI 2006 No. 1463), paying due regard to both the European Commission and UK Government's guidance documents.

HEALTH

"Choosing Health" Agenda

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what requirement her Department places on strategic health authorities to report the rerouting of allocations from the "Choosing Health" agenda to offset deficits; and if she will make a statement; [89119]

(2) which strategic health authorities have reported to her that money allocated for the "Choosing Health" agenda has been rerouted to offset deficits. [89120]

Andy Burnham: The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) identify £211 million in 2006-07 and £342 million in 2007-08 to support implementation of the "Choosing Health" White Paper. This funding is not ring-fenced within the revenue allocations and it is for individual PCTs to decide how to use their allocations.

Key "Choosing Health" deliverables are reflected in local delivery plans and monitored through public service agreements.

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were performed on girls aged *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12, *(d)* 13, *(e)* 14, *(f)* 15, *(g)* 16 and *(h)* 17 years of age in 2005; and how many were performed to save the life of the pregnant woman. [88544]

Caroline Flint: The information is set out in statistical bulletin 2006/01, "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2005" copies of which are available in the Library and also on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/68/59/04136859.pdf.

For confidentiality reasons, no age and ground breakdowns are available other than the detail published in the bulletin.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women having an abortion in 2005 were married at the time of the abortion; what the statistical mode figures were for *(a)* the age of the woman, *(b)* the gestation of the pregnancy, *(c)* the number of previous children born to the woman and *(d)* the number of previous abortions undergone by the woman; and what the most common legal grounds were under which the abortion was performed. [88545]

Caroline Flint: In 2005, 17 per cent. of women having terminations were recorded as married. For all women residents in England and Wales the statistical mode in 2005 for:

age, was 20 years;

gestation, was eight weeks;

number of previous children, was no previous children; and

number of previous abortions, was no previous abortion.

The most common ground (96 per cent. of all abortions) was that the pregnancy had not exceeded its 24th week and that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated, of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Bedford and Hertfordshire Strategic Health Authority had an abortion in 2005 who had already had (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five or more previous abortions. [88546]

Caroline Flint: The information is set out in the following table.

Number of previous terminations[1] among women resident in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and Essex Strategic Health Authorities having terminations in 2005

Number of previous terminations

SHA	0	1	2	3	4 and more[2]	Total
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	3,484	1,302	297	83	41	5,207
Essex	3,463	1,146	325	84	29	50,47

[1] This is across the duration of a woman's reproductive life-cycle (approximately ages 15-49)
[2] Group shown for totals 10 or more, in accordance with guidance from the Office for National Statistics

Access to Work Scheme

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many disabled staff in her Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82228]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect the numbers of disabled staff receiving adaptations and equipment paid for by access to work.

The Office of Disability Issues will be monitoring the situation to ensure that there is no detriment to current and future employees who are disabled.

Accident and Emergency Services

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1548W, on accident and emergency services, if she will list the hospitals in each category. [88835]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service trusts self-report the number of accident and emergency (A and E) services they provide against definitions set by the Department for the three types of A and E. The Department does not collect information at the level of individual hospitals. My reply on 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 707W, on A and E services, gave the number of A and E departments, by trust and by type.

Accident Reporting

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Department has made of the potential impact of the introduction of greater commercial pressures on healthcare providers in the NHS on the reporting of accidents and systems failure. [85279]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not undertaken a formal assessment. However, patient safety and clinical quality remain, at the heart of the national health service reforms and the changes will strengthen the incentives on provider organisations to improve the clinical quality of the services they offer to patients. Experience from leading-edge organisations in the United Kingdom and other countries shows that safe care is also efficient care.

The responsible regulator will be assessing all providers against core standards of safety and quality. This assessment will include ensuring that providers have robust processes for continuous improvement of their safety, including local reporting and analysis of patient safety incidents and full participation in the national reporting and learning system. The National Patient Safety Agency will continue to work with NHS trusts to promote a culture of continuous quality improvement; reporting patient adverse events and near misses is a key component of that culture.

Commissioners may also wish to incorporate quality standards in their contracts with providers, and we will be publishing information on quality indicators to help inform patient choice. These could in future include objective measures of patient safety and clinical outcomes. Extensive comparable information on the quality and safety of care will give patients and commissioners a real understanding of the quality and services available.

Acute Trusts

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the acute trusts which have ended 2005-06 financial year in deficit; how much she expects the deficit outturn to be; and what proportion of overall turnover that figure represents. [87489]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is provided in the table.

The 2005-06 provisional unaudited financial position of all national health service organisations (strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts) was announced on 7 June and is available in the Library.

2005-06 provisional outturn—NHS acute trusts in deficit

Organisation name	Provisional outturn turnover (£000)	Provisional outturn under/(over) spend (£000)	Provisional outturn under/(over) spend as a percentage of turnover (percentage)
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	160,360	(40,834)	(25.5)
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	207,874	(28,284)	(13.6)
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	272,036	(24,064)	(8.8)
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	246,308	(22,380)	(9.1)
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	318,143	(21,395)	(6.7)
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	89,628	(19,692)	(22.0)
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	133,005	(19,199)	(14.4)

2005-06 provisional outturn—NHS acute trusts in deficit

Organisation name	Provisional outturn turnover (£000)	Provisional outturn under/(over) spend (£000)	Provisional outturn under/(over) spend as a percentage of turnover (percentage)
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hosp NHS Trust	333,744	(16,009)	(4.8)
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	153,492	(15,765)	(10.3)
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	238,999	(15,687)	(6.6)
Whipps Cross University Hosp NHS Trust	176,071	(15,602)	(8.9)
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	288,929	(15,145)	(5.2)
University Hospital of North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust	299,693	(14,985)	(5.0)
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	300,603	(14,589)	(4.9)
South Warwickshire Gen Hosps NHS Trust	85,002	(13,827)	(16.3)
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	98,278	(13,394)	(13.6)
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	178,147	(12,812)	(7.2)
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	334,253	(12,268)	(3.7)
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	189,152	(12,142)	(6.4)
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	168,281	(11,905)	(7.1)
Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust	101,355	(11,887)	(11.7)
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	98,022	(11,833)	(12.1)
Brighton and Sussex Univ Hosps NHS Trust	311,858	(11,290)	(3.6)
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	99,222	(10,986)	(11.1)

2005-06 provisional outturn—NHS acute trusts in deficit

Organisation name	Provisional outturn turnover (£000)	Provisional outturn under/(over) spend (£000)	Provisional outturn under/(over) spend as a percentage of turnover (percentage)
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	138,955	(10,623)	(7.6)
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	222,056	(9,423)	(4.2)
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	103,046	(9,024)	(8.8)
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	252,053	(8,994)	(3.6)
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	149,139	(8,805)	(5.9)
North Middlesex University Hosp NHS Trust	127,691	(8,166)	(6.4)
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	77,056	(7,961)	(10.3)
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	169,011	(7,560)	(4.5)
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	166,012	(7,338)	(4.4)
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	83,281	(7,294)	(8.8)
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	68,733	(6,989)	(10.2)
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	74,271	(6,535)	(8.8)
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	195,801	(6,357)	(3.2)
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	113,492	(5,972)	(5.3)
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	123,514	(5,857)	(4.7)
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	161,102	(5,847)	(3.6)
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hosps NHS Trust	313,991	(5,737)	(1.8)
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	246,880	(4,975)	(2.0)

2005-06 provisional outturn—NHS acute trusts in deficit

Organisation name	*Provisional outturn turnover (£000)*	*Provisional outturn under/(over) spend (£000)*	*Provisional outturn under/(over) spend as a percentage of turnover (percentage)*
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	223,811	(4,864)	(2.2)
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hosps NHS Trust	166,656	(3,691)	(2.2)
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	103,169	(3,470)	(3.4)
Winchester and Eastleigh Hlthcre NHS Trust	120,955	(3,045)	(2.5)
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	164,553	(2,907)	(1.8)
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	353,928	(2,606)	(0.7)
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	291,403	(1,932)	(0.7)
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	158,922	(1,439)	(0.9)
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	108,859	(998)	(0.9)
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	157,556	(835)	(0.5)

Note:
Turnover is total operating income *Source:* 2005-06 month 12 financial monitoring returns

Alzheimer's Disease

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what tests are used to determine whether a patient is in the *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate and *(c)* severe stage of Alzheimer's; and how each stage is medically differentiated. [88639]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A clinical judgment is based on several factors. These include a clinician's interview with the patient, and information from carers and others about factors such as memory and behaviour. On the basis of this information, the clinician makes a medical judgment on the stage of Alzheimer's reached. These judgments are often informed by mini-mental state examination scores. In research, a number of other skills are additionally used.

Ambulance Service

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average response time to an emergency call to the Ambulance Service was in *(a)* the Ruislip-Northwood constituency and *(b)* each London borough in 2005-06. [86478]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not held in the format requested, as the Department collects ambulance response time data by ambulance trust rather than by London boroughs. However, the following table shows the percentage of calls responded to within 8 to 14 minutes for the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust (LAT).

	Percentage
Category A calls responded within eight minutes	LAT - 76.6[1]
Category A calls responded within 14/19 minutes	LAT - 95.9[1]
Category B/C calls responded within 14/19 minutes	LAT - 78.8[2] 81.2[3]

[1] April 2004 to March 2005
[2] April to September
[3] October to March

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to ensure that all ambulance trusts meet national response time requirements. [88532]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department sets national response time requirements for ambulance trusts, and works with the Healthcare Commission to ensure that both ambulance trusts and primary care trusts, as commissioners of ambulance services, are assessed on performance against these requirements.

The Department performance-manages trusts through strategic health authorities.

The Department has made available advice and tools to support trusts, both directly and through the Modernisation Agency. In addition, in 2008 changes to performance reporting will be introduced, which will align the reported response times more closely to patients' experience. To support trusts in preparing for this change, the Department is currently giving support to ambulance trusts through the provision of advice and specialist support, and the sharing of data, analysis and best practice.

The Department is also operating a £25 million capital incentive scheme during 2006-07. A similar scheme operated in 2004-05.

Anorexia

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female patients were hospitalised for anorexia in (i) 2000 and (ii) 2005; and what steps are being taken (A) to treat and (B) to prevent anorexia. [86970]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on finished consultant episodes of patients with a primary diagnosis of anorexia in 1999-2000 and 2004-05 is shown in the table.

In order to improve the identification, treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published a clinical guideline on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders in 2004. The guideline covers physical and psychological treatments, treatment with medicines, and what kinds

of services best help people with eating disorders. It also includes information specifically for patients, carers and the public.

The Department's five-year initiative to tackle stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health issues in England, Shift, works with young people and professionals to promote awareness of all mental health problems including eating disorders.

The Department also supports voluntary organisations such as the Eating Disorders Association to provide information and advice for people with mental health problems in England through the mental health help lines partnership project.

Primary diagnosis (4 char)	*R630 anorexia/F500 anorexia nervosa/F501 atypical anorexia nervosa*	
Gender	*Age group*	*Finished consultant episodes (FCEs)*
Mean and median results		
2004-05		
Male	All ages	7,432
Female	All ages	10,269
Total	—	17,701
1999-2000		
Male	All ages	7,256
Female	All ages	9,583
Total	—	16,839

Notes:
1. Finished consultant episode (FCE):
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. All diagnoses count of episodes:
These figures represent a count of all FCEs where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episodes Statistics record.

Anti-depressants

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* number of prescription items and *(b)* prescription expenditure was for anti-depressant drugs in 2005; and what the percentage change was between (i) 1985 and 1995, (ii) 1995 and 2005 and (iii) 1985 and 2005. [88509]

Andy Burnham: The information shown in the table represents the number of prescription items and net ingredient cost of antidepressants that have been dispensed in the community in England in 1985, 1995 and 2005, together with the percentage change between 1985 and 1995, 1995 and 2005 and 1985 and 2005.

	Number of prescription items (millions) of antidepressants dispensed in the community in England	*Net ingredient cost (NIC) (£ millions) of antidepressants dispensed in the community in England*
1985	6.8	26.0
1995	13.2	146.8
2005	29.4	338.5

	Percentage change in items	*Percentage change in NIC*
1985-1995	95	465
1995-2005	122	131
1985-2005	334	1,203

Source:
Prescription pricing division of the Business Services Authority (formerly known as the Prescription Pricing Authority)

Audiology Services

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the extent to which the exclusion of direct referrals to audiology services from the 18-week waiting time target is consistent with the national service framework for older people. [85424]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We recognise that older people are the largest users of audiology devices and therefore have a particular interest in waiting times for audiology services. The national service framework (NSF) for older people includes hearing as one of the senses to be investigated in assessing an older person's health and social care needs. One of the aims of the Healthy Ageing programme, in "A New Ambition for Old Age", which updates the NSF, is to reduce hearing impairment as a barrier to active ageing.

Audiology and adult hearing services in particular are mainly accessed directly by primary care and are predominantly outside the scope of the 18-week pathway, which is focused on changing traditional hospital consultant pathways. A separate national action plan is being developed on improving access to adult hearing services. The needs of older people and the NSF commitments will be taken into consideration in relation to the action plan.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. member for Solihull (Lorely Burt) of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 604W on audiology services, when she expects the data to be published. [87923]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A written ministerial statement was made on 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 69-70WS, announcing that data on diagnostic waiting times had been released and published on the Department's website at: www.performance.doh.gov.uk/diagnostics/index.htm. This first publication of diagnostic waiting time figures will become a regular monthly release.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 732W, on audiology, when she expects to publish the results for the 2006 vacancy survey. [87924]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 2006 national health service workforce vacancy survey was published on 27 July 2006. It is available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/vacsurveyresmar2006.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

Autism

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is earmarked for the diagnosis and treatment of autism in adults in 2006-07. [88686]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for local councils and national health service trusts to determine how much they allocate for diagnosis and treatment of autism in adults from the funding they receive.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many parents who are carers for children with autism in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* the area corresponding as closely as possible to the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency have received carers grants since 2001. [87970]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This Government introduced the carers grant in 1999 to support councils in providing breaks and other services for carers in England. The grant is not paid to individuals, but is paid each year to councils as a specific formula grant. Councils can use the grant to provide a range of services for carers in their area depending on local demand and need. This may include parents caring for children with autism.

Biometric Technology

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* planned and *(b)* existing projects in her Department involve the use of biometric technology. [82581]

Andy Burnham: None.

Bird and Bird Solicitors

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts were awarded by her Department to Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 1997; what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was; and if she will make a statement. [88158]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Bird and Bird have only been appointed on one contract by the Department which was to provide legal advice for the digital television project for NHS Direct.

The expenditure by the Department on this contract is commercially confidential. The contract commenced in January 2003 and was completed in June 2006. The Department's current financial system does not hold information for years prior to 2004, and could not obtain this information without incurring disproportionate costs.

Broomfield Hospital

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on progress in approving the Broomfield hospital private finance initiative scheme; and when approval is expected to be given. [86036]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 932W.

Current indications are that an announcement will be made in mid-August, dependent on obtaining clearance from HM Treasury. The reappraisal report for Broomfield hospital has now been completed and we were aiming to be in a position to announce decisions from the revalidation exercise—including that for this trust shortly.

Care Costs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on care costs, what the data requested are in real terms using the GDP deflator series instead of allowing for health pay and price inflation. [85832]

Andy Burnham: The average cost of delivering an episode of care in real terms using the gross domestic product deflator at 30 June 2006 is detailed in the following table.

	Cost per episode (£)
1997-98	1,131
2000-01	1,165
2001-02	1,075
2003-04	1,082

There was a change in the data series between 2000-01 and 2001-02, so figures for 1997-98 and 2003-04 are not comparable.

A patient admitted to hospital is assigned to a practitioner responsible for their treatment. This period of care is termed an episode.

There is no data available for 1979.

Information is not available on a comparable basis after 2003-04.

Care Homes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures have been taken since October 2005 to ensure that free, fresh, chilled drinking water is available to all care home residents throughout the day. [88966]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Care Homes Regulations state that homes must provide, in adequate quantities, suitable, wholesome and nutritious food which is varied and properly prepared and available at such time as may reasonably be required by service users. Food, in the regulations, includes drink.

The review of the national minimum standards for care homes, which the Commission for Social Care Inspection must take into account when inspecting care homes, is ongoing and will be subject to public consultation in due course. The issue of availability of drinking water to residents is being considered as part of the review.

As part of the "Heatwave Plan for England 2006", the Department has issued "Supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave—Advice for care home managers and staff". This is a fact-sheet,

containing advice on preparation for and dealing with the effects of a heat wave on care home residents. It includes guidance on identifying those most at risk, monitoring residents' fluid intake, particularly if they are unable to drink unaided, and ensuring that water and ice are widely available.

Cataract Operations

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cataract operations were carried out in *(a)* each London strategic health authority and *(b)* each London primary care trust in each of the last three years. [87721]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the latest data available for total numbers of cataract operations by London primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

	Total procedures
2004-05	
PCT	
Barnet PCT	1,161
Bexley Care Trust	7,764
Brent Teaching PCT	4,383
Bromley PCT	5,526
Camden PCT	8,107
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	1
Croydon PCT	7,489
Enfield PCT	2,825
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,869
Havering PCT	6,766
Hillingdon PCT	2,703
Islington PCT	39,392
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,914
Kingston PCT	8,206
Lambeth PCT	5,451
Southwark PCT	5,712
Sutton and Merton PCT	3,917
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,337
Waltham Forest PCT	8,778
Wandsworth PCT	6
Westminster PCT	7,392
SHA	
North Central London SHA	52,538
North East London SHA	16,882
North West London SHA	17,208
South East London SHA	24,453
South West London SHA	19,618
2003-04	
PCT	
Barnet PCT	1,121
Bexley Care Trust	8,787
Brent Teaching PCT	3,656
Bromley PCT	6,006
Camden PCT	6,390
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	4
Croydon PCT	9,528
Ealing PCT	2
Enfield PCT	2,137
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	2,691
Havering PCT	4,984
Hillingdon PCT	2,282
Islington PCT	113,976
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	2,048
Kingston PCT	11,070
Lambeth PCT	6,350
Southwark PCT	5,942
Sutton and Merton PCT	4,731
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,253
Waltham Forest PCT	8,507
Wandsworth PCT	68
Westminster PCT	7,797
SHA	
North Central London SHA	124,282
North East London SHA	14,748
North West London SHA	17,818
South East London SHA	27,085
South West London SHA	25,397
2002-03	
PCT	
Barnet PCT	902
Bexley PCT	9,353
Brent PCT	3,896
Bromley PCT	5,030
Camden PCT	6,564
Croydon PCT	8,733
Enfield PCT	2,304
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,941
Havering PCT	4,134
Hillingdon PCT	2,307
Islington PCT	88,837
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,441
Kingston PCT	8,482
Lambeth PCT	5,859
Southwark PCT	5,708
Sutton and Merton PCT	4,415
Tower Hamlets PCT	880
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	7,788
Wandsworth PCT	6
Westminster PCT	6,239
SHA	
North Central London SHA	98,607
North East London SHA	12,802
North West London SHA	15,824
South East London SHA	25,950
South West London SHA	21,636

Chemotherapy/Radiotherapy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients in England received a course of *(a)* chemotherapy and *(b)* radiotherapy during each of the last five years; [89072]

(2) how many out-patient visits there were for *(a)* radiotherapy and *(b)* chemotherapy was in the latest year for which figures are available. [89073]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not currently collected centrally. However, we are in the process of developing a radiotherapy episodes statistics system which should be able to provide the requested information on radiotherapy in the future. Work is also under way as part of the national programme for information technology to introduce hospital electronic prescribing, ePrescribing. This will help to provide accurate information on chemotherapy usage.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients travelling for outpatient radiotherapy treatment did so *(a)* fewer than 10 times, *(b)* between 10 and 20 times, *(c)* between 21 and 30 times, *(d)* between 31 and 40 times, *(e)* between 41 and 50 times, *(f)* between 51 and 60 times and *(g)* over 60 times in the last year for which figures are available. [89075]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Radiotherapy treatment is often fractionated, i.e. given over a number of days. This allows large doses of radiation to be given while sparing normal tissue too many side effects. Generally, radical treatments, with the aim of curing a patient, are given in more treatment fractions than palliative treatment, for symptom control.

The fractions, that is the number of visits for treatment, that patients should be offered is a matter for the clinical judgment. The prescription will depend on the type of cancer and the intention of the treatment.

The Department does not have reliable information to answer this question at the present time. However, we are in the process of developing a radiotherapy episodes statistics system which should be able to provide the information in the future.

Child Deaths

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public inquiries have taken place into the deaths of children in *(a)* health and *(b)* social services establishments in the past 30 years. [86230]

Andy Burnham: The Department has conducted two public inquiries into the deaths of children in the last 30 years (1976 to 2006). The only one that relates to deaths of children in a health establishment is the Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI) inquiry, established in June 1998 and reported in July 2001.

The BRI public inquiry followed a General Medical Council investigation into the conduct of the two surgeons and the chief executive of the trust. The inquiry was established in response to major public concern about the paediatric cardiac service at the BRI. The inquiry was an opportunity to learn lessons more widely for the national health service as a whole.

The Victoria Climbié inquiry (April 2001 to January 2003) was also a public inquiry into the death of a child, but her death was not due to treatment received in a health establishment.

Victoria Climbié died on 25 February 2000 in the intensive care unit at St. Mary's hospital Paddington, as a result of months of appalling ill-treatment at the hands of two individuals (Marie-Therese Kouao and Carl John Manning) who were supposed to be caring for her. The purpose of the inquiry was:

to establish the circumstances leading to and surrounding the death of Victoria Climbié;

to examine the services provided by the local authorities (social services), the health bodies and the police to Victoria Climbié, Marie-Therese Kouao and Carl John Manning; and

to reach conclusions as to the circumstances leading to Victoria's death and to make recommendations to the Government on how such an event may be avoided in the future.

Child Health Interim Application

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what extent the working of the child health interim application has been affected by problems with *(a)* computer processes and *(b)* manual supporting processes. [85636]

Caroline Flint: The child health interim application (CHIA) is itself a collection of computer and manual supporting processes. The CHIA system was implemented following the withdrawal of the previous RICHS child health system. As a consequence of the migration there have been some validation and coding difficulties which are currently being addressed by Connecting for Health, the strategic health authority and the contractor (BT).

There are also some current issues with links required to other computer systems, which are also being addressed. Manual systems have been implemented to continue to provide some of the services that were available previously.

Child Obesity

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the impact on obesity levels of children *(a)* watching television and *(b)* using computers and other game consoles; [86580]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact of television advertising promoting sedentary activities on children's obesity levels. [86581]

Caroline Flint: The Department has made no formal assessment of the impact that sedentary behaviour such as watching television or using computers or other game consoles has on obesity levels in children. However, a large-scale cross-national body of survey-based research conducted on children and on teenagers is emerging, which generally shows a moderate correlation between the amount of television viewed and children's diet or health.

Although there is no clear United Kingdom evidence that obese children are more likely to have low levels of physical activity compared to non-obese children, there is plenty of evidence showing that high levels of sedentary behaviour such as watching television or playing computer games are predictive of being obese and overweight.

The correlation could be because watching television or playing computer games does not expend any energy; in fact, it may even depress the metabolic rate.

The correlation could also be owing to television and playing computer games substituting for physical exercise, or because children watch television while consuming food and drinks that are high in fat and sugar.

As part of its work on developing a healthy living campaign, the Department is currently looking into what correlations there may be between obesity and sedentary behaviour. It has not found any clear evidence of the impact on obesity of television or video gaming but has made an intuitive assessment of a possible correlation, which has been supported by stakeholder and expert groups as part of a focus area review.

Child Vaccinations

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the level of child vaccinations in London. [85634]

Caroline Flint: The latest annual estimate of childhood vaccines was published in the Statistical bulletin NHS Immunisation Statistics, England: 2004-05. A copy has been placed in the Library and is also available on The Information Centre for health and social care's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/immunisaton05/04119650.pdf/file.

Some problems have been encountered recently in collecting data on childhood vaccinations in London. We are exploring how these problems can be rectified.

Quarterly data are published by the Health Protection Agency in CDR weekly and is available on their website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/vaccination/vac_cover.htm

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Choose and Book

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 321W, on Choose and Book, what information she collects from *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* acute trusts and *(c)* strategic health authorities on their allocation of budgets for Choose and Book. [85218]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 321W on choose and book, what assessment her Department has made of the likely financial impact of the choose and book system programme on local trusts and authorities. [82132]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Choose and Book will help commissioners and providers to manage resources efficiently by providing real-time information about demand in terms of referrals. The effect of this in a particular area depends on the response of managers and clinicians to the available information.

In terms of implementation costs, primary care trusts (PCTs) are being reimbursed for the short-term cost of upgrading existing general practitioner practice systems so that they align with Choose and Book. PCTs have also received centrally funded support to resolve technical issues, and to pay for the necessary project management resource required locally. Funding is also available for acute trusts to support a technical upgrade to existing patient administration systems to make them align with Choose and Book.

Clinically Qualified Staff

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinically qualified staff are employed by the NHS in non-clinical roles. [88278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Colonoscopy

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the likely change in the number of colonoscopies carried out each year under the NHS following the adoption of the new national guidelines on colonoscopy use. [78422]

Andy Burnham: No estimate has been made centrally of likely changes to the number of colonoscopies carried out following publication of the British Society of Gastroenterology's report 'Care of Patients with Gastrointestinal Disorders in the United Kingdom: A Strategy for the future'. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The Department is, however, in the process of agreeing local delivery plans with strategic health authorities which, for the first time, will include the number of colonoscopies planned for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Community Hospitals

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* other representations her Department has received on (i) Cranleigh Village Hospital and (ii) the future of Royal Surrey County Hospital. [87916]

Caroline Flint: A search of the Department's correspondence database shows that there were approximately 38 completed cases on Cranleigh Village Hospital between September 2005 and to date. There were approximately 47 completed cases on Royal Surrey County Hospital between September 2005 and to date.

On 27 July 2005, my noble Friend (Lord Warner), the Minister of State responsible for NHS reform, had a meeting with a delegation to discuss Cranleigh Village Hospital. On 30 August 2005, my noble Friend wrote to Baroness Sharp of Guildford about Cranleigh Village Hospital, and on 26 April 2006, my noble Friend received a letter from Baroness Sharp of Guildford about this issue.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to ensure that community hospitals can provide a comprehensive service for people who have *(a)* multiple sclerosis and *(b)* other complex and fluctuating conditions. [85295]

Andy Burnham: Decision-making on specific local healthcare provision, including services for people who have multiple sclerosis and other complex and fluctuating conditions, is a matter for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities in consultation with the local population.

However, the Department expects national health service organisations to adhere to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on multiple sclerosis care, published in November 2003, and the national service framework for long-term conditions, published in March 2005.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the number of community hospital beds likely to be needed in Gloucestershire over the next *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years. [85426]

Andy Burnham: It is for primary care trusts to assess and commission services to meet the needs of the populations that they serve.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her Oral Statement of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 826W, on community hospitals, (1) how many community hospitals have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in the Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority area since 1997; and how many are being considered for closure; [85572]

(2) how many community hospitals in the Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority area she assesses as having Victorian workhouse facilities. [85573]

Andy Burnham: No community hospitals have been either opened or closed in the former Shropshire and Staffordshire strategic health authority area since 1997. NHS West Midlands reports that only one community hospital in the area—Westcliffe hospital, operated by North Stoke primary care trust—is assessed as having Victorian workhouse facilities.

Continuing Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 321W, on continuing care, if she will provide the information broken down by *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust. [87699]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Chairman of the West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 9 January, 10 April, 23 May and 6 June about the treatment of his constituents for sleep apnoea. [87933]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* I have referred this matter to the chief executive of the NHS West Midlands Strategic Health Authority. I have asked the chief executive to look into this matter and to reply directly to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Dentistry

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentistry practices are *(a)* serving NHS patients and *(b)* open to take on new NHS patients in each primary care trust in Hampshire. [79281]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of practices serving national health service patients and open to take on new NHS patients is not available centrally.

Provisional management estimates on the number of signed and rejected contracts in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority (SHA—now part of South Central SHA) area is available and is provided in the following table by primary care trust.

The table also sets out the estimated level of NHS services associated with accepted contracts compared with that of rejected contracts, based on weighted courses of treatment, or units of dental activity.

A contract may be for either a practice or an individual dentist.

Primary care trusts are using the funding associated with rejected contracts to commission additional services from other dentists.

	Number of contracts signed	*Number of contracts rejected*	*Estimated level of NHS services associated with accepted contracts compared with rejected contracts (percentage)*
Blackwater Valley and Hart Primary Care Trust (PCT)	26	6	86.9
East Hampshire PCT	31	6	82.4
Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT	20	11	82.3
Fareham and Gosport PCT	34	8	79.8
Isle of Wight PCT	19	0	100.0
Mid-Hampshire PCT	21	7	95.9
New Forest PCT	25	8	92.3
North Hampshire PCT	38	6	81.8
Portsmouth City PCT	30	4	91.5
Southampton City PCT	34	4	99.2
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	278	60	89.8

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists have left the NHS in the East Midlands strategic health authority in the last three years, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [86369]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table:

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Number of national health service dentists who have left the GDS or PDS in the specified strategic health authorities (SHA) areas, by parliamentary constituency, during the 12 months ending 31 March each year

	2004	2005	2006
Trent SHA	54	50	41
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	20	23	27
Amber Valley	0	1	2
Ashfield	1	4	3
Bassetlaw	0	0	4
Blaby	3	5	1
Bolsover	0	2	0
Boston and Skegness	2	1	0
Bosworth	0	0	1
Broxtowe	2	4	1
Charnwood	1	1	0
Chesterfield	4	3	0
Corby	1	2	2
Daventry	3	4	1
Derby North	5	1	2
Derby South	5	1	2
Erewash	1	3	2
Gainsborough	0	0	0
Gedling	3	2	0
Grantham and Stamford	1	0	2
Harborough	3	0	0
High Peak	5	4	1
Kettering	0	2	1
Leicester East	0	0	5
Leicester South	0	0	2
Leicester West	0	1	2
Lincoln	5	5	4
Loughborough	0	1	4
Louth and Horncastle	3	2	2
Mansfield	2	2	2
Newark	1	1	1
North East Derbyshire	2	2	1
North West Leicestershire	0	0	1
Northampton North	1	3	2
Northampton South	4	2	3
Nottingham East	4	5	2
Nottingham North	2	1	3
Nottingham South	2	1	6
Rushcliffe	2	3	2
Rutland and Melton	2	0	3
Sherwood	2	1	0
Sleaford and North Hykeham	0	1	0
South Derbyshire	2	2	1
South Holland and The Deepings	1	0	0
Wellingborough	3	3	0
West Derbyshire	2	0	0

Notes:
1. Leavers indicate that the dentist had an open GDS or PDS contract as at 1 April of the previous year but no GDS or PDS contract as at 31 March of the specified year.
2. A dentist may have left a GDS or PDS contract within more than one parliamentary constituency or both SHA areas, in which case they would appear in figures for each individual constituency and SHA. For this reason, figures for individual constituencies and SHAs cannot be summed.
3. Data has been provided for years ending 31 March 2004 to 2006, which are prior to the recent SHA boundary changes. The SHA boundaries supplied are as they were at the time.
4. A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the primary care trust. Information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual GDS or PDS dentists are not centrally available.
5. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts have been excluded.
6. Areas have been defined using the Office of National Statistics all fields postcode directory.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care NHS Business Services Authority

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists from those countries which joined the EU in 2004 have applied for full registration as dentists in the UK. [87443]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 659W.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2150W, on dentistry, if she will make a statement on the position at the end of May; and when she intends to publish information relating to the end of June. [87692]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of contracts signed in dispute that were still in dispute as of 31 May and 30 June, and the proportion of the total contracts signed that this represents by strategic health authority, was made available on 4 August and is available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/dental_contracts Copies have also been placed in the Library.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the gross cost was of *(a)* dental fees for items of service and *(b)* dental treatments in each of the last five years; and how much of the cost was borne by patients (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of the overall cost in (A) England and (B) each region. [88137]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The main element of national health service dental services in the last five years has been the primary dental care services provided by dentists working within the general dental services (CDS) or personal dental services (PDS) pilots.

The tables, which have been placed in the Library, show the available CDS data on gross item of service fees and patient registration payments, together with the cost of certain additional payments made to dental contractors, and patient charge income for CDS contracts in England and each strategic health authority area for the financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06. The data excludes certain elements of gross

costs, such as employers' superannuation contributions, vocational trainee salaries and expenses, and the cost of salaried general dental practitioners and emergency dental services, where data is not readily available in this localised format.

The PDS pilots were generally based not on item of service fees but on regular contract payments for defined services. Localised data on PDS expenditure are only available for the financial year 2004-05. The data include regular PDS contract payments but excludes some additional payments authorised locally. They also exclude the cost of PDS services directly managed by NHS trusts such as some dental access centres. Data on PDS charge income may also be incomplete because some primary care trusts (PCTs) instituted temporary arrangements to collect charge income directly from dentists. These factors make it very difficult to make comparisons between the 2004-05 and 2005-06 data, when PDS pilot schemes rapidly expanded, and earlier periods.

Charge income levels will have been influenced by the proportion of services delivered by PDS contractors, who until the reform of primary care services introduced from April 2006 were required to apply the patient charge regime originally designed for the item of service remuneration system operating within CDS. This patient charge regime was not sensitive to the new ways of working and treatment patterns associated with PDS contracts, and generally resulted in lower levels of charge income within PDS pilot schemes. In addition, as noted above, some PCTs have collected some patient charges direct from PDS dentists locally and this income may not be reflected in the centrally recorded data. All these factors will have distorted the proportion of patient charge income recovered particularly in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* fillings and *(b)* extractions were carried out on children's teeth in (i) England and (ii) each region in each of the last five years. [88138]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The spreadsheet provides data for the year ending 31 March 2002 for England and by health authority and for the years ending 31 March 2004, 2005 and 2006 for England and by strategic health authority.

Information was not centrally analysed for 2002-03. This could now be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Dental Services (GDS) and Personal Dental Services (PDS): Number of fillings and extractions carried out on children's teeth in England by strategic health authority as at year ending 31 March 2004-31 March 2006

	Teeth filled			*Teeth extracted*		
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	3,343,589	4,039,247	4,089,417	662,257	829,758	867,077
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	119,452	158,090	146,862	23,527	28,726	27,631
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	113,177	144,103	158,115	25,090	33,917	36,637
Essex SHA	92,558	118,772	118,059	21,567	27,670	27,697
North West London SHA	121,961	155,334	169,541	24,863	30,114	32,464
North Central London SHA	92,317	119,781	118,478	15,763	19,655	20,221
North East London SHA	132,772	172,385	179,513	25,663	33,922	34,131
South East London SHA	111,610	145,516	142,081	19,583	24,860	24,630
South West London SHA	83,318	104,945	113,895	14,228	18,457	18,101
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	117,992	137,451	121,743	16,888	21,315	19,740
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	111,088	131,880	122,541	21,488	25,918	26,142
North and East Yorks and Northern Lincs SHA	103,086	119,438	116,112	21,922	25,997	25,880
West Yorkshire SHA	180,180	211,079	187,146	34,198	42,972	48,257
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	139,212	161,740	155,680	26,441	33,874	31,886
Greater Manchester SHA	217,933	230,926	232,711	36,968	42,425	45,756
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	161,502	142,952	175,445	35,160	36,816	48,308
Thames Valley SHA	103,711	134,556	151,356	25,740	34,529	37,133
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	104,768	123,547	121,060	18,322	21,765	22,135
Kent and Medway SHA	112,951	136,339	141,587	26,761	31,712	33,451
Surrey and Sussex SHA	158,011	197,306	196,914	31,846	40,193	40,676
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	132,987	171,479	165,955	26,316	35,017	34,708
South West Peninsula SHA	108,090	114,977	130,300	18,936	21,663	28,027
Dorset and Somerset SHA	70,777	86,761	87,064	12,693	15,362	16,710
South Yorkshire SHA	108,404	122,846	112,415	17,934	23,867	22,135

General Dental Services (GDS) and Personal Dental Services (PDS): Number of fillings and extractions carried out on children's teeth in England by strategic health authority as at year ending 31 March 2004-31 March 2006

	Teeth filled			Teeth extracted		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Trent SHA	156,460	182,314	181,995	34,647	43,544	43,253
Leics, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	93,047	124,633	126,345	20,731	25,586	27,279
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	86,778	108,946	106,102	17,529	23,103	23,830
Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	132,303	181,663	206,961	27,954	40,254	44,834
Coventry, Warks, Herefordshire and Worc SHA	80,385	99,488	103,441	19,907	26,525	25,425

Note:
Year ending March 2006 data are for PDS and GDS. All previous data are for GDS only.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care and NHS Business Services Authority

General Dental Services (GDS): Number of fillings and extractions carried out on children's teeth in England by health authority as at year ending 31 March 2002

	Teeth filled	Teeth extracted
England	4,831,587	936,844
North		
Bradford	50,667	9,631
Bury and Rochdale	44,592	8,280
Calderdale and Kirklees	77,339	12,796
County Durham and Darlington	67,946	10,792
East Lancashire	55,905	11,668
East Riding and Hull	58,621	15,961
Gateshead and South Tyneside	43,885	5,756
Leeds	85,555	18,678
Liverpool	50,527	11,682
Manchester	62,731	8,992
Morecambe Bay	28,794	5,917
Newcastle and North Tyneside	52,794	6,298
North Cheshire	27,549	5,473
North Cumbria	36,356	4,637
North West Lancashire	48,548	7,481
North Yorkshire	74,004	13,918
Northumberland	34,847	4,468
Salford and Trafford	51,217	10,527
Sefton	33,742	6,052
South Cheshire	54,322	12,407
South Lancashire	33,157	6,974
St. Helens and Knowsley	38,822	7,784
Stockport	32,344	6,821
Sunderland	40,164	6,027
Tees	91,043	17,500
Wakefield	41,755	7,574
West Pennine	63,177	13,502
Wigan and Bolton	70,750	12,236
Wirral	36,264	7,898
Midlands		
Barnsley	28,272	4,601
Birmingham	82,727	18,583
Coventry	22,838	4,994
Doncaster	38,077	7,756
Dudley	22,939	4,077
Herefordshire	16,072	3,152
Leicestershire	84,565	17,453
Lincolnshire	37,684	9,952
North Derbyshire	41,545	6,828
North Nottingham	36,476	7,374
North Staffordshire	49,893	7,903
Nottingham	70,060	13,454
Rotherham	25,092	5,133
Sandwell	30,996	6,164
Sheffield	63,109	9,135
Shropshire	38,910	7,763
Solihull	15,320	3,434
South Derbyshire	45,664	10,559
South Humber	28,292	6,294
South Staffordshire	38,091	8,498
Walsall	17,344	3,288
Warwickshire	38,554	7,665
Wolverhampton	20,555	3,890
Worcestershire	35,000	10,290
London		
Barking and Havering	42,307	8,692
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey	87,410	16,155
Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	76,326	14,673
Brent and Harrow	60,184	13,789
Camden and Islington	39,843	4,666
Croydon	37,656	5,528
Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow	73,414	14,431
East London and The City	89,325	15,348
Hillingdon	22,628	3,846
Kensington and Chelsea	24,027	3,248
Kingston and Richmond	24,965	4,706

General Dental Services (GDS): Number of fillings and extractions carried out on children's teeth in England by health authority as at year ending 31 March 2002

	Teeth filled	Teeth extracted
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham	83,151	9,332
Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth	63,988	10,925
Redbridge and Waltham Forest	57,851	9,930
South ex London		
Avon South	92,159	21,736
Bedfordshire	50,560	10,436
Berkshire	56,175	12,648
Buckinghamshire	50,933	9,684
Cambridge	51,860	11,625
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	52,805	7,318
Dorset	55,109	9,637
East Kent	69,473	12,558
East Surrey	30,394	6,356
East Sussex, Brighton and Hove	63,677	12,347
Gloucestershire	44,329	9,346
Hertfordshire	106,671	22,349
Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire	51,468	10,584
Norfolk	62,203	10,900
North and East Devon	40,741	9,225
North and Mid Hampshire	41,643	8,581
North Essex	79,342	16,365
Northamptonshire	40,798	11,122
Oxfordshire	45,132	9,250
Somerset	42,795	8,174
South and West Devon	63,891	12,193
South Essex	72,575	16,411
Southampton and SW Hampshire	43,870	8,313
Suffolk	47,097	9,571
West Kent	102,709	23,483
West Surrey	48,232	10,041
West Sussex	75,481	14,082
Wiltshire	51,625	10,941

Note:
These data are for GDS only.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care and NHS Business Services Authority

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children, *(b)* adults and *(c)* the population in (i) England and (ii) each region were registered with a dentist in each of the last five years. [88139]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table showing the proportion of adults and children registered with a national health service dentist in England and by strategic health authority as at 30 March in each specified year has been placed in the Library. These data reflect the 15-month registration period that applied in the general dental services until 31 March 2006 and therefore exclude some patients who attend less regularly and patients seen at dental access centres.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS general dental practices in Selby and York primary care trust area *(a)* have agreed, *(b)* are in dispute over and *(c)* have declined to agree to the new NHS dental contract; whether the practices which have declined the new contract will continue to treat NHS patients; how many NHS patients are treated by each such practice; and if she will make a statement. [88346]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of dentists or dental practices who have signed the new contract and the number who have not signed is not available centrally. We do however have some provisional information that covers contracts. A contract may well be for more than one dentist so cannot be broken down further to individual dentist level. These management estimates show that in Selby and York primary care trust:

	Number/Percentage
Contracts signed	
Number	28
Approximate Units of dental activity (UDA) value	431,750
Contracts still in discussion	
Number	1
Approximate UDA value	4,400
Contracts rejected	
Number	11
Approximate UDA value	20,229
Percentage UDAs	4.4
Contracts signed	
Number signed without dispute	26
Number signed in dispute	2
Percentage disputes	7.1

This information is not validated and represents a snapshot of the position in early April. If a contract has been rejected by a practice or a dentist, that practice or dentist is then no longer able to provide national health service treatment. Where practices leave the NHS, the Selby and York primary care trust will look to re-provide NHS services according to the needs of its local population.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients are registered with NHS general dental practitioners in Selby and York primary care trust area; and how many were registered in each of the past 10 years. [88347]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number of national health service patients registered with an NHS dentist in Selby and York primary care trust as at 30 March in each specified year.

General dental services (CDS) and personal dental services (PDS)

	Number
1997	145,339
1998	151,068
1999	145,579
2000	146,529
2001	150,105
2002	151,931
2003	155,321
2004	160,357
2005	154,513
2006	152,471

Source: The Information Centre for health and social care NHS Business Services Authority.

Under the new dental system, the concept of registration no longer forms part of the remuneration system. The Department is introducing a comparable means of monitoring the number of patients covered by NHS dental services, but the transition to the new arrangements means that it will be autumn before the new measure is available.

Information will be available in due course via the NHS Business Services Authority on the numbers of patients who receive care or treatment from NHS primary care dentists on one or more occasions within a given period. This will provide a measure that is broadly similar to that of patient registration under the former system of CDS. We expect the first information to be available in the autumn.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid by the NHS to general dental practitioners in Selby and York in each year since 1996-97 *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per NHS dentist. [88348]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The main element of national health service dental services is the primary dental care services provided by dentists working in the general dental service (GDS) or personal dental service (PDS) pilots.

The following table shows the available data on the main components of expenditure on those services in the Selby and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) from 1997-98 to 2005-06. Comparable localised data for previous years are not available. As the notes to the table record, certain other elements of GDS and PDS costs are also excluded because they are not readily available on a localised basis.

Payments to dentists as shown in the following table represent remuneration for the provision of dental services. As independent contractors, dentists are responsible for meeting their own practice expenses. Remuneration levels reflect the volume of NHS work undertaken by dental contractors, which can vary from practice to practice and may not equate to a full-time commitment to NHS services.

GDS and PDS payments to dentists in Selby and York PCT area from 1997-98 to 2005-06[1,2,3,4,5]

	Gross NHS payment (£ million)	Number of GDS/PDS dentists as at 30 September	Average gross NHS payment per dentist (£)
1997-98	6.760	105	64,382
1998-99	7.473	113	66,134
1999-2000	7.982	117	68,225
2000-01	8.354	117	71,405
2001-02	8.908	128	69,590
2002-03	9.439	131	72,056
2003-04	9.792	136	72,001
2004-05	10.007	136	73,582
2005-06	11.545	148	78,006

[1] Gross NHS payment is the sum of those GDS and PDS payments itemised in note 2 which were due to GDS and PDS contractors. Actual payments are made net of any patient charge revenue already collected by the dentists concerned and retained against the sums due. Some dentists may undertake work in more than one PCT area, but only earnings in Selby and York PCT area are included in this data.

[2] Total GDS payments include adult fees (including item of service and continuing care payments), child fees (including item of service and capitation payments), commitment payments and point of treatment check payment training (in 2001 only), seniority payments, maternity/paternity/adoptive leave payments, long term sick leave payments, continuing professional development allowances including travel hours, reimbursement of business rates, vocational training grants and clinical audit payments. The following costs are excluded from this data: employer's superannuation costs, vocational trainee salaries and National Insurance contribution costs, clinical audit convenors, clinical audit secretarial support costs and travel expenses, and costs associated with any salaried general dental practitioners and emergency dental services.

[3] PDS payments and PDS patient charge revenue data are included for 2004-05 and 2005-06 only. PDS payments relate to baseline payments or the agreed regular monthly payments made to PDS practices. Certain additional or supplementary payments may be excluded. Reliable PDS data at practice level are not available prior to 2004-05. The data cannot identify the cost of any PDS services that are directly managed by local NHS Trusts, such as certain dental access centres.

[4] Payments are assigned to areas on the basis of practice postcode data.

[5] Payment information at PCT level is not available prior to 1997-98.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been on Selby and York Primary Care Trust's waiting list for registering with an NHS dentist in each month since the list was established. [88359]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been *(a)* deregistered and *(b)* newly registered with NHS dentists in Selby and York Primary Care Trust in each month since July 2004. [88360]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices in *(a)* Heswall and *(b)* Wirral, South have ceased to provide NHS dental services since April. [89082]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in her Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [72988]

Andy Burnham: The required information for the three financial years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as follows:

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2000-06*
Five or more periods	28	10	31
Four periods	23	20	33
Three periods	68	37	54
Two periods	111	83	107

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of her staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77266]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the following table. The numbers are staff in post (full-time equivalents) as at 31 December 2005:

	Number of staff
Under 55	2,181
55 and over	308
Total	2,489

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited to her Department in each of the last three years. [77267]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the following table. The figures represent full-time equivalent numbers of staff aged 55 and over.

	Number of staff
2003	10.5
2004	9.6
2005	15.2

Departmental Strategies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing an urgent care strategy; what discussions her Department has had with other organisations to facilitate the development of the urgent care strategy; and who will draw up the urgent care strategy. [84464]

Andy Burnham: Work on the development of the urgent care strategy is in progress, and discussions are under way with a number of stakeholders.

Our aim is to produce a consultation document later in the year.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surveys her Department has carried out in each year since 1990; and if she will make a statement. [87314]

Andy Burnham: The following details are in respect of statistical surveys. Full information requested cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

The list of Department sponsored social surveys since 1990 is available at: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/PublishedSurvey/fs/en.

Since 1 April 2005, the following survey results were published by the Information Centre for health and social care and have been placed in the Library.

Processes are in place to ensure that collections of information are appropriate for their purpose and minimise the burdens on those submitting the data.

Depression

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on *(a)* drug treatments and *(b)* therapeutic treatments for mild to severe depression in each year from 1997 to 2005 (i) in total and (ii) broken down by age. [89087]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total cost of antidepressant medicines prescribed by the national health service in England between 1997 and 2005 is shown in table 1.

Table 1: NHS anti-depressant prescription medications in England 1997 to 2005

	Value of antidepressant items prescribed on the NHS in England (£000)
1997	239,120,545
1998	279,004,273
1999	315,269,246
2000	310,378,169
2001	341,660,880
2002	380,883,112
2003	395,178,028
2004	400,681,709
2005	338,546,700

Source:
Prescription pricing authority of the Business Services Authority (formerly known as the Prescription Pricing Authority)

Age-based prescription data covering all age groups are not available. This information is collected for groups where prescription charge exemptions exist—those aged zero to 15 years and 16 to 18 years and those in full-time education and people aged 60 or over—but not for other age categories.

Information about spending on psychological therapies by the national health service in England is available for each year from 2001-02 to 2004-05 from the national survey of investment in mental health services reports, and this is shown in Table 2. Information about spending on psychological therapies which were delivered in primary care is not held centrally by the Department; nor is information collected on spending on psychological therapies by age groups.

Table 2 National survey of investment in mental health services: planned spending on psychological therapies

	Planned spending on psychological therapy services by the NHS in England 2001-02 to 2005-06 (not primary care) (£000)
2001-02	103,471,000
2002-03	122,052,000
2003-04	129,352,000
2004-05	141,378,000
2005-06	142,047,000

Source:
National survey of investment in mental health strategies 2001-02 to 2005-06

Diagnostic Tests/Treatment

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her Department's publication of data on diagnostic tests' waiting times, if she will publish overall waiting times for patients from GP referral to the start of treatment. [88549]

Andy Burnham: The national health service will be required to report referral to treatment times from January 2007. The Department will publish this data later in 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 323W, on diagnostic treatment (independent sector), what the reasons are for the delay in the start date beyond that set out in "Health reform in England: Update and Next Steps", published 13 December 2005. [86210]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Discussions are drawing to a close with bidders on all seven regional diagnostic schemes. Full services are expected to be provided from next year, but the first scheme may begin to provide some services from November 2006. The commencement date has moved from October to better meet local national health service needs.

Diamorphine

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with the supplier to the NHS of diamorphine on ensuring its availability in all English hospitals. [89145]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 374W.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had on the potential for using poppies grown in Afghanistan to alleviate the shortage of diamorphine hydrochloride for medical use. [88365]

Andy Burnham: None. The shortage of diamorphine injection is due to production capacity constraints in relation to the finished product, and is not related to the availability of diamorphine raw material. There are no supply problems with diamorphine raw material.

Drug Eluting and Metal Stents

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of use of *(a)* drug eluting and *(b)* bare metal stents is in the NHS; and what assessment she has made of the effect on costs in the NHS of their use. [87033]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National information on the rate of use of bare metal stents is not available.

Since the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its guidance on the use of coronary artery stents in October 2003 there has been an increase in the use of drug eluting stents. This increase has been reflected by an adjustment to the national tariff of £25.5 million in 2006-07 to take account of the additional costs of implementing the NICE guidance.

Drug Treatment Rehabilitation Places

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* residential and *(b)* in-patient-specialist drug treatment rehabilitation places there are in the northern region; and where each centre is located. [87864]

Caroline Flint: As there is no northern region as such, the following information represents the North West, North East and Yorkshire and Humber Government regions. Information relating to numbers of in-patient beds and treatment spaces is not available for any of these areas.

1. North West

Residential rehabilitation

The National Treatment Agency's (NTA) online directory of residential rehabilitation services lists a total of 19 services located in the north west. The total number of beds in all of these services is 320.

The services are located in Crumpsall, Oldham, Wirral, two services; Ramsbottom, Chester, two services; Gisburn, two services; St Anne's on Sea, two services; Lancaster, Prestwich, Middleton, Collyhurst, Blackburn, Rochdale and Workington.

The total number of clients in residential rehabilitation in the north-west in 2005-06, according to the national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS), was 624.

Inpatient treatment

The NTA's recently published review of in-patient treatment, Dr. Ed Day, 2005, found a total of 16 services providing in-patient treatment for drug misuse in the north west. These services are located in Oxton, Macclesfield, Gisburn, two services; Lancaster, Carlisle, Liverpool, Prestwich, Chester, two services; St Anne's on Sea, Biston, Hale, Preston, Ashton under Lyme and Collyhurst.

The total number of clients in in-patient treatment in the north-west in 2005-06, according to the NDTMS, was 1095.

2. North East

Residential rehabilitation

The NTA's online directory of residential rehabilitation services lists a total of three services located in the north-east. The total number of beds in all of these services is 86.

The services are located in Middlesbrough, Tyne and Wear and Sunderland.

The total number of clients in residential rehabilitation in the north-east in 2005-06, from NDTMS, was 95.

In-patient treatment

The NTA's recently published review of in-patient treatment, Dr. Ed Day, 2005, found a total of seven services providing in-patient treatment for drug misuse in the north-east.

These services are located in Consett, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Durham, Darlington, South Shields and Sunderland.

The total number of clients in in-patient treatment in the north-east in 2005-06, according to the NDTMS, was 111.

3. Yorkshire and Humber

Residential rehabilitation

The NTA's online directory of residential rehabilitation services lists a total of seven services located in Yorkshire and Humber. The total number of beds in all of these services is 176.

The services are located in Scarborough, Harrogate, Bridlington, Sheffield, two services, Leeds and Hull.

The total number of clients in residential rehabilitation in Yorkshire and Humber in 2005-06 from NDTMS was 287.

In-patient treatment

The NTA's recently-published review of in-patient treatment, Dr. Ed Day, 2005, found a total of 14 services providing in-patient treatment for drug misuse in Yorkshire and Humber. These services are located in Barnsley, York, Sheffield, three services, Bradford, two services, Harrogate, Doncaster, Scarborough, Northallerton, Dewsbury, Rotherham and Whitby.

The total number of clients in in-patient treatment in Yorkshire and Humber in 2005-06, from NDTMS was 365.

Drugs

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on drugs for NHS *(a)* in-patients and *(b)* out-patients in each of the last five years. [88694]

Andy Burnham: The table shows the estimated list price cost of drugs issued to in-patients and out-patients in hospitals in each year from 2001 to 2005.

Estimated list price cost (£ billion) of medicines issued in hospitals in England

	List price cost (£ billion)	
	In-patients	*Out-patients*
2001	1.2	0.4
2002	1.2	0.6
2003	1.4	0.7
2004	1.5	0.8
2005	1.5	0.9

The information in the table does not take into account medicines prescribed in hospitals but dispensed in the community (on a FP10 HP form) or drugs dispensed in the community, primary care, in England.

The estimated list price costs are based on published prices from the drug tariff and other standard price lists. Therefore this is not a true reflection of the actual expenditure by hospitals as most purchases are made on contract with individual manufacturers or wholesalers at lower prices.

Hospitals assign drugs to in-patients/out-patients differently—for example, take out drugs—therefore care must be taken with this data.

Echocardiography Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent work has been undertaken by her Department to define future demand for echocardiography services. [87691]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not undertaken any specific recent work to define future demand for echocardiography services. However, there is a national target that by 2008 all patients will be treated within 18 weeks of general practitioner referral, and this will include diagnostics such as echocardiography. Reducing waiting times for diagnostics is central to delivering the 18-week patient pathway. The national health service began measuring waiting times for long wait diagnostic tests for the first time this year to assess the scale of the 18-week challenge.

Elective Care Work Force Resource Pack

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when her Department published the Elective Care Work Force Resource Pack; and if she will place a copy in the Library; [87686]

(2) when her Department published the Christmas tree work force plans for imaging and endoscopy; and if she will place a copy in the Library. [87687]

Andy Burnham: The 18-week work force resource pack was published in April 2006 and can be found at www.18weeks.nhs.uk. Copies have been placed in the Library. The pack includes support and advice on work force modelling (known as Christmas trees) for the 18-week work force including elective care and diagnostics (imaging, endoscopy, physiological measurement and pathology).

Emergency and Acute Admissions

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice her Department gives NHS Trusts on safe travelling times for *(a)* heart attack and *(b)* stroke patients for emergency admissions; how many hospitals in England accept acute admissions; and how many hospitals which accept acute admissions have people in their catchment area living more than one hour from the hospital. [88814]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* The national service framework (NSF) for coronary heart disease includes the recommendation that ambulance services put in place systems of care that transfer people with suspected heart attack to hospital in less than 30 minutes from the call. Response times are set for ambulance trusts to reach the scene of an incident.

The NSF standard, which national health service organisations are working towards, is that people with

heart attack are treated within 60 minutes of calling for professional help. In most parts of the country, ambulance trusts are training paramedics to treat patients with clot-busting drugs before arrival at hospital. Fifty-eight per cent. of patients are currently treated within 60 minutes of calling for help, compared with 24 per cent. before the NSF.

The Department has not issued guidance on safe travelling times for stroke patients. However, revised guidance on management of stroke for ambulance services is due to be issued by the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee.

The Department does not collect hospital level data. Population data at hospital or trust level are not collected centrally as NHS trusts do not have specific catchment areas. However, the Department collects data which showed that 286 NHS organisations (NHS trusts, primary care trusts and care trusts) had beds in acute wards open overnight in England in 2004-05. This figure is not necessarily the number of trusts in England that accept acute admissions. Some trusts may accept acute admissions and not have a ward classified as acute.

Emergency Readmissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency readmissions there have been in each quarter since 1997; and what the rate of patients readmitted as an emergency was for each quarter. [51929]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The data requested are shown in the table. Prior to 2002-03 data was only collected on a 75 and over age basis. This was expanded in 2002-03 to include all age ranges. Information is not collected on what proportion of readmissions may be due to something being amiss with the treatment in the previous hospital spell. Some patients and clinicians agree that it is better that the patient is discharged early and risk readmission.

Emergency admissions within 28 days of discharge for England

Financial year/ quarter	*Number of people readmitted as an emergency within 28 days of discharge*	*Rate[1] of 28 day emergency readmission (percentage)*
Data for patients of all ages from 2002-03 to 2005-06		
2002-03		
Q1	125,085	5.4
Q2	124,176	5.3
Q3	131,704	5.5
Q4	138,773	5.5
2003-04		
Q1	135,153	5.6
Q2	136,701	5.5
Q3	143,187	5.7
Q4	146,703	5.7
2004-05		
Q1	149,165	5.9
Q2	153,282	5.9
Q3	157,828	5.9
Q4	172,515	6.3
2005-06		
Q1	167,012	6.3
Q2	173,459	6.6
Q3	187,069	6.7
Q4	198,777	7.1
Data for patients aged 75 and over from 1996-97 to 2001-02		
1996-97		
Q4	23,625	7.0
1997-98		
Q1	23,557	7.2
Q2	22,385	6.7
Q3	23,771	7.1
Q4	24,435	7.1
1998-99		
Q1	29,213	8.5
Q2	28,839	8.1
Q3	29,110	8.1
Q4	29,933	8.2
1999-2000		
Q1	26,702	7.7
Q2	26,758	7.3
Q3	26,523	7.2
Q4	28,611	7.6
2000-01		
Q1	28,735	7.4
Q2	28,820	7.1
Q3	29,896	7.3
Q4	31,538	7.7
2001-02		
Q1	29,878	7.3
Q2	30,083	7.1
Q3	31,027	7.3
Q4	31,493	7.2

[1] As a proportion of total number of patients discharged. *Source:* Department of Health, SaFFR, LDPR

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency re-admissions there were in each quarter in 2005; and how many were of people aged *(a)* 0 to 10, *(b)* 11 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 65, *(d)* 66 to 75 and *(e)* over 75. [88964]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information for 2005 is not yet available owing to primary care trust reconfiguration. It will be available once reconfiguration is complete.

In future information on emergency re-admissions will not be available in the format requested. The data will be available on the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD) website at www.nchod.nhs.uk. The age ranges collected are 0 to

15, 16 to 74 and over 75. NCHOD would normally produce annually, not quarterly, data.

Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many carbon dioxide emissions permits have been allocated to hospitals; and what the emissions were for each NHS hospital included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in the first year of operation. [86455]

Andy Burnham: One hundred and seven hospitals from the United Kingdom were operating in the European Union emissions trading scheme in 2005. A total of 879,241 allowances were issued in 2005 to those hospitals. The total of verified carbon dioxide emissions for those hospitals is 939,256 tonnes.

Epilepsy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in England are being treated for epilepsy. [88023]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of children being treated for epilepsy is not collected.

Eye Disease

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the proportion of *(a)* cataracts, *(b)* cancer of the conjunctiva, *(c)* pterygium and *(d)* solar keratopathy resulting from exposure to sunlight; and what the estimated cost to the NHS was for the treatment of these conditions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [86070]

Caroline Flint: The following table provides information on the finished consultant episodes (FCEs) for the four conditions identified in the question. It is not possible to separately identify the cost of the individual diagnoses relating to exposure to sunlight.

FCEs for 2004-05 for cataracts, cancer of the conjunctiva, pterygium and solar keratopathy

Primary diagnosis	*Total episodes*
Cataracts	314,077
Cancer of the conjunctiva	279
Pterygium	1,889
Solar keratopathy	1,012

Notes:
1. FCEs An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis) The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfall in data (that is the data was ungrossed). *Source:* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

Eye Tests

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many eye tests were claimed for in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of those who had eye tests subsequently received (i) spectacles for the first time and (ii) replacement or repairs of spectacles. [88141]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The tables showing the numbers of national health services sight tests, optical vouchers and repairs and replacements claimed for in each of the last 10 years for England and broken down by former strategic health authority area have been placed in the Library.

The number of those who receive spectacles for the first time is not collected centrally.

Vouchers are given to those in eligible groups to contribute towards the cost of spectacles or contact lenses. Eligible groups for repairs and replacements are children aged 16 and under, those in full-time education under 19 and other low-income groups.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for low vision assessments in *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* social services departments in (i) England and (ii) Shropshire in the last period for which figures are available. [88672]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Fabricated Illness (Children)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the purpose is of her review of the Safeguarding "Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced", guidance; and if she will make a statement. [88033]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The guidance, "Safeguarding Children in Whom Illness is Fabricated or Induced" was published in August 2002, as supplementary guidance to "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (Department of Health,1999). The latter was revised in April 2006, to take account of the Children Act 2004.

The purpose of the Department's project is to review progress of how the guidance on safeguarding children in whom illness is fabricated or induced is being implemented within the national health service. The focus of the project is on health professionals in the context of health systems. There will also be some limited input from statutory agencies such as local authority children services which work closely with health teams on safeguarding children. The project is expected to be completed in 2007. Programme funding to continue the project in 2006-07 is not yet guaranteed.

Foreign Nurses

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foreign nurses have worked in the NHS *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [89081]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Foundation Hospitals

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many foundation trust hospitals have given undertakings in respect of Agenda for Change in their five year business plans; and what steps her Department is taking to ensure that current and future foundation trusts implement and work within the framework of Agenda for Change. [85281]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs) which became operational between 1 April and 1 July 2004 gave a commitment to implement Agenda for Change according to the same national timetable as the rest of the NHS. Applicants for foundation status thereafter were already covered by the national agenda for change agreement and therefore legally their staff on Whitley terms were entitled to the new contract and those on local contracts had to be offered the new terms and conditions. Business plans of NHSFTs are available from respective organisations.

NHSFTs are not bound by any statutory obligation to adhere to Government pay agreements. They are free to deliver healthcare without direction from central Government or performance management by health authorities. However, as independently regulated organisations with a duty to deliver on national standards and demonstrate financial viability, NHSFTs are expected to be model employers and build on their track record of maintaining and developing high standards of employment practice.

Frank Campaign

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people who accessed the Frank campaign in each of the last five years. [88715]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Frank was launched in May 2003. Between September 2003 and March 2006, according to the figures for which are available for those 30 months, Frank's contribution to drug prevention and increasing participation in treatment was as follows:

61,887 people were provided with information about a suitable local substance misuse service;

35,910 young people and 13,280 parents discussed drug issues with Frank directly. Frank also dealt with 61,713 emails; and

there were seven million hits on the website and 344,663 hits on the drug treatment web pages. The number of hits to the 'Talk to Frank' website's treatment/prevention pages has almost tripled since 2004.

In addition to this:

over 2,000 stakeholders use and recommend Frank's services per year; and

over 5,000 drug and young people professionals receive news and training information about Frank to support local delivery.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which localities her Department has identified as being significantly under-provided in terms of GP numbers. [84461]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Those primary care trusts (PCTs) which have fewer than the average number of general practitioners (GP) per 100,000 weighted population are relatively under-provided. The White Paper "Our Health Our Care Our Say" further identifies from among these PCTs the 30 which have fewest GPs for their populations. These PCTs, which are listed on page 63 of the White Paper, are being encouraged to make systematic use of their new contractual freedoms to increase their primary medical care capacity.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there have been *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 10,000 population in each primary care trust in each year since 1997. [86212]

Caroline Flint: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general practitioner surgeries and *(b)* single-handed general practitioner surgeries there were in each (i) region and (ii) health authority in each year since 1997. [84910]

Caroline Flint: The information requested up to September 2005 has been placed in the Library. The data relates to strategic health authority areas in existence prior to 1 July 2006, and by primary care trust area since 2001 when they came into being.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average annual number of patients were seen by general practitioners in Brent in each of the last five years. [87776]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP practices in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region had at least 50 per cent. of their patients living three or more miles away in each of the last five years. [88146]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected by the Department.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per head of population there were in *(a)* South-East Cambridgeshire constituency and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [88740]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of general practitioners per head of population in the South-East Cambridgeshire constituency and in England in each of the last five years is shown in the table.

	Numbers (headcount)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England					
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	28,802	29,202	30,358	31,523	32,738
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population	58.2	58.8	60.9	62.9	65.1
of which					
Cambridge city PCT					
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)	85	86	92	99	101
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population	77.3	76.8	80.1	83.6	85.3
East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT					
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	82	78	81	85	93
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population	59.1	55.5	55.8	58.5	64.0
South Cambridgeshire PCT					
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	60	63	75	66	73
All Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population	45.8	47.8	55.9	48.7	53.9

[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes Contracted GPs , GMS Others and PMS Others. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS Unrestricted Principals, PMS Contracted GPs.

Notes:

1. PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP retainers
2. Mid-year ONS 2005 population figures for PCTs are not yet available, therefore 2004 PCT figures have been used for 2005 organisation calculations, as a result these figures are subject to change.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics. 2001 Office for national statistics population census.

Haematopathologists

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken by her Department to ensure that there are sufficient haematopathologists to fulfil the criteria of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence improving outcomes guidance for haematological cancers. [87739]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* It is for cancer networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities and postgraduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their work force needs and the education and training of all staff linked to local and national priorities for cancer, including the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's improving outcomes guidance.

Haemophiliacs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what service level agreement applies to the provision of recombinant factor VII to haemophiliacs. [85882]

Caroline Flint: Funding for the central budget programme was distributed as a single allocation to strategic health authorities (SHAs) on 25 July 2006. It will be for SHAs, in consultation with local stakeholders, to agree and manage how best to deploy the funding allocated to them. The Department is working with SHA chief executives to finalise the service level agreement that will set out the expected outcomes from this funding.

Health Care Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps her Department is taking to encourage *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities to implement payment by results; what guidance will be given to those authorities and trusts which maintain block contracts; and if she will make a statement; [88869]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effects of *(a)* maintaining block contracts and *(b)* implementing payment by results; [88870]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effects of payment by results in secondary care; what consultation has taken place with health professionals on moving away from block contracts; and if she will make a statement; [88871]

(4) what steps she plans to take to assist *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* NHS trusts and *(c)* foundation trusts to implement payments by results; and what support and guidance will be given to trusts which maintain block contracts. [88874]

Andy Burnham: Payment by results is a national policy, and there is a mandatory tariff which applies across the whole of the NHS. "The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2006/7", published in January 2006, set out the ability for strategic health authorities to agree specific local additional rules for a fixed period of time under special circumstances. Discussions on where these might be appropriate continue with the national health service.

We have a range of formal and informal evaluation tools to assist the analysis of payment by results. For example, we announced on 18 July 2006 the findings of the South Yorkshire laboratory, which tracked the progress of a health economy in which payment by results has been implemented to a faster timescale than elsewhere.

We provide a range of guidance and work with all NHS organisations and Monitor (the regulator of NHS foundation trusts) to progress the implementation of payment by results. Detailed guidance on payment by results and full copies of evaluation material are available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/pbr.

In the past, services were largely paid for through block (fixed-cost) contracts between purchasers and

providers of care. This gave few incentives to purchasers and providers to understand and respond to the needs and preferences of patients. Securing more responsive services can be achieved by strong and effective commissioning with clear functions, new skills and a focus on meeting the specific needs of the local community and groups within it.

On 13 July 2006 "Health Reform in England: update and commissioning framework" was published. In this document is a consultation to inform the further development of a national model contract which will be used to procure services from NHS trusts, foundation trusts, and independent and third sector providers.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the impact of maintaining block contracts on (*a*) practice-based commissioning and (*b*) patient choice; and if she will make a statement. [88872]

Andy Burnham: Practice-based commissioning and patient choice are integral parts of the reform process that will ensure that patients and communities have their specific needs and preferences reflected in the commissioning and provision of health and social care.

Historically, block contracts gave few incentives to commissioners and providers of care to respond to the needs and preferences of patients. On 13 July 2006 "Health Reform in England: update and commissioning framework" was published. In this document is a consultation to inform the further development of a national model contract which will be used to procure services from national health service trusts, foundation trusts, and independent and third sector providers.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether (*a*) the new payment by results programme board will give guidance to health authorities which maintain block contracts after 2008-09 and (*b*) there will be scrutiny of health authorities to ensure that block contracts are not imposed on NHS trusts and foundation trusts; and if she will make a statement. [88873]

Andy Burnham: The payment by results programme board will help ensure that appropriate governance procedures are in place for the implementation of payment by results.

"The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2006-07", published in January 2006, sets out the ability for strategic health authorities (SHAs) to agree specific local additional rules for a fixed period under special circumstances. Discussions on where these might apply are continuing with the national health service.

Primary care trusts will be responsible for commissioning services for their communities and will be accountable to SHAs for the commissioning decisions that they make.

A range of providers including NHS trusts and foundation trusts will provide health and social care services. Commissioning will be a partnership between primary care trusts (PCTs), general practice and local government. General practice is closest to individual patients and best placed to advise them on their choices. Through practice-based commissioning, practices will have more freedom to determine the services that are made available to the local population. PCTs will bring a wider view of the overall needs of people living in their communities, and can identify inequalities.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether block contracts will be allowed for ordinary elective procedures in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [88875]

Andy Burnham: On 13 July 2006 "Health Reform in England: update and commissioning framework" was published. In this document is a consultation to inform the further development of a national model contract which will be used to procure services from national health service, foundation trusts, and independent and third sector providers.

The aim is to publish a model contract in autumn 2006 for use in the 2007-08 contracting round. The eventual model contract will support the tenets of the health reform programme including practice-based commissioning, payment by results and good financial health.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of savings achieved through competitive purchasing in the NHS in each of the last three years. [88878]

Andy Burnham: The prices that the national health service pays reflect the market dynamics for individual products. It results from direct competition between suppliers, where such competition exists.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) competitively tenders and awards framework agreements on behalf of the NHS in England where central frameworks are appropriate.

Savings achieved through NHS PASA's competitive purchasing in each of the last three years is as follows:

2005-06, savings of £325 million on contract value of £3.2 billion;

2004-05, savings of £339 million on contract value of £3.6 billion; and

2003-04, savings of £409.9 million on contract value of £4.25 billion.

It must be recognised that NHS PASA can only report on the value and savings of contracts in its name; there is no central record for contracts awarded by NHS trusts themselves.

Health Professions Council

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of the cases brought against chiropodists by the Health Professions Council resulted in guilty verdicts in each year since it was established; [88363]

(2) how many cases brought against chiropodists by the Health Professions Council have resulted in compensation being paid to the chiropodist because of a spurious complaint. [88364]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally. The Health Professions Council is an autonomous statutory body and maintains its own record of fitness to practise cases.

Health Service Changes

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average consultation period is for the changes which primary care trusts and hospital trusts are implementing during the 2006-07 financial year; and if she will make a statement. [74259]

Andy Burnham: The information is not held centrally.

"Overview and Scrutiny of Health—Guidance", published in July 2003, advised that it is good practice for consultation to follow Cabinet Office guidelines which state that full consultation should last for a minimum of 12 weeks.

Health Service Deficits

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she is taking to reduce deficits in the health service; and if she will make a statement. [87084]

Andy Burnham: The aim is for the national health service as a whole to achieve financial balance by the end of 2006-07 and for all overspending organisations to have reached monthly balance of income and expenditure within the same period. The new strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been given the responsibility to develop and implement a service and financial strategy for managing the overall financial position within their health economy. SHA strategies will include the creation of local reserves.

A more rigorous financial and performance regime has also been introduced which is intended to identify and expose the underlying financial problems in NHS organisations which may not previously have been apparent. Through this greater degree of transparency and performance management, NHS organisations will be able to work effectively towards returning to financial balance.

For the organisations with the biggest problems we have sent in financial and management specialists to help address problems and restore financial balance.

Health Services

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GP practices, *(b)* dental practices, *(c)* ophthalmic practices and *(d)* pharmacies there were in (i) England and (ii) each region in each of the last five years. [88136]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested has been placed in the Library. However, data on the number of ophthalmic practices is only available for England and cannot be broken down regionally.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacies (i) there were and (ii) there were per 100,000 resident population in (A) England and (B) each region in each of the last five years. [88140]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacies in (i) England and (ii) each region were (A) male and (B) female (1) under 40, (2) between 40 and 55 and (3) over 55 years old in each of the last five years. [88142]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information has been placed in the Library.

The Information Centre for health and social care holds no workforce data on pharmacists. There are also no age data for the ophthalmic work force, while gender data at organisation level are only available for the latest year. Dental data for age and gender are not readily available at organisation level so are presented to national level. They are also included for the years in which they are available.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had on health deprivation in Stoke-on-Trent; and if she will make a statement. [80600]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Although there have been no recent departmental discussions on health deprivation in Stoke-on-Trent, the area had a visit by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 4 April when she visited the University Hospital of North Staffordshire National Health Service Trust. The Secretary of State also met hon. Members from North Staffordshire on 3 May.

Stoke-on-Trent is in the spearhead group, the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators. The group is a focus for action to help achieve the life expectancy element of the 2010 national health inequalities target to narrow the gap in life expectancy between the spearhead areas and the England average.

Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs). This is done on the basis of a fair funding formula which directs funding to those areas of greatest need. It includes the additional needs for health care related to deprivation. It is for individual PCTs to assess the health needs of their communities and to commission appropriate services to meet those needs.

Healthcare Commission

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what grounds hospital trusts can refuse to submit performance data to the Healthcare Commission. [89112]

Andy Burnham: Under section 68 of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003, the Healthcare Commission has the power to require information from national health service bodies at any time when that information relates to the provision of health care by or for that body, and when

the commission considers it necessary to have the information for the purposes of its functions in relation to NHS health care. It is an offence not to comply with such a requirement without reasonable excuse.

A hospital trust might have grounds for refusing a request if it could show that the information was not needed for any of the purposes outlined.

Heart Conditions

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to improve the life chances of those with heart conditions in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Gravesham since 1997. [88100]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Reducing deaths from coronary heart disease (CHD) is a top priority for this Government. The national service framework (NSF) for CHD, published in March 2000, sets the agenda for the modernisation of CHD services over a 10-year period. The NSF was drawn up by clinicians, patients, managers and Government and sets 12 standards for improved prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation and goals to secure fair access to high quality services. The NSF is already making a real difference for patients.

The national health service on the south-east coast has advised that following the publication of the NSF for CHD, a significant amount of work was undertaken to improve access to services for patients with CHD, and to ensure that future services meet the needs of the Kent population.

In March 2004, the Kent cardiac network ratified a strategy to develop a network of cardiac catheter labs and associated facilities across Kent and Medway. This resulted in the agreement to build catheter laboratories at Dartford, Margate, Maidstone, Medway and Tunbridge Wells to support the one already existing laboratory in Ashford.

In addition to the development of new catheter labs, £14.5 million capital funding has enabled the local hospitals to redesign their cardiology departments to enable the catheter labs to become the focal point of local heart centres. Complex cardiac surgery will continue to go to the specialist surgical centres at St Thomas's and Kings College Hospital in London.

Across the Gravesham area, the NHS on the south-east coast has advised of the following improvements to cardiac services since the publication of the NSF for CHD:

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

A new heart centre at Darent Valley hospital is under construction. This new building will bring together cardiac services and will be a centre of excellence. Coronary angiography commenced at Darent Valley in November 2005 as an interim service while the heart centre build is completed. The cardiac team anticipate moving into the building during November 2006. The opening of the heart centre will allow the service to be extended by doing more angiograms and also offering angioplasty locally by spring 2007.

At the trust's rapid access chest pain clinic patients are seen and start their treatment within two weeks of referral from their general practitioner.

The introduction of specialist nurses at the Darent Valley Hospital to help reduce the door-to-needle time. Patients having some type of heart attack now receive clot-busting drugs as soon as possible.

Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust (PCT)

The PCT runs healthy lifestyle days in the local community where the general public can discuss health matters and receive advice from community nursing staff and dieticians, and physiotherapists.

The development of a breathlessness clinic provides community diagnostic services for patients, many of whom may have heart failure.

Heat-related Conditions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received hospital treatment for *(a)* sunburn, *(b)* heat stroke and *(c)* dehydration in (i) each London strategic health authority and (ii) each London primary care trust in each year since 1997. [87672]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held in the format requested. However, the table showing the latest data available for episodes relating to effects of heat and light, sunburn and volume depletion (dehydration), by London strategic health authority and primary care trust for the years 1997-98 to 2004-05, has been placed in the Library.

HIV/AIDS

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many HIV tests in each genito-urinary medicine clinic in each London strategic health authority were *(a)* offered and *(b)* taken in 2005. [88521]

Caroline Flint: The number of HIV tests offered and taken in the genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics within the London strategic health authorities (SHA) is shown in the table. The dataset used to compile this data was taken from the KC60 return, which is made by all GUM clinics to the health protection agency. Only tests offered and taken in GUM clinics are recorded in the KC60 return. Testing undertaken in other clinical settings, such as general practice, is not recorded in the dataset.

The data do not represent the number of HIV tests offered and taken up by the population resident in each SHA, as many patients cross health boundaries to access GUM clinics. In addition, the gender and sexual orientation mix varies between clinics. Some clinics are attended by a high number of homosexual and bisexual men and consequently this influences the number of HIV tests offered and taken.

Numbers of HIV tests offered [1] and taken [2] in genitourinary medicine clinics [3] by SHA, London, 2005 [4]

SHA	Clinic name	Offered/ tested	2005
North Central London	Archway Sexual Health Clinic	Offered	6,450
		Tested	5,217

Numbers of HIV tests offered [1] and taken [2] in genitourinary medicine clinics [3] by SHA, London: 2005 [4]

SHA	Clinic name	Offered/ tested	2005
	Barnet General Hospital, Clare Simpson House	Offered	3,379
		Tested	2,633
	Moorfields Eye Hospital	Offered	120
		Tested	98
	Mortimer Market Centre	Offered	16,461
		Tested	14,789
	St. Ann's Hospital	Offered	6,778
		Tested	4,285
	The Royal Free Hospital	Offered	5,787
		Tested	4,870
	Town Clinic	Offered	2,740
		Tested	1,805
North East London	Barking Hospital	Offered	1,446
		Tested	1,439
	Homerton Hospital	Offered	9,086
		Tested	7,713
	John Scott Health Centre	Offered	68
		Tested	67
	Newham General Hospital	Offered	6,255
		Tested	3,598
	Oldchurch Hospital	Offered	604
		Tested	586
	St. Bartholomew's Hospital	Offered	7,752
		Tested	5,283
	The Royal London Hospital	Offered	15,636
		Tested	10,418
	Whipps Cross University Hospital	Offered	1,258
		Tested	1,063
North West London	Central Middlesex Hospital, Patrick Clements Clinic	Offered	7,158
		Tested	5,042
	Charing Cross Hospital	Offered	8,650
		Tested	6,275
	Ealing Hospital, Pasteur Suite	Offered	4,814
		Tested	3,996
	Northwick Park Hospital	Offered	4,783
		Tested	3,586
	St. Mary's Hospital, Jefferiss Wing	Offered	22,218
		Tested	15,544
	John Hunter Clinic	Offered	9,805
		Tested	7,719
	The Victoria Clinic for HIV and Sexual Health	Offered	8,464
		Tested	7,082
	Tudor Wing, Hillingdon Hospital	Offered	2,468
		Tested	2,037
	West Middlesex University Hospital	Offered	6,776
		Tested	4,924
South East London	Beckenham Hospital	Offered	3,091
		Tested	1,983
	Guy's Hospital	Offered	5,671
		Tested	4,499
	King's College Hospital [5]	Offered	19,917
		Tested	9,883
	St. Thomas's Hospital	Offered	13,138
		Tested	9,907
	Trafalgar Clinic	Offered	5,805
		Tested	4,268
South West London	Kingston Hospital	Offered	6,196
		Tested	4,850
	Mayday University Hospital	Offered	9,849
		Tested	6,456
	Queen Mary's University Hospital	Offered	5,172
		Tested	3,091
	St. George's Hospital	Offered	17,210
		Tested	11,809
	St. Helier Hospital	Offered	4,520
		Tested	2,367

[1] Offered defined as KC60 codes S2 (HIV antibody test and sexual health screen) + P1A (HIV antibody test no sexual health screen) + P1B (HIV antibody test offered and refused).
[2] Test taken defined as S2 + P1A.
[3] The following genitourinary medicine clinics appear under different names to those used in 2004:
- Barnet General Hospital, Clare Simpson House was previously Clare Simpson House;
- Barking Hospital was previously Sydenham Centre;
- Whipps Cross University Hospital was previously Forest Healthcare;
- The Victoria Clinic for HIV and Sexual Health was previously South Westminster Centre;
- Guy's Hospital was previously Lloyd Clinic; and
- St. George's Hospital was previous the Courtyard Clinic.
[4] Data for 2005 is provisional.
[5] King's College hospital does not collect information for code S2.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people tested HIV positive in each London borough in each year since 1997; [87327]

(2) how many people have been diagnosed as having AIDS in each London borough since 1997. [87505]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and is shown in following tables one and two.

Table 1: Individuals diagnosed with HIV in London: by year of diagnosis and London SHA[1]. Data to the end of June 2006.

SHA	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[2]	Total
North West London	675	613	566	656	794	864	888	921	885	193	7,055
North Central London	492	478	507	537	618	674	745	660	694	222	5,627
North East London	181	190	255	389	449	380	530	537	545	120	3,576
South East London	287	367	490	515	662	772	765	740	716	122	5,436
South West London	102	121	155	230	252	290	347	348	291	104	2,240
Total[3]	1,739	1,771	1,976	2,329	2,778	2,990	3,278	3,207	3,132	761	23,961

[1] April 2002 national health service geography.
[2] Reports received to the end of June 2006.
[3] Includes 27 individuals who were diagnosed with AIDS in London with SHA unknown.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Table 2: Individuals diagnosed with AIDS in London: by year of AIDS diagnosis and London SHA[1]. Data to the end of June 2006.

SHA	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[2]	Total
North West London	231	161	136	109	88	85	79	53	46	12	989
North Central London	162	113	75	107	65	46	51	56	33	8	716
North East London	61	41	78	65	43	63	57	67	46	5	526
South East London	113	101	84	106	98	119	111	64	72	6	874
South West London	66	49	40	58	58	56	57	49	39	19	491
Total[3]	634	466	403	446	352	369	356	289	236	50	3,601

[1] April 2002 NHS geography.
[2] Reports received to the end of June 2006.
[3] Includes five individuals who were diagnosed with AIDS in London with SHA unknown.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Hospital Admissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* South-East Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* England were admitted to hospital in each of the last five years as a result of the effects of *(a)* hot and *(b)* cold weather. [88929]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available centrally.

Hospital Art

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on hospital art in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by region. [89084]

Andy Burnham: Since 2002-03, information has been provided annually by national health service trusts on the total amount invested in art and art projects. This information is provided in the following table and shows the total spend on labour, materials and resources for arts and arts projects by strategic health authority (SHA) area as configured at 31 March 2006.

Data for 2003-04 and before were provided as part of a mandatory data set. From 2004-05, data have been provided by trusts on a voluntary basis as part of the initiative to reduce bureaucracy in the NHS.

Approximately 50 per cent. of the expenditure in each year was funded by sources external to the NHS, including charities.

The data provided have not been amended centrally and their accuracy of their is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

£

Strategic health authority	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	424,863	468,829	126,804	233,153
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	2,500	2,500	5,600	4,235
Birmingham and The Black Country	181,248	230,922	317,633	103,970
Cheshire and Merseyside	30,195	36,539	364,534	43,650
County Durham and Tees Valley	449,556	369,914	35,000	125,900
Cumbria and Lancashire	70,905	105,887	18,018	103,500
Dorset and Somerset	219,690	229,747	52,675	22,912
Essex	44,420	121,855	123,090	33,921
Greater Manchester	369,608	266,693	843,983	652,235
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	373,497	264,369	154,620	—
Kent and Medway	29,500	40,000	5,000	7,300
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	5,500	3,000	—	107,971
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	164,680	153,688	177,833	117,270
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	31,197	50,726	34,566	143,082
North Central London	302,230	97,000	20,000	56,825
North East London	245,381	335,077	358,145	211,339
North West London	483,309	481,615	255,271	116,826
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	270,181	248,000	196,080	374,582

£

Strategic health authority	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Shropshire and Staffordshire	50,036	51,569	11,000	204,280
South East London	625,355	434,314	197,240	91,737
South West London	217,900	136,400	85,638	146,780
South West Peninsular	226,806	84,264	37,335	69,487
South Yorkshire	53,460	59,264	20,899	82,560
Surrey and Sussex	330,702	160,289	309,131	47,222
Thames Valley	83,588	62,594	146,171	185,677
Trent	25,607	58,400	44,539	217,695
West Midlands South	30,800	20,700	65,000	251,200
West Yorkshire	243,660	142,568	122,453	355,874
Total for England	5,586,374	4,716,723	4,128,258	4,111,183

Hospital Building

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 328W, on hospital building, if she will republish the data with the threshold value defined as *(a)* £25 million and *(b)* £50 million at 2006-07 prices. [83930]

Andy Burnham: A copy of the full list of operational hospital building projects given the go-ahead since January 1980 with values over £29.7 million has been placed in the Library. In line with the recent uplift of the £50 million threshold to a 2006-07 price basis of £58.6 million, the value of a £25 million scheme in 1999-2000 is today worth £29.7 million.

Hospital Expenditure

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* availability component of the unitary charge and *(b)* capital charges were as a proportion of total hospital expenditure in each hospital in each of the last three years. [86672]

Andy Burnham: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 384W, with regard to the availability component of the unitary charge. The table placed in the Library gives details of unitary payments for each private finance initiative scheme which has become operational over the last five years (the table shows what the percentage of these payments are against the trusts' annual turnover as opposed to expenditure). Unitary payments include the costs for hard and soft facilities management services as well as for construction and financing. It is not possible to separately identify costs attributable only to the non-services element of the contract, as the availability component includes costs attributable to providing hard facilities management services.

Information on capital charges as a proportion of national health service trusts' annual expenditure in each of the last three years has been placed in the Library.

Hospital Food

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the average amount spent on hospital food per patient per day in 2005-06; and whether a central assessment has been made of variation in spending in each region; [88516]

(2) what proportion of total patient main meals in hospitals were represented by untouched meals in 2005-06. [88517]

Andy Burnham: For 2005-06, data provided by the national health service shows that the average amount spent per patient meal was £2.65.

No central assessment is made of spending on main meals in different regions. However, performance indicators on this and related areas are available to all trusts through the estates return information collection system to support local monitoring and decision-making.

Data on untouched meals form part of a wider question on untouched/unserved meals. This includes food delivered to the ward and not served, for example because a patient has gone home, as well as that served but not eaten. For 2005-06, the percentage of untouched/unserved meals was 10.14 per cent.

The data provided has not been amended centrally, and the accuracy of this data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Hospital-acquired Infections

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of research on the possible link between the level of patient harm and negative health-care outcomes and the number of beds in wards. [85166]

Andy Burnham: The research that the Department has commissioned on in-patient accommodation is not yet complete and therefore no final assessment has been made.

Hospitals (Cornwall)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ensure that the next edition of 'Choosing Your Hospital' for the West and Central Cornwall primary care trusts includes full descriptions of each of the three hospitals within the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust including their records for cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* inpatient waits. [87660]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is expected that the next edition of the 'Choosing Your Hospital' booklet will include descriptions of each hospital within a hospital trust as well as performance indicators. The performance indicators in the booklet are likely to include information on meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia reports and waiting times. Performance indicators will be based on Healthcare Commission information.

Immunisation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ensure that all those due for

immunisation receive that immunisation in the next two months. [88135]

Caroline Flint: Children are currently offered vaccinations according to the following schedule:

When to immunise	*What is given*	*How it is given*
Two, three and four months old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio and Hib (DTaP/IPV/Hib)	One injection
	MenC	One injection
Around 13 months old	Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)	One injection
Three years and four months to five years old	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) and polio (dTaP/IPV or DTaP/IPV)	One injection
	Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)	One injection
13 to 18 years old	Diphtheria, tetanus, polio (Td/IPV)	One injection

Pneumococcal vaccine will be added to the routine schedule from 4 September 2006.

Independent Service Providers

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of NHS operations were carried out by the independent sector in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of NHS operations are expected to be carried out by the independent sector in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2009. [85283]

Andy Burnham: Information is not collected centrally on the percentage of national health service operations carried out in the independent sector. Information on elective admissions is collected. The percentage of NHS elective admissions carried out by the independent sector was 1 per cent in 2003-04, 1.5 per cent in 2004-05 and 1.8 per cent in 2005-06.

NHS local delivery plans suggest this percentage could rise to 4 per cent in 2006-07. Information is not available for 2009.

Infant Mortality

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards infant mortality targets; and if she will make a statement. [88716]

Caroline Flint: The infant mortality health inequalities public service agreement target is by 2010 to reduce by 10 per cent. the gap between routine and manual groups, as defined by Office for National Statistics, and the rest of the population. Currently, the gap is 19 per cent. The latest data show no change in the gap between these groups and the rest of the population, 2002-04, compared with the data for the previous year, 2001-03, which were set out in 'Tackling Health Inequalities—A Status Report on the Programme for Action', published last August.

We are undertaking a review of this target to help sharpen local delivery of services to these groups with a strong focus on key interventions to prevent avoidable infant mortality. This will help contribute to meeting the target by narrowing the gap between these groups and the rest of the population, and build a long-term sustainable reduction in health inequalities. The results of the review will be published in due course.

Influenza Vaccinations

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the take-up rate for influenza vaccinations was in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust in London in 2005-06; and if she will make a statement. [88837]

Caroline Flint: The take-up rate for influenza vaccine in 2005-06 by strategic health authority and primary care trust is shown in the following table:

Strategic health authority (SHA)	*Primary care trust (PCT)*	*Percentage uptake 2005-06 those aged 65 and over*	*Percentage uptake 2005-06 in those aged 6 month to under 65*
North East London SHA	Havering PCT	76	49
	Waltham Forest PCT	76	56
	Redbridge PCT	74	55
	City and Hackney Teaching PCT	73	64
	Barking and Dagenham PCT	72	67
	Newham PCT	71	46
	Tower Hamlets PCT	71	47
	Mean SHA	74	54
North Central London SHA	Barnet PCT	72	49
	Enfield PCT	70	51
	Haringey Teaching PCT	70	50
	Islington PCT	69	42
	Camden PCT	68	50
	Mean SHA	70	46
South East London SHA	Bexley Care Trust	73	51
	Bromley PCT	73	42
	Greenwich Teaching PCT	69	44
	Lambeth PCT	65	56
	Lewisham PCT	65	45
	Southwark PCT	62	48
	Mean SHA	69	45
South West London SHA	Kingston PCT	75	54

Strategic health authority (SHA)	Primary care trust (PCT)	Percentage uptake 2005-06 those aged 65 and over	Percentage uptake 2005-06 in those aged 6 month to under 65
	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	75	55
	Sutton and Merton PCT	73	46
	Wandsworth PCT	71	45
	Croydon PCT	70	48
	Mean SHA	72	48
North West London SHA	Brent Teaching PCT	75	44
	Harrow PCT	75	54
	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	74	45
	Hillingdon PCT	74	49
	Westminster PCT	73	42
	Westminster PCT	73	42
	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	73	46
	Hounslow PCT	72	[1]
	Ealing PCT	71	55
	Mean SHA	73	48

[1] No data submitted

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Brent *(a)* were entitled to and *(b)* received the vaccine for influenza in each year since 1997. [87238]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected in the format requested.

Influenza vaccine uptake data for those aged 65 and over has been collected since 2000. For 2000-01 and 2001-02 the data was collected by health authority. The uptake for Brent and Harrow Health Authority (HA) in 2000-01 was 61 per cent. and in 2001-02 was 67 per cent.

Influenza uptake by primary care trust (PCT) was collected from 2002 to 2006 and is available on the web at: www.immunisation.nhs.uk/article.php?id=448. A copy has been placed in the Library.

General practitioners are responsible for ordering sufficient flu vaccine to immunise those who fall into at risk groups registered with them.

Influenza vaccine uptake for those aged 65 and over in Brent is shown in the following table.

	HA/PCT	Rate of uptake (percentage)
2000-01	Brent and Harrow	[1]61
2001-02	Brent and Harrow	[1]67
2002-03	Brent Teaching	61
2003-04	Brent Teaching	69
2004-05	Brent Teaching	71
2005-06	Brent Teaching	75

[1] Data reported by HA. Data collected by PCT from 2002-03.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2060W, on influenza vaccine, how often in the last 10 years the Novartis Vaccines plant has been out of production; and what the reasons were in each case. [87726]

Caroline Flint: The Novartis Vaccines plant did not produce influenza vaccine in 2004, following an inspection by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Information Sharing

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing a pilot to test an integrated approach to information handling between a primary care trust and a local authority. [84466]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1557-58W.

Information Technology Projects

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by her Department and its agencies; and if she will make a statement. [87178]

Caroline Flint: The information technology projects currently being undertaken by the Department and its agencies are shown in the table:

Name of project	Start date of project	Original planned completion date of project	Current expected completion date of project	Planned cost of project (£000)	Current estimated cost of project (£000)
UNIFY2	July 2006	March 2007	March 2007	1,400	1,400
Stakeholder relationship management system	June 2005	June 2006	July 2006	555	470
EPM	December 2005	August 2006	August 2006	213	240
Notes 7 upgrade	October 2005	December 2006	April 2007	1,500	2,200
Windows XP SP2 upgrade	January 2006	October 2006	December 2006	900	900
External services environment	April 2006	September 2006	September 2006	215	215

Name of project	Start date of project	Original planned completion date of project	Current expected completion date of project	Planned cost of project (£000)	Current estimated cost of project (£000)
Network and cabling upgrade to Quarry House	January 2006	April 2007	July 2007	3,000	3,150
Web 2006	November 2005	June 2006	Oct 2006	176	176
Enterprise project and collaboration	November 2005	October 2006	September 2006	150	135
Benefits tracking	January 2006	May 2006	June 2006	375	375
The Club project	June 2005	July 2006	October 2006	5,710	5,710
National Programme for IT[1]			—	—	—

[1] There is no single national start or completion date for the national programme for information technology as a whole, or for its individual systems and services. The aim is to achieve substantial integration of health and social care information systems in England under the national programme by 2010. Clearly systems will need to be upgraded in the light of new technology and new national health service requirements beyond that date. The approach, in line with best practice, is to implement new services incrementally, avoiding 'big bang' approach, and providing increasingly richer functionality over time. The value of the contracts let for the core components of the national programme amounts to £6.2 billion over 10 years, and this has not increased.

Intensive Care Beds

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many intensive care beds were available on average in 2005-06; and what the average occupancy rates were. [88525]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1340W. Data are not yet available for 2005-06.

Intensive Therapy Units

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when an assessment was last made of the sufficiency of capacity in intensive therapy units in England; and if she will make a statement. [85320]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* It is for local health care providers, working with their commissioners, to determine—in the light of their case mix and their anticipated level of emergency and elective activity—the level of critical care capacity needed locally.

The NHS Plan published in 2000 included a commitment to increase the number of critical care beds in England by 30 per cent., between 2000 and 2003. This target has been achieved. On 6 June 2006, there were 3,278 adult critical care beds. This is the highest number of critical care beds recorded since this census started in 1999. Data are available on the Department's website at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/hospitalactivity/data_requests/index.htm

International Humanitarian Health Work Toolkit

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she is taking to strengthen the International Humanitarian and Health Work Toolkit to increase the amount of humanitarian work that NHS staff undertake abroad. [88900]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is working closely with the review Lord Crisp is carrying out on behalf of the Prime Minister. This is looking at how the national health service can contribute to capacity building in developing countries. We will review the need to update and strengthen the toolkit in the light of his report.

Isolated Acute Medical Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress she has made in implementing the recommendations of the 2002 Royal College of Physicians working party on isolated acute medical services. [88533]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local national health service organisations are responsible for ensuring that they provide health care to meet the needs of their patients taking into account and building on evidence of good practice. The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) recommendations on isolated acute medical services is one such piece of good practice guidance. Progress in implementing recommendations made by the RCP is not monitored by the Department.

Learning and Development

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated for the new contractual commitment to providing learning and development opportunities for all NHS staff. [86145]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Specific funding, amounting to £180 million over three years for national vocational qualifications and learning accounts, as part of the skills for life initiative ended in 2005-06.

From 2006-07, the continuing responsibility for these initiatives remains with the strategic health authorities who will decide their priorities and the use of the totality of their funding to deal with all of their financial commitments, including learning and development of national health service staff.

Liquor Manufacturers

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make it her policy to require liquor manufacturers in England to supply consumers with full information about the ingredients used to produce

their beverages; and if she will make a statement; [88530]

(2) if she will make an assessment of public support for an end to the exemption from food labelling laws for liquor manufacturers. [88531]

Caroline Flint: Food labelling legislation is largely harmonised at European Union level. The European Commission is currently conducting a review of this legislation, which includes the possible extension of ingredient listing to alcoholic drinks. As part of this review, the United Kingdom (UK) has already indicated to the European Commission that it supports the principle of ingredient listing for all alcoholic drinks, while recognising that any proposal for detailed application will need to be fully considered in public consultation with stakeholders.

The UK Government's position on ingredient listing for alcoholic drinks was informed by extensive public consultations, which took place in 2004 and 2006. Any proposals from the European Commission for an extension of ingredient listing to alcoholic drinks will be subject to further public consultation and a full impact assessment.

Lymphoma

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department has spent on lymphoma nurse specialists in each year since 2001. [87918]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing, and trusts must deploy them in the light of their local circumstances.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the merits of specialist services to treat myalgic encephalomyelitis sufferers; [87999]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect of budgetary pressures within the NHS on specialist services for myalgic encephalomyelitis sufferers. [88000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A report on specialist services for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) is expected to be published later in the year.

We have made no assessment of the effect of budgetary pressures within the National Health Service on specialist services for CFS/ME.

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost in a year to the economy of myalgic encephalomyelitis; and how much was spent on health services for myalgic encephalomyelitis sufferers in the last period for which figures are available. [88343]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not made an estimate of the cost to the economy of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis, and does not monitor national health service expenditure by specific illnesses.

Medical Records

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what medical records that are not kept within their normal medical files a doctor is permitted to hold on patients. [87894]

Caroline Flint: There are no restrictions on what medical records are kept by doctors and other medical professionals provided they comply with the requirements of professional regulatory bodies, departmental guidance, and the law. Doctors are required by the General Medical Council to keep clear, accurate, legible and contemporaneous patient records which report the relevant clinical findings, the decisions made, the information given to patients, and any drugs or other treatment prescribed, and which serve to keep colleagues well informed when sharing the care of patients. Any information held by a doctor about a patient is subject to a range of statutory and common law obligations, including specifically the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998, directions and guidance issued by the Department and, in many cases, organisation-specific policies and working practices determined by employing bodies.

Medical Services Directive

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations has she received from *(a)* the Dental Laboratories Association and *(b)* others with regards to the revision of the Medical Devices Directive. [85928]

Andy Burnham: The Dental Laboratories Association (DLA) along with other relevant trade associations are members of a steering committee set up by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to help prepare the United Kingdom negotiating position on the revision of the medical devices directive. The DLA has also made separate representations to the Department on a proposal that the statement of conformity to the directive prepared by a dental technician be passed by the dentist to the named patient.

Medical Staff (Brent)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors were recruited from overseas in Brent in each year since 1997. [87321]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held in the format requested. However, the following table shows the latest data available for general and personal medical services, and hospital and community health services medical staff, including all doctors for Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust and the former Brent and Harrow Health Authority, by country of qualification, year and by organisation.

General and personal medical services and Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): All doctors[1,2,3] by country of qualification and year showing specified organisations

Number (headcount)[4]

	All doctors[1,2,3]			
	All countries of qualification	*United Kingdom*	*Remainder of the EEA*	*Elsewhere*
1997				
North West London	4,321	3,075	283	963
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	12	11	0	1
1998				
North West London	4,094	2,855	280	959
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	7	6	0	1
1999				
North West London	4,176	2,956	274	946
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	4	4	0	0
2000				
North West London	4,601	3,235	316	1,050
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	7	6	1	0
2001				
North West London	4,642	3,242	324	1,076
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	6	6	0	0
2002				
North West London	4,809	3,319	344	1,146
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	219	115	8	96
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003				
North West London	5,054	3,460	377	1,217
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	225	122	7	96
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004				
North West London	5,396	3,597	428	1,371
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	227	121	6	100
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005				
North West London	5,531	3,670	451	1,410
of which				
Brent Teaching PCT	221	122	15	90
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Number (headcount)[4]

	All HCHS medical staff[2,3]			
	All countries of qualification	*United Kingdom*	*Remainder of the EEA*	*Elsewhere*
1997				
North West London	3,112	2,300	221	591
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	12	11	0	1
1998				
North West London	2,906	2,099	212	595
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	7	6	0	1
1999				
North West London	3,042	2,228	216	598
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	4	4	0	0
2000				
North West London	3,476	2,513	256	707
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	7	6	1	0
2001				
North West London	3,492	2,468	269	755
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	6	6	0	0
2002				
North West London	3,670	2,555	283	832
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	22	7	3	12
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003				
North West London	3,878	2,660	313	905
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	20	9	2	9
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004				
North West London	4,164	2,766	354	1,044
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	17	6	1	10
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005				
North West London	4,288	2,833	369	1,086
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	5	1	10	0
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Number (headcount)[4]

	All practitioners (GP retainers)[1]			
	All countries of qualification	United Kingdom	Remainder of the EEA	Elsewhere
1997				
North West London	1,209	775	62	372
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998				
North West London	1,188	756	68	364
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999				
North West London	1,134	728	58	348
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000				
North West London	1,125	722	60	343
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	—	—	—	—
2001				
North West London	1,150	774	55	321
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002				
North West London	1,139	764	61	314
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	197	108	5	84
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2003				
North West London	1,176	800	64	312
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	205	113	5	87
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004				
North West London	1,232	831	74	327
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	210	115	5	90
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005				
North West London	1,243	837	82	324
of which:				
Brent Teaching PCT	216	121	5	90
Brent and Harrow HA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = data not applicable
[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers) includes Contracted GPs, GMS Others, PMS Others and GP Registrars. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS Unrestricted Principals, PMS Contracted GPs, PMS Salaried GPs, Restricted Principals/ Assistants, GP Registrars, Salaried Doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS Other, Flexible Career Scheme GPs and GP Returners.
[2] Excludes medical Hospital Practitioners and medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
[3] Excludes all dental staff. Information about country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. For staff in dental specialties, with a General Dental Council registration, the country of qualification is therefore unknown.
[4] GP data as at 1 October 1997-1999, 30 September 2000-2005. HCHS data as at 30 September each year
Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Medical Technologies

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures have been put in place to monitor the extent of the adoption of medical technologies in the NHS; [87029]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to ensure that budgetary pressures do not affect the use of the most effective medical technologies in the NHS. [87031]

Andy Burnham: There are no national measures in place specifically to monitor the adoption of non-drug medical technologies.

Guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is an important tool in ensuring that national health service organisations prioritise clinically and cost effective interventions.

Medical Transcription Services

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS organisations have outsourced medical transcription services to *(a)* UK and *(b)* overseas organisations; what estimate she has made of the reduction in the number of medical secretary posts as a result of outsourcing; and what arrangements are in place for the evaluation of the impact of outsourcing these services in terms of (i) value for money and (ii) impact on patient care. [86148]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Any decision to outsource medical transcription services and evaluate the impact of outsourcing these services is made by each national health service organisation in line with their business needs.

Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency requirement of notification of shortages of medicine applies to parallel import licence holders in the same way as it is applied to the original manufacturer. [88879]

Andy Burnham: Articles 23a and 81 of Directive 2001/83/EC (as amended) relate directly to the supply of medicines, and require holders of marketing authorisations—within the limits of their responsibilities—to maintain appropriate and continued supplies of their products, and to notify the competent authority if a product is not going to be available either temporarily or permanently. The legislation requires two months notice in all but exceptional circumstances. Information supplied to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is shared with medicines pharmacy and industry group in the Department.

Parallel import traders, for the purpose of the directive, are not holders of marketing authorisations and are not required to notify the MHRA. However, contractual terms and conditions with national health service trusts are applied to all suppliers equitably, whether manufacturers, traders or parallel importers.

Mental Health

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the demand for expansion of the capacity of secure mental health units. [85419]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The requirement for secure mental health services is kept under regular review in order to inform the planning of the future development of psychiatric services at all levels of security.

A review of the forensic mental health system is being planned and scoping meetings have already taken place. This is underpinned by clear capacity planning for high and medium secure services that has already taken place and regional forensic commissioners in the national health service are validating the projections against their own regional strategies. New service models are emerging and regional commissioners have established a work programme that takes these models and the implications of the capacity requirements forward in a structured way.

Progress is being monitored through the high security psychiatric services national oversight group.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average cost of a bed in a secure mental health ward and *(b)* total cost of secure mental health facilities was in the last year for which figures are available. [85420]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information about the average costs of beds in secure mental health facilities for 2004-05, the latest year available, is contained in the publication 'NHS reference costs 2005' and in the following tables, which are also available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/32/28/04133228.xls and www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/32/29/04133229.xls

The information is given in the form of national average unit costs per occupied bed day for various different types of secure provision. Figures are given for national health service trusts and primary care trusts combined, and for non-NHS providers. On the basis of these costs, we estimate total spending on secure mental health facilities in 2004-05 to be £664 million.

National schedule of reference costs: NHS trusts and primary care trusts combined, mental health services secure unit data

Service code	Mental heath services: secure unit data	Number of occupied bed days	National average unit cost (£)	Interquartile range of unit costs: Lower quartile (£)	Interquartile range of unit costs: Upper quartile (£)	Number of data submissions
ScU1	Local Psychiatric Intensive Care Units	92,702	476	413	577	21
ScU2	Low Level Secure Services	334,038	357	304	389	43
ScU3	Medium Level Secure Services	555,192	400	377	460	26
ScU41	High Dependency Secure Provision : Women's Services	3,417	473	477	779	2
ScU42	High Dependency Secure Provision: Mental Health/Psychosis	15,482	382	365	441	2
ScU43	High Dependency Secure Provision: Learning Disabilities	4,425	436	436	436	1
ScU51	Maximum Secure Unit: Women's Services	38,633	676	641	718	2
ScU52	Maximum Secure Unit: Mental Health/Psychosis	222,660	502	443	550	3
ScU53	Maximum Secure Unit: Learning Disabilities	22,463	533	533	533	1
ScU54	Maximum Secure Unit: Personality Disorder	60,014	571	518	669	2

National schedule of non-NHS providers: contracted and commissioned combined, mental health services secure unit data

Service code	Mental heath services: secure unit data	Number of occupied bed days	National average unit cost (£)	Interquartile range of unit costs: Lower quartile (£)	Interquartile range of unit costs: Upper quartile (£)	Number of data submissions
ScU1	Local Psychiatric Intensive Care Units	13,639	541	554	784	8
ScU2	Low Level Secure Services	69,118	440	365	510	23
ScU3	Medium Level Secure Services	89,690	490	441	549	30
ScU41	High Dependency Secure Provision: Women's Services	1,079	522	374	548	2
ScU42	High Dependency Secure Provision: Mental Health/Psychosis	1,179	419	374	499	6
ScU43	High Dependency Secure Provision: Learning Disabilities	2,769	440	342	443	2
ScU44	High Dependency Secure Provision: Personality Disorder	2,045	736	700	700	5

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources have been allocated under the well-being support programme in 2006-07, *(a)* broken down by primary care trust and *(b)* in total; what recent assessment she has made of the physical health of people with mental health problems; and if she will make a statement. [87596]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) separately identify £211 million in 2006-07 and £342 million in 2007-08 to support the implementation of the "Choosing Health" White Paper.

For the two years covered by this allocation, a total of £14 million has been identified nationally to invest in the well-being support programmes initiative to support the implementation of the "Choosing Health" White Paper commitments. However, only a total amount to cover the implementation of the White Paper has been identified within each PCT's 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations. No breakdown of the funding by initiative is shown in the individual PCT's allocations. It is PCTs' responsibility to decide how to use these funds. That said, the "Choosing Health" White Paper delivery plan sets out in detail the expectations of how this funding should be utilised.

As made clear in the "Choosing Health" White Paper, the Government recognises that people with poor mental health tend to experience worse physical health than the rest of the population. This is why it is supporting well-being support programmes in spearhead PCTs and through the Shift initiative. Guidance for commissioners on well-being support programmes will be published shortly.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the budget for mental illness was spent on children in the last period for which figures are available. [88027]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected in the form requested.

Information from the 2005 child and adolescent mental services (CAMHS) mapping indicates that expenditure on CAMHS rose by 20 per cent. between the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

In 2004-05 the actual spend on CAMHS was £432.62 million. The predicted spend for 2005-06 was £517.96 million. In 2004-05, primary care trust share of the spend was £360 million in 2004-05 and predicted to rise to £417.96 million in 2005-06. The local authority element was £72.61 million in 2004-05 rising to £99.99 million in 2005-06.

Michael Palin Centre

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much public funding was given to the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in each of the last five years; [88025]

(2) how many NHS patients have been treated at the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in each of the last five years; [88031]

(3) how many children have been treated for stammering and other speech impediments in each of the last five years. [88032]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly.

Ministerial Hospital Visits

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS establishments Ministers in her Department have visited in Ludlow constituency in the last 12 months. [85288]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's Ministers have not visited any national health service establishments in Ludlow constituency in the last 12 months.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS establishments Ministers in her Department have visited in the Cotswold constituency in the last 12 months. [85427]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health, visited Cirencester hospital (Cotswold primary care trust) on 25 July 2006.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS establishments Ministers in her Department have visited in North Wiltshire constituency in the last 12 months. [85495]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's Ministers have not visited any national health service establishments in the North Wiltshire constituency in the last 12 months.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS establishments she has visited in Sussex. [88026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State for Health visited Mill View Hospital (Sussex Partnership National Health Service Trust) and the Royal Sussex County Hospital (Brighton and Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust) on 14 July 2006.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times her ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87647]

Caroline Flint: The Secretary of State for Health's ministerial office has been decorated once in 2005 in the last five years.

Missed Appointments

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many missed appointments there have been in each health care trust in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the previous four years. [87311]

Andy Burnham: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

MMR Vaccinations

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the MMR vaccination rate was in each primary care trust area in the last period for which figures are available; [88012]

(2) what percentage of five-year-old children have missed routine vaccinations. [88028]

Caroline Flint: Immunisation data by primary care trust, strategic health authorities and nationally are published annually in the statistical bulletin national health service immunisation statistics, England, which is available on the Department's and The Information Centre for health and social care's websites. Data are not available by local authority or by electoral ward. Links to the latest three publications are:

2002-03

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/StatisticalHealthCare/StatisticalHealthCareArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4081007&chk=ckz8H6

2003-04

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/StatisticalHealthCare/StatisticalHealthCareArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4099576&chk=d2n5Kj

2004-05

www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/PublicationsStatisticsArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4119649&chk=r6rlW4

Copies have been placed in the Library.

MRSA

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many MRSA cases there have been in each hospital in Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust area in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [87673]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available in the format required. However, methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) figures for Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals National Health Services Trust are as follows:

	Number/rate
April 2001 to March 2002	
Number of MRSA bacteraemia reports	106
MRSA rate (per 1,000 bed days)	0.26
April 2002 to March 2003	
Number of MRSA bacteraemia reports	75
MRSA rate (per 1,000 bed days)	0.18
April 2003 to March 2004	
Number of MRSA bacteraemia reports	102
MRSA rate (per 1,000 bed days)	0.23
April 2004 to March 2005	
Number of MRSA bacteraemia reports	90
MRSA rate (per 1,000 bed days)	0.21

The Department continues to engage those trusts facing the most significant challenges to their delivery plan, which ensures the trust meets an agreed level of reduction in MRSA bacteraemia. Here it is working with trusts most likely to benefit from tailored support. Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust is engaged in this improvement programme, and a departmental team concluded a diagnostic assessment, and recommendations for action were due to be presented to the trust board on 25 July. The board will, with departmental support, be working up a detailed action plan to deliver the agreed reduction in MRSA cases.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of cases of MRSA infection in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region resulted in a fatality in each of the last five years. [88151]

Andy Burnham: The data requested are not collected centrally.

The Office for National Statistics published figures on the number of deaths where methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus was mentioned on the death certificate from 1999 to 2004 in Health Statistics Quarterly 29 in spring 2006. The full paper is at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ29.pdf.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA have been identified in hospitals in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years, broken down by national health service trust; and if she will make a statement. [88507]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Trust	*April 2001 to March 2002* *Number*	*April 2002 to March 2003* *Number*	*April 2003 to March 2004* *Number*	*April 2004 to March 2005* *Number*	*April 2005 to March 2006* *Number*
Airdale NHS Trust	11	10	20	18	16

Trust	April 2001 to March 2002 Number	April 2002 to March 2003 Number	April 2003 to March 2004 Number	April 2004 to March 2005 Number	April 2005 to March 2006 Number
Barnsley Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	22	18	22	13	17
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	45	48	44	75	58
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	38	39	37	40	28
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	27	33	46	27	29
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	13	11	6	9	8
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	106	75	102	90	101
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	196	165	204	200	165
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	70	95	87	78	70
North Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	36	34	28	40	23
Rotherham General Hospitals NHS Trust	22	14	25	7	21
Scarborough and NE Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	31	15	33	19	13
Sheffield Children's Hospitals NHS Trust	3	0	2	1	2
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	67	91	103	103	75
York Health Services NHS Trust	27	16	31	28	22

Source:
Department of Health Mandatory methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Bacteraemia Surveillance Scheme

This is the first Government to introduce mandatory MRSA surveillance and this continues to be developed. An improvement programme has been introduced to provide tailored support to those trusts with the most challenging MRSA bacteraemia numbers. The objective is to assist in diagnosing those issues which prevent reduction in infections and to develop practical, robust action plans that speed-up progress and delivery. General support and shared learning is enhanced via trusts' "Performance Improvement Network", which has over 80 participants.

National Cancer Peer Review Programme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the National Cancer Peer Review teams are funded. [88040]

Ms Rosie Winterton: For 2006-07, funding for peer review is included as part of a block sum which will be made available for strategic health authorities to manage.

National Care Records System

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to ensure the protection of the rights of data subjects under the Data Protection Act 1998, in relation to the National Care Records System; to which categories of electronic information patients *(a)* will and *(b)* will not be able to restrict access; and what steps are being taken to ensure security and confidentiality of subject-identifiable data. [82329]

Caroline Flint: The Department has placed the protection of individual rights at the heart of the new national health service care records service. The Department is working closely with the Information Commissioner to ensure that the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 are met in full, and is sympathetic to the Commissioner's call for increased penalties for those who misuse personal health and other information under Section 55 of the Act.

However, the Data Protection Act does not provide individuals with the right to restrict access to information where the information is processed in accordance with the principles set out in the Act. The rights of individuals to restrict access to information that relates to them stem from common law confidentiality obligations rather than the Data Protection Act.

Where information is held in confidence, the common law allows individuals to prevent information from being shared without their consent unless, exceptionally, there is a reason for sharing that requires obligations of confidentiality to be overridden. The new system of electronic care records is therefore being designed to enable patients to restrict access to information that the NHS holds in confidence. Many older NHS systems were not designed to safeguard confidentiality in this way and these will be phased out over the next few years.

A person's right to confidentiality can, however, be overridden by statute or by a court order and, where these apply, restrictions placed on access by patients have to be set aside. Patients are not permitted to place restrictions on access to information where it is clear that to do so would put others at risk of serious harm. Also, exceptionally, patient restrictions may have to be overridden by a health professional where the public interest in sharing information outweighs obligations of confidentiality, for example in child protection cases. Where an individual's restrictions are overridden the system will generate an alert to enable senior staff to check that the decision was appropriate and lawful.

The Department has produced what we believe is the most comprehensive privacy statement of any public service in the form of the NHS care record guarantee for England, setting out 12 commitments the NHS makes to patients in order to protect their confidentiality. A major campaign is planned to inform the public about what information the NHS keeps about them, how it is used, the safeguards in place, and their options for putting restrictions on who can access information about them.

In addition to ensuring compliance with the law, we are committed to best practice in maintaining the security and confidentiality of information systems by applying role-based access, smartcard technology and individual regulation to manage the use of NHS care records. More generally, the Department promotes the highest standards of information governance across the whole health and social care sector in the interests of all patients and clinicians.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence makes an estimate of the total financial impact that its technology appraisal guidance will have on the NHS in a year. [89140]

Andy Burnham: Each technology appraisal published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence sets out the potential overall cost impact on the national health service of the recommendations.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a limit is placed on the financial impact that technology appraisal guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence may have on the NHS in relation to cancer treatments. [89141]

Andy Burnham: There is no such limit. The role of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is to provide the national health service with guidance on the use of health technologies based on an assessment of their clinical and cost effectiveness.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether provision has been made for the funding of licensed cancer treatments being assessed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for which guidance is expected during 2006-07. [89142]

Andy Burnham: Funds for the anticipated costs of guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are included in the Department's allocation of resources to the national health service.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether final guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has been *(a)* reversed and *(b)* amended as a result of an appeal; [89168]

(2) whether the final guidance issued in a technology appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has ever significantly differed from the recommendations published in the original consultation document. [89169]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's final guidance has on a number of occasions been amended as the result of either the appeal process or consultation responses.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the 2003 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the use of drug-eluting coronary stent technology on *(a)* outcomes for patients and *(b)* repeat revascularisation procedures. [87832]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made an assessment of the impact of the 2003 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the use of drug-eluting coronary stent technology on outcomes for patients and repeat revascularisation procedures. Furthermore, data on outcomes for patients and how many have required repeat revascularisation procedures are not collected centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the status of the review of guidance on the use of drug-eluting coronary stent technology; and if she will make a statement. [87833]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has had no discussions with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the status of their review of guidance on the use of drug-eluting coronary stent technology. I understand that NICE is currently reviewing this guidance and expects to issue revised guidance to the national health service in October 2006.

National Institute for Mental Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* headcount and *(b)* whole-time equivalent people are employed in each of the National Institute for Mental Health in England/Care Services Improvement Partnership regional centres. [88277]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The numbers of people employed by care services improvement partnership (CSIP), including national institute for mental health in England (NIMHE), in each of its regional centres are as follows:

CSIP regional centre including NHIME	*Number of people employed by CISP regional centre including NHIME*
North East, Yorkshire and Humberside	72 (52 whole-time equivalent)
North West	59 (53)
East Midlands	62 (47)
West Midlands	60 (38)
London	43 (35)
Eastern	42 (40)
South East	43 (32)
South west	35 (27)

It should be noted that the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside regional development centre has significantly more employees because it covers the geographical area of two Government office regions.

National Programme for Information Technology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1560-1W, on the NHS Care Records Service, (1) whether the systems being delivered through the National Programme for IT are compatible with the equivalent systems in Scotland and Wales; [80306]

(2) what parts of the systems developed through the National Programme for Information Technology are incompatible with the equivalent systems in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Wales. [84459]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales have adopted different approaches to the development of information technology support in their respective health services from those being delivered through the national programme to the national health service in England, based on their own functional requirements and assessment of priorities.

England, Scotland, and Wales co-operate closely to ensure a common approach to technical standards, through, for example, the NHS information standards board, so that, where appropriate, information can be exchanged between the health services quickly, safely and securely. Where the countries are following a common approach, there are opportunities for using the same systems. For example, Scotland is using the same N3 network services as England, and is adopting the same picture archiving and communication systems that are used in some English cluster areas. However, because of differing functional requirements and administrative arrangements, systems are not necessarily applicable across all the home countries.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total value is to date of fines paid by NHS organisations for a failure to comply with the terms of contracts related to the national programme for information technology; which NHS organisations paid the fines in each case; and if she will make a statement. [80300]

Caroline Flint: National programme for information technology contracts do not provide for the payment of fines by national health service organisations. However, an arrangement known as the managed authorities employees scheme provides for the secondment of NHS staff on a temporary basis to work with local service providers (LSPs) to ensure that the systems and services being developed and deployed meet the needs of the NHS. This arrangement was factored into the contracts with LSPs and reflected in the contract price. In some, though not all, cluster areas it is underpinned by a financial liability on NHS organisations for failure to source sufficient numbers of staff with the necessary expertise.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what way and for what reasons *(a)* Northumbria Healthcare, *(b)* Norfolk and Norwich NHS Trust, *(c)* Dudley NHS Trust and *(d)* South West Yorkshire Mental Health Trust have dispensed with the NHS IT system; how much it has cost them to do so; and what her estimate is of the impact on the NHS IT programme of their actions. [83049]

Caroline Flint: None of the national health service trusts referred to has dispensed with the national programme for information technology (IT). All remain committed to the programme and its objectives, and to realising the benefits it is already bringing, and will continue to bring to NHS patients and staff.

We have always said that the programme will make maximum use of existing systems when deciding local implementation priorities. We are adopting an incremental approach to replacing existing systems, and this strategy ensures that best use is made of the existing asset base. There is scope within deployment plans in each cluster for existing systems to be replaced in either the shorter or the longer term depending on the circumstances of NHS trusts and primary care trusts locally. It makes no sense to replace prematurely systems with appropriate functionality that are delivering demonstrable benefit to patients and staff when other NHS organisations have systems that are in urgent need of replacement.

This approach to local deployment lies behind decisions made by the Northumbria Healthcare NHS trust, the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS trust, and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS trust to defer migration to the patient administration system supplied by the local service provider (LSP). The approach is set out in programme-wide implementation guidance. The guidance which is aimed at providing structured and consistent mechanisms, and describing the critical tasks necessary to maximise benefits from the changes being enabled by the national programme, is published on the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency's website at: www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/implementation The circumstances of the South West Yorkshire Mental Health Trust are slightly different.

The trust was established in April 2002 from three separate organisations, and inherited nine different clinical information systems. Due to the complexity of the current systems and the need to consolidate them it is not currently possible for the Trust to be an early development site for the national programme. The trust board has taken a decision to procure an interim clinical information system which will put it in a stronger position to transfer data onto the LSP-delivered system as soon as this becomes available.

NHS organisations that retain use of their existing systems typically incur annual maintenance costs, which are paid locally. These costs are saved following migration to solutions provided under the national programme. Information is not collected centrally about the amounts in each case. However, in the case of the Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS trust, all IT services and applications were included in the trust's overall public finance initiative contract, and no separate IT maintenance costs are payable.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* clinical and *(b)* administrative IT systems have been installed in the NHS since 2002. [75132]

Caroline Flint: The period in part predates the deployment of systems and services through the national programme for information technology, and comprehensive information is not available. In particular, information is not held centrally about local information technology (IT) procurements prior to the national programme, and only partial information is held about local IT systems commissioned that are not within the national programme, such as staff administration and finance systems.

Available information is given in the table.

National programme clinical and administrative IT installations as at 13 July 2006

System	*Type*	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Deployment level*	*Total deployed*
Accident and emergency	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	3
Acute patient administration system (PAS)	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	12
Interim GP system	Clinical	Yes	—	Site	433
Core GP	Clinical	Yes	—	Site	20
Child health	Clinical	Yes	—	Trust	41
Community health	Clinical	Yes	—	Trust	59
Community hospital PAS	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	17
Community PAS	Clinical	Yes	—	Trust	58
Emergency care (ambulance)	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	4
Hospital pharmacy	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	3
Map of medicine	Clinical	Yes	Yes	Site and Trust	288
Mental health PAS	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	10
PACS	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	37
Pathology	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	2
SAP	Admin	—	Yes	Trust	49
Radiology	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	9
Theatres	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	14
Tray management	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	1
Web-based referrer (choose and book—CAB)	Clinical	Yes	—	Site	4,064
GP end-to-end system (CAB)	Clinical	Yes	—	Site	4,073
Compliant secondary care systems (PAS) (CAB)	Clinical	—	Yes	Trust	89
GP systems (electronic prescription service—EPS)	Clinical	Yes	—	Site	1,416
Pharmacy systems (EPS)	Clinical	Yes	—	Site	1,463
Quality management and analysis system (QMAS)	Admin	Yes	—	Site	8,659
NHSmail	Admin	—	Yes	n/a	[1]187,602
N3	Admin	Yes	Yes	Site	[2]14,913

[1] Users registered.
[2] connections—an estimated 865,000 users.
Note:
Clinical systems are those which health care professionals use when dealing directly with patients that is front office. Administrative systems are those which support back office facilities for example email/payments.

In addition, we are aware that 187 national health service organisations currently use administrative systems to support the electronic staff record, and over 100 NHS trusts use systems provided by NHS Shared Business Services Ltd. (a joint venture between the Department and Xansa) to provide finance and accounting services to the NHS.

The vast majority of NHS locations have to date received new software or hardware via the national programme.

NHS Brokerage System

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was received by each hospital from primary care trusts through the NHS brokerage system in each of the last three years. [86673]

Andy Burnham: In each of the last three years cash brokerage was managed by strategic health authorities across the national health service organisations for which they had responsibility. This information is not held centrally by the Department.

From 2006-07 this system of cash brokerage has ceased and any cash support for NHS trusts will be through a system of interest bearing loans and deposits issued by the Department.

NHS Budget

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1049W, on the NHS budget, which major non-NHS providers received the 5.3 per cent. of the NHS contract spending in 2004-05; and which companies provided the £78.8 million of centrally-procured elective treatment. [82725]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect centrally information about individual companies providing healthcare services under contracts which are agreed locally with primary care trusts or national health service trusts. The companies that provided centrally procured services in 2004-05 were:

Interhealth;

Netcare Healthcare UK Limited;

Alliance Medical Ltd;

Capio UK;

Nuffield Hospitals; and

The Birkdale Clinic (Rotherham) Ltd

NHS Chief Executives

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chief executives of *(a)* strategic health authorities, *(b)* primary care trusts, *(c)* hospital trusts and *(d)* other NHS organisations (i) have been made redundant since 1 May 2005 and (ii) are in the process of being made redundant; and how many in each category are over the age of 55 years. [87398]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 986W, on NHS Direct, what the total volume of calls made to NHS Direct was in each quarter since December 2002. [84668]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Financial year	*Number of calls answered* [1]	*Number of calls referred to 999 services by NHS Direct* [2]	*Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to 999*	*Number of calls referred to accident and emergency (A&E)* [3]	*Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to A&E*
2002-03					
Q4	1,609,663	52,765	[4]3.3 (5.6)	105,230	[4]6.5 (11.2)
2003-04					
Q1	1,655,618	49,065	3.0 (5.4)	106,974	6.5 (11.8)
Q2	1,524,876	50,860	3.3 (5.9)	109,361	7.2 (12.7)
Q3	1,628,297	57,681	3.5 (6.2)	98,794	6.1 (10.6)
Q4	1,595,687	58,948	3.7 (6.1)	106,576	6.7 (10.9)
2004-05					
Q1	1,596,680	58,583	3.7 (5.9)	104,427	6.5 (10.5)
Q2	1,550,490	56,105	3.6 (5.9)	94,873	6.1 (10.0)
Q3	1,688,245	62,673	3.7 (5.8)	94,189	5.6 (8.8)
Q4	1,748,935	62,000	3.5 (5.5)	91,395	5.2 (8.1)
2005-06					
Q1	1,705,750	59,261	3.5 (5.5)	99,764	5.8 (9.2)
Q2	1,626,366	55,685	3.4	97,610	6.0
Q3	1,723,708	62,046	3.6	98,766	5.7
Q4	1,755,927	61,005	3.5	97,115	5.5

[1] Definition of volume: calls answered—number of calls answered/handled after the introductory message.
[2] Calls referred to ambulance or paramedic services.
[3] Calls where patients are asked to attend an A&E department.
[4] The figures in brackets were calculated using the number of calls answered that required nurse assessment and do not include those that relate to health information and other information requests.
Source:
NHS Direct

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what forecast her Department has made of future levels of demand for NHS Direct services; [87759]

(2) what assessment she has made of the likely impact of proposed site closures and staff redundancies on the number of telephone queries that NHS Direct can handle per month. [87949]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not centrally held. It may be available from the chairman of NHS Direct Special Health Authority.

NHS Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS organisations had financial recovery plans in each of the last five years. [22980]

Andy Burnham: The Department manages the financial performance of the national health service through strategic health authorities (SHAs). NHS organisations that overspend are required to develop recovery plans to return to financial balance. Recovery

plans are agreed and managed by SHAs so the information requested is not held by the Department.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the year-end gross surplus or deficit of the NHS has been in each financial year since 1997-98. [76967]

Andy Burnham: The following table provides both the gross and net financial position of the national health service for the years 1997-98 to 2004-05 and the gross and net provisional outturn for 2005-06.

£000

	Gross surplus	Gross deficit	Total net surplus/ (deficit)
1997-98	118,501	(239,854)	(121,353)
1998-99	144,756	(163,226)	(18,470)
1999-2000	143,465	(272,806)	(129,341)
2000-01	152,708	(41,007)	111,701
2001-02	140,587	(69,328)	71,259
2002-03	301,886	(206,239)	95,647
2003-04	338,006	(265,474)	72,532
2004-05	503,917	(725,275)	(221,358)
2005-06 (provisional outturn)	764,840	(1,276,930)	(512,090)

Notes:
1. Figures for 1997-98 to 2004-05 taken from annual accounts summarisation schedules.
2. Figures for 2005-06 taken from 2005-06 month 12 financial monitoring returns.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average real terms change in spending on the NHS was over the period *(a)* 1979 to 1997 and *(b)* since 1997. [76972]

Caroline Flint: The average annual real terms increase in national health service expenditure over the period 1979-80 to 1996-97 is 3 per cent.

The average annual real terms increase in NHS expenditure from 1997-98 to 2005-06 is 6.4 per cent.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2068W, on NHS Finance, what the aggregate year-end financial position of each NHS trust was in each year between 1996-97 and 2002. [87695]

Andy Burnham: The aggregate financial position of all national health service trusts for the years 1996-97 to 2002-03 is shown in the following table:

	NHS trust final outturn surplus/(deficit) (£000)
1996-97	(50,488)
1997-98	(103,720)
1998-99	(35,908)
1999-2000	(127,565)
2000-01	55,920
2001-02	(40,229)
2002-03	(93,529)

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much capital expenditure there has been at *(a)* Sunderland Royal, Hartlepool university and *(b)* Durham university hospital in each year since 1997. [87863]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Capital expenditure for the relevant trusts is shown in the table for all years currently available. Data are not available at hospital level.

£000

NHS trust	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
City Hospitals Sunderland	6,808	14,144	9,981	7,686	4,852	15,632	3,125
North Tees and Hartlepool	4,397	8,474	7,620	5,788	5,898	5,738	6,780
County Durham and Darlington Acute	3,101	5,513	23,845	18,145	9,372	10,750	12,196
North Tees and Hartlepool	4,397	8,474	7,620	5,788	5,898	5,738	6,780

Source: Audited summarisation schedules for the trusts containing the specified hospitals 1998-99 to 2004-05.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS organisations were in deficit in 2005-06; and what the level of deficit was in each case. [88551]

Andy Burnham: 2005-06 provisional outturn figures show that there were 174 national health service organisations, excluding NHS foundation trusts, reporting a deficit. This information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what impairment values were being carried on NHS trust balance sheets *(a)* in aggregate and *(b)* broken down by NHS trust at (i) 31 March 2005 and (ii) 31 March 2006. [88670]

Andy Burnham: The information for year ending 31 March 2005 (2004-05) has been placed in the Library. Information for year ending 31 March 2006 will not be available until the autumn.

The table shows impairments reported by national health service trusts for the accounting period 2004-05. Impairment figures are not included in balance sheet fixed asset figures. Impairments cause movements in the fixed asset carrying amounts that are reported in the balance sheet, and so impairments are shown in detailed notes to the balance sheet.

The table shows:

impairments charged to the income and expenditure account in the period 2004-05; and

impairments charged to reserves in the same period.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is permitted for NHS institutions to make surpluses. [85625]

Andy Burnham: The aim is for the national health service as a whole to return to financial balance by the end of 2006-07. NHS organisations are allowed to make surpluses. Where one NHS organisation overspends, another NHS organisation elsewhere in the system needs to underspend for the NHS as a whole to be in financial balance.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the first set of quarterly data on the NHS financial position for the 2006-07 financial year. [85786]

Andy Burnham: We published the first quarterly finance report for the national health service for 2006-07 on 11 August 2006.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of primary care trust allocations are being top-sliced in 2006-07 in *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust. [86473]

Andy Burnham: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) will take the lead locally in developing and implementing a service and financial strategy for managing the financial position within their locality. This will include the creation of local reserves.

It is for SHAs locally to determine the level of contribution to, and application of these reserves. The level of contribution determined will reflect local financial circumstances, but the underlying principle will be fairness. Those primary care trusts which make a contribution will not lose out, because the money contributed will be repaid, normally within the three-year allocation cycle.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 February 2006, *Official* Report, column 1784W, on NHS foundation trusts, what direct financial support was provided by her Department to applicants for foundation trust status in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [85829]

Andy Burnham: During 2004-05 and 2005-06 the Department provided direct financial support for national health service foundation trust applicants to the sum of £175,000.

NHS Funding

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has *(a)* to reduce capital spending and *(b)* to increase revenue spending on the NHS in 2006-07. [87320]

Andy Burnham: The Department has no plans to reduce capital investment by the national health service in 2006-07. Indeed funds allocated direct to NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) as operational capital for 2006-07 are on average 25 per cent. higher than the previous year and strategic health authorities' strategic capital funds are on average 13 per cent. higher than in 2005-06.

Revenue spending on the NHS is also increasing in 2006-07. Allocations to PCTs rose by 9.2 per cent. in 2006-07.

Capital and revenue are managed and controlled separately by Her Majesty's Treasury. The Department is voted separate budgets for capital and revenue and does not have the power to vire funding from the capital budget to the revenue budget.

NHS Hospitals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS hospitals there are in *(a)* absolute terms and *(b)* per 1,000 population in (i) rural areas and (ii) non-rural areas; which have accident and emergency wards; and if she will make a statement. [84623]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service trusts self-report the number of accident and emergency (A&E) services they provide against definitions set by the Department for the three types of accident and emergency. This is the only level at which such information is available. A table detailing the number of type one accident and emergency departments, by NHS organisation, for the period 2005-06 January to March (Q4) has been placed in the Library.

Data are not available on whether acute trusts are rural or non-rural. Therefore, it is not possible to split the number of major (type one) accident and emergency departments between rural and non-rural areas.

Population data at trust level are not collated centrally, as NHS trusts do not have specific catchment areas.

NHS Logistics Authority

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the NHS Logistics Authority will be outsourced; [85626]

(2) if she will name those persons whom she has *(a)* met and *(b)* consulted in connection with the outsourcing of the NHS; when each such meeting took place; and what was discussed at each; [85627]

(3) whether the outsourcing of the NHS Logistics Authority was tendered for in the Official Journal of the European Union; and what the reasons were for that decision; [85628]

(4) what cost savings she expects to make through the outsourcing of the NHS Logistics Authority; and on what rate the contractor will make a profit in running the authority; [85629]

(5) whether the IT systems of the NHS Logistics Authority will be transferred to the outsource company. [85630]

Andy Burnham: In the autumn of 2003, the Department conducted the procurement and supply chain review. It identified the significant value brought to the national health service through the supply chain activity managed by the NHS Logistics Authority and

the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. The review recommended that this valuable service must develop and expand, allowing the NHS to obtain even greater benefits.

The Department looked at a number of options for delivering the needed development, investment and expansion, and concluded that the best potential opportunity might exist in a new partnership with the independent sector. This reflected the Government's belief that partnerships between the public and independent sectors can be used successfully to develop essential services in the NHS and elsewhere.

Therefore in August 2004, in accordance with European Union procurement regulations, a notice was published in the Official Journal of the European Union announcing the Department was considering a potential private sector partnering of the supply chain functions of logistics and certain procurement functions of NHS PASA.

This process has been governed by clear public procurement regulations and in March the full business case received ministerial approval and it was stated that subject to final commercial negotiations a contract would be signed with DHL. If approved by Ministers, an announcement will be made soon. Under the terms of the contract, the infrastructure would transfer to DHL.

Details of the proposed cost savings are commercial in confidence at this time but it is estimated that they should be three times greater than the savings that could be achieved in-house.

Since the process began, ministers have met with staff, the unions (UNISON and DTUS), union shop stewards, local Members of Parliament and suppliers. All have sought reassurance that the outsourcing would be in the best interests of staff and the NHS. In addition, ministers have consulted with both legal and commercial advisors.

NHS Managers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 462-3W, on NHS managers, (1) what the change in the number of managers employed in the NHS in England was between 1 April 1997 and 1 April 2006; [84487]

(2) if she will clarify how many managers were employed in the NHS on 1 April *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [84488]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of managers employed in the national health service in England in 1997 and 2005 at 30 September each year was 22,173 and 39,391 respectively. Information for 2006 is not available but will begin to fall with the reduction in strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts. Managers in 2005 were less than 3 per cent. of the NHS workforce.

NHS Modernisation Agency

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work has been done with the NHS Modernisation Agency since 2002 to change working practices so that IT is used effectively, as set out in her Department's publication Delivering 21st century IT support for the NHS. [75122]

Caroline Flint: A consultation document, "Delivering 21st Century IT support for the NHS: National Specification for Integrated Care Records Service—consultation draft", issued in July 2002, outlined the requirements for a national patient care records service and the national standards and specification which would underpin it. Its purpose was to provide an initial review of electronic patient records and to describe a direction of travel for the whole range of information technology standards in the national health service. Nearly 200 initial responses were received from organisations and individuals, and these were taken into account in drawing up the specification for a care record service used in the procurements phase during 2003. A broad spectrum of NHS stakeholders was then engaged to review the specification, including leading clinicians, practitioners, policy advisors, health informaticians, and managers.

Following the closure of the Modernisation Agency in 2004-05 (as a result of the Department's arms length body review) a service implementation directorate has been established within NHS Connecting for Health whose purpose is to help to maximise the value gained from investment in the national programme. This is done by providing support and guidance to the NHS to realise benefits and achieve performance improvement through synergy with other change programmes and system reform, in particular through effective education, training and development. The emphasis is to optimise the use of technology to manage knowledge and information to improve care and treatment, safety and clinical governance, and to re-design processes, supported by appropriate information technology, to improve patient, clinician and managerial satisfaction.

Examples of work done to date in pursuit of these objectives include establishment of an integrated service improvement programme (ISIP) to promote and support the planning and delivery of this kind of transformational change across the NHS. ISIP is focused on helping the national programme for information technology (NPfIT) products to be adopted and exploited by clinicians and managers rather than be seen as peripheral to other NHS priorities and primarily the domain of the IT community.

In addition, the do once and share programme, initiated in March 2005 and involving over 6,000 clinicians, has been set up to minimise unknowing duplication of effort, and to help clinical specialist networks plan improvements in care that will be made possible by the NPfIT. Forty-four national action teams have been established supported by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, specialist libraries, and the Healthcare Commission to distil the current best practice derived from the NHS's knowledge bases into fifty national care pathways representing current best practice. By the end of June 2006 thirty-nine of the action teams will have produced their final reports, which will enable the distilled knowledge to begin to be integrated into national electronic care pathways.

NHS Connecting for Health has also been working with the NHS to compile programme-wide national programme implementation guidance. The guidance is intended to act as an entry point to all NPfIT implementation-related guidance for programme and project managers in NHS trusts, but is also useful to many other groups including clinicians, human resources, and training professionals. The purpose of the guidance is to provide a structured and consistent mechanism for implementation, and to describe the critical tasks necessary to maximise benefits from the changes being enabled by NPfIT, irrespective of the type of implementation a local health community is undertaking.

The guidance, the first version of which was issued in 2004, is published on the NHS Connecting for Health website at

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/implementation

NHS Pensions Agency

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future of the NHS Pensions Agency in Fleetwood. [87796]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Pensions Agency, now part of NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), is currently partially contractorised, with most support services including information and technology, provided by Paymaster (1836) Ltd. The contract with Paymaster contains an options clause to extend the existing contract with the current provider to embrace a range of options and these are currently being considered.

NHSBSA will make the options appraisal work available to the trade unions shortly. After a period of consultation, the NHSBSA will identify which option offers the best solution.

NHS Performance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2073W, on NHS Performance, whether she expects to use her powers under section 97 of the National Health Service Act 1977, as amended, to make adjustments to primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) allocations when total planned transfers from PCTs to SHAs have been finalised. [87689]

Andy Burnham: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) will take the lead locally in developing and implementing a service and financial strategy for managing the financial position within their locality. This will include the creation of local reserves.

It is for SHAs locally to determine the level of contribution to, and application of, these reserves. The level of contribution determined will reflect local financial circumstances, but the underlying principle will be fairness.

Transfer of contributions from primary care trusts (PCTs) to SHA reserves will be made by inter-authority transfers under section 97 of the National Health Services Act 1977. Those PCTs which make a contribution will not lose out, because the money contributed will be repaid.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 July to question 82500, on NHS performance, what the impact was of each of the factors listed in the original question on the resource allocation of each primary care trust. [88273]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 669W.

NHS Spine

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information the NHS Spine contains on each patient; and what rights patients have to withhold their data. [88785]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the replies given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 1249-50W, and to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 24 August.

When a patient seeks or is referred for medical treatment, this will necessarily involve the provision of information by the patient to the clinicians involved. Good clinical management requires that health care professionals keep a record of key information about their patients, and national health service organisations are required to ensure that the information is held securely, and that confidential information is not shared inappropriately. Patients do not, however, have the right to determine the media on which patient records are kept, the physical location of the information or who manages the information systems involved.

NHS Treatment (Eligibility)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the number of people who are not eligible for free treatment who have received free NHS services in *(a)* Guildford and Waverley primary care trust, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; and what estimate she has made of the costs in each area in each year [87909]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to reclaim the cost of using the NHS from those who are ineligible to use it. [87910]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Entitlement to access free national health service hospital treatment is based on whether someone is ordinarily resident in this country, not on British nationality or the past or present payment of national insurance contributions or UK taxes. Anyone who is not ordinarily resident is subject to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended. These regulations place a legal duty on NHS hospitals to establish whether a person is ordinarily resident, or exempt from charges under one of a number of exemption categories, or liable for charges, and to make and recover a charge for the full cost of treatment to those found liable to pay. The onus is on the patient to provide satisfactory evidence to support a claim for exemption from charges.

Where it is established that charges apply they cannot be waived for any reason. NHS trusts are instructed to take all reasonable measures, based on the circumstances of each individual case, to pursue overseas visitors' debt. Nevertheless, we have also made very clear to NHS trusts that immediately necessary treatment, needed to save life or prevent a condition from becoming life-threatening, should always be provided without delay, with charging issues dealt with as soon as reasonably practicable.

Successive Governments have not required the NHS to provide statistics on the number of overseas visitors seen or treated under the provisions of these regulations or on the costs of treatment. It is therefore not possible to provide the information requested on how many chargeable overseas visitors have received free NHS treatment, nor on the costs involved.

NHS Trusts (Final Accounts)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1151-2W, on NHS trusts (final accounts), what the equivalent figures are for 2005-06. [88523]

Andy Burnham: National health service trusts final accounts for 2005-06 will not be available until autumn 2006. The provisional 2005-06 outturn position for all NHS organisations (strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and NHS trusts) has been placed in the Library.

Non-NHS Staff

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on non-NHS staff by each London *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority in each year since 1997. [87496]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following tables show data on non-national health service staff costs by primary care trusts from 2003-04 to 2004-05, and strategic health authorities for 2003-04 to 2004-05 within London. These are the only full years for which this information is available for PCTs in London.

Non-NHS staff costs for PCTs and SHAs in London

	PCT spend on non-NHS staff (£)	
	2003-04	*2004-05*
Hillingdon PCT	2,681,069	2,549,000
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	3,297,599	1,906,000
Haling PCT	4,398,000	4,152,000
Hounslow PCT	1,714,000	1,476,000
Brent Teaching PCT	4,805,787	6,645,000
Harrow PCT	435,540	542,000
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	10,022,128	3,934,000
Westminster PCT	5,169,353	2,403,000
Barnet PCT	2,918,939	3,353,000
Enfield PCT	2,613,936	2,880,000
Haringey Teaching PCT	3,532,802	2,479,000
Camden PCT	5,436,895	7,652,000
Islington PCT	3,785,270	4,823,000
Havering PCT	3,013,630	3,702,000
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,806,601	1,729,000
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	2,923,475	3,392,000
Tower Hamlets PCT	4,157,185	4,765,000
Newham PCT	2,957,327	3,482,000
Redbridge PCT	2,314,926	2,551,000
Waltham Forest PCT	2,653,207	2,623,000
Bromley PCT	1,657,347	1,669,000
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,789,062	1,515,000
Lambeth PCT	3,898,639	3,795,000
Southwark PCT	2,025,498	3,107,000
Lewisham PCT	2,097,786	2,620,000
Bexley Care Trust	577,999	899,000
Kingston PCT	1,615,253	1,216,000
Croydon PCT	3,108,035	2,949,000
Wandsworth PCT	3,934,482	3,688,000
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,270,905	1,838,000
Sutton and Merton PCT	2,517,461	3,578,000

	SHA spend on non-NHS staff (£)	
	2003-04	*2004-05*
North West London SHA	318,325	414,000
North Central London SHA	429,963	203,000
North East London SHA	647,329	2,207,000
South East London SHA	197,660	302,000
South West London SHA	49,899	89,000

Sources: PCT annual financial returns from 2000-01 to 2004-05
SHA annual financial returns from 2002-03 to 2004-05

Non-urgent Procedures

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts do not pay for non-urgent procedures for patients which are undertaken by hospitals within 20 weeks of referral. [88342]

Andy Burnham: Increasingly the care that primary care trusts commission from hospitals on behalf of their local populations is subject to payment by results. Payment by results is a national policy, and there is a mandatory tariff, which applies across the whole of the national health service. "The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2006/07", published in January 2006, set out the ability for strategic health authorities to agree specific local additional rules for a fixed period of time under special circumstances.

Obesity

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on public health campaigns to tackle obesity in children and young people in each year from 1997 to 2005; and if she will make a statement. [89078]

Caroline Flint: Aggregated expenditure data for public health campaigns to tackle obesity in children and young people is not held centrally. However,

current public health campaigns aim to tackle obesity through the promotion of healthy eating practices and increased physical activity. Examples of centrally funded schemes which contribute include the 5 A DAY programme, school fruit and vegetable scheme (SFVS), healthy schools initiative, and the local exercise action pilot (LEAP). The total cost of the SFVS is estimated at £34 million during the period specified, and the Department makes a yearly contribution of £9.6 million to the local healthy schools programme. The LEAP scheme has received £1.3 million in funding from the Department to date. In addition primary care trusts allocate funding on the basis of local needs and priorities.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were diagnosed as being obese in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age. [87718]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity is the Health Survey for England (HSE). The data are not available in the form requested as the sample size of the HSE does not allow estimates to be produced at below strategic health authority (SHA) level. All data in the tables are the most recent available.

Tables one and two show the prevalence of obesity among adults and children respectively, by sex and age, in England in each year from 1997 to 2004. Table three shows the prevalence of obesity among adults in North West London SHA (the SHA which contains Brent) as a three-year moving average for the period 1995 to 2002. Table four shows the prevalence of obesity among children aged two to 10 in London Government Office Region (GOR) based on combined 2001 and 2002 HSE data.

Table 1. Prevalence of obesity among adults aged 16 and over by sex and age, England 1997-2004

Percentages

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Men								
All ages	17.0	17.3	18.7	21.0	21.0	22.1	22.9	23.6
16-24	5.0	5.2	6.2	9.3	9.5	9.2	8.6	8.2
25-34	13.1	15.9	16.4	20.3	16.0	17.9	17.8	18.8
35-44	17.5	16.8	21.1	21.3	22.7	23.8	25.0	24.5
45-54	21.6	21.2	23.1	25.0	26.0	27.8	28.1	29.5
55-64	27.4	23.3	21.0	25.8	26.5	28.1	26.8	30.0
65-74	18.4	21.2	21.7	24.5	24.4	26.4	28.7	27.9
75+	11.9	15.9	17.9	17.1	17.9	19.2	20.9	17.9
Women								
All ages	19.7	21.2	21.1	21.4	23.5	22.8	23.4	23.8
16-24	8.6	10.7	10.0	8.6	11.9	11.3	13.3	12.2
25-34	14.5	16.3	15.8	15.7	19.3	20.9	18.7	17.9
35-44	18.2	20.5	19.0	19.2	22.2	22.8	21.7	23.6
45-54	22.5	23.9	25.7	24.2	27.6	25.4	26.5	25.8
55-64	30.1	28.6	28.8	29.3	30.7	29.1	27.8	32.2
65-74	24.8	29.0	30.0	30.1	30.2	28.3	29.9	28.2
75+	21.9	20.7	20.0	23.3	20.4	22.3	26.1	20.3
Bases Men								
All ages	3,685	6,600	3,204	3,260	6,267	2,969	5,966	2,444
16-24	476	825	389	400	757	1,553	686	255
25-34	710	1,261	566	591	1,051	464	962	388
35-44	714	1,229	626	662	1,220	629	1,178	478
45-54	667	1,197	579	528	1,112	485	1,001	390
55-64	511	910	466	469	958	445	997	424
65-74	414	745	383	376	766	329	736	319
75+	193	433	195	234	403	203	406	190
Women								
All ages	4,254	7,730	3,699	3,703	7,414	3,509	7,090	3,135
16-24	510	903	459	362	856	1,719	788	294
25-34	816	1,433	647	674	1,221	513	1,088	453
35-44	780	1,449	744	778	1,513	737	1,452	649
45-54	766	1,373	689	632	1,331	590	1,142	527
55-64	552	1,043	465	509	1,038	519	1,194	538
65-74	479	853	410	422	871	403	810	393
75+	351	676	285	326	584	300	616	281

Source: Health Survey for England 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data, The Information Centre For Health and Social Care.

Table 2: Prevalence of obesity among children aged 2-15 by sex and age, England 1997-2004

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentages 2004
Boys								
All aged 2-15	12.7	13.0	16.4	14.5	15.5	16.9	17.0	18.9
2-10	11.1	11.4	16.1	12.2	13.5	15.2	14.9	16.2
11-15	15.6	16.3	16.9	18.8	18.8	19.8	20.4	23.7
Girls								
All aged 2-15	12.4	13.8	13.7	14.2	14.5	17.1	16.1	17.8
2-10	10.7	11.8	13.0	11.8	12.7	15.8	12.5	11.9
11-15	16.2	17.5	15.2	18.1	17.7	19.2	21.9	26.2
Bases Boys								
All aged 2-15	3,063	1,981	977	877	1,653	3,745	1,410	645
2-10	2,007	1,336	633	570	1,035	2,364	876	416
11-15	1,056	645	343	306	618	1,381	533	230
Girls								
All aged 2-15	3,069	1,872	950	841	1,699	3,636	1,444	579
2-10	2,082	1,216	628	523	1,094	2,290	897	343
11-15	987	656	322	318	605	1,346	547	236

Source: Health Survey for England 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data, The Information Centre For Health and Social Care.

Table 3: Prevalence of obesity among adults aged 16 and over in North West London SHA (3-year moving average) by sex, 1995-2002

	1995-97	1996-98	1997-99	1998-2000	1999-2001	Percentages 2000-02
Men	13.3	15.1	17.7	17.3	17.0	13.4
Women	19.4	18.6	19.7	20.1	22.8	22.8
Bases						
Men	487	518	354	348	275	295
Women	593	615	422	395	334	369

Source: Health Survey for England: Health and Lifestyle indicators for strategic health authorities 1994-2002, Department of Health.

Table 4: Prevalence of obesity among children aged 2-10 years in London GOR, 2001-02

	Percentage
Children aged 2-10	18.2
Base (weighted)	830
Base (unweighted)	701

Source: Obesity among children under 11, Department of Health

Ophthalmic Services

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of ophthalmic services in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region was in each of the last five years. [88145]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Expenditure on national health service general ophthalmic services is shown in the following table. This covers the cost of NHS-funded sight tests and the cost of NHS optical vouchers to assist with the purchase of spectacles. The table also shows expenditure for the last five years to 2004-05, which is the latest year for which full accounts data are currently available. Data for NHS expenditure on hospital ophthalmic services are not available centrally.

Expenditure on general ophthalmic services by former strategic health authority area

Strategic health authority	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	£000 2004-05
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	12,233	12,741	12,520	12,910	14,200
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	8,351	8,700	8,986	9,197	10,364
Birmingham and the Black Country	17,979	18,695	18,908	20,081	21,548
Cheshire and Merseyside	16,230	17,105	16,834	17,276	18,274
County Durham and Tees Valley	7,490	7,891	9,137	8,498	7,561
Cumbria and Lancashire	11,547	12,072	12,510	13,079	13,867
Dorset and Somerset	6,980	7,361	6,349	8,045	8,433
Essex	8,936	9,371	9,774	10,448	10,712
Greater Manchester	16,746	17,498	17,419	18,278	18,733

Expenditure on general ophthalmic services by former strategic health authority area

Strategic health authority	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*£000 2004-05*
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	8,998	9,413	9,978	9,917	10,680
Kent and Medway	8,730	8,929	7,919	10,593	10,457
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	8,575	9,289	9,255	10,123	10,804
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	11,483	12,191	12,143	13,292	14,722
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	8,816	9,517	9,437	9,656	10,523
North Central London	7,235	7,497	7,570	7,621	7,913
North East London	10,831	10,982	10,187	11,924	12,219
North West London	9,094	9,547	9,608	9,498	9,911
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	10,066	10,501	10,985	11,247	11,670
Shropshire and Staffordshire	8,483	9,165	8,696	9,675	10,439
South East London	7,718	8,004	7,615	8,279	8,688
South West London	6,154	5,902	6,021	6,271	6,750
South West Peninsula	10,311	10,557	10,771	10,830	12,107
South Yorkshire	7,810	8,219	8,505	8,972	9,507
Surrey and Sussex	12,820	12,603	13,325	13,538	14,405
Thames Valley	9,223	9,531	9,993	10,290	11,367
Trent	14,994	15,838	16,074	17,425	18,025
West Midlands South	8,675	9,061	8,728	9,352	9,962
West Yorkshire	13,434	14,203	14,664	15,296	16,140
England	289,942	302,383	303,911	321,611	339,981

Osteoarthritis

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at which locations her Department funds research into *(a)* understanding and *(b)* treatment of osteoarthritis; and if she will make a statement on the Government's strategy for researching osteoarthritis. [88632]

Andy Burnham: Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is currently devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects including a large number concerned with osteoarthritis are available on the national research register (NRR) at www.dh.gov.uk/research. NRR entries include the address of the hospital or other location at which the principal researcher is based.

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the NHS. Information about osteoarthritis research commissioned by Department's national research programmes can similarly be found on the NRR.

The Government also support medical and clinical research by funding the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation.

The MRC spent £6.8 million on arthritis and rheumatism research in 2003-04, and is about to issue a highlight notice encouraging researchers to submit innovative proposals aimed at identifying factors involved in the maintenance of musculoskeletal health, especially where such research could underpin the development of new diagnostic approaches.

The approaches to the research are also important and the MRC wishes particularly to support longer-term collaborative research from new partnerships working at the interface of basic and clinical research. To this end, the MRC will consider collaborative funding with other research councils, charities and industry.

Osteoporosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) why the decision was made not to include measures to diagnose and treat osteoporosis within the Quality and Outcomes Frameworks; [83245]

(2) what consideration her Department has given to the inclusion of osteoporosis in the Quality and Outcomes Framework of the General Medical Services contract. [85581]

Andy Burnham: As part of the negotiations for the new general medical services contract for April 2006 an expert panel was engaged by NHS Employers to receive and review submissions on clinical areas for possible inclusion in the quality and outcomes framework (QOF). The number of submissions to the panel for the inclusion of osteoporosis totalled seven out of 514. All submissions were considered and the expert panel produced reports which have been published on the University of Birmingham website at: www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/primarycare/QOF/index.htm. Copies have been placed in the Library.

During the negotiations many clinical conditions were considered. The key criteria for inclusion in QOF were:

an evidence base for the effectiveness of intervention in primary care;

the health benefits likely to result from improved primary care; and

Government health priorities for investment through the contractual arrangements with general practitioners.

Due to technical problems with the proposed indicators and the degree of priority attached to other changes to the QOF, the proposals for osteoporosis were not taken forward for the 2006 contract changes. As part of the continuing development of the framework, indicators will be reviewed in the light of emerging evidence.

Out-of-hours Care

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average hourly rate of pay was for GPs providing out-of-hours care in 2005-06; [89110]

(2) if she will conduct an evaluation of standards of out-of-hours care following the introduction of the general medical service contract in 2004; and if she will make a statement. [89111]

Caroline Flint: Information on general practitioner pay for out-of-hours services is not collected centrally.

The National Audit Office published a report on "The Provision of Out-of-hours Care in England" on 5 May 2006. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The report highlights that patient experiences of out-of-hours services are generally positive.

Eight out of 10 patients are satisfied with the service, while six out of 10 rate the service as excellent or good.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what administrative functions for which her Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment she has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81554]

Caroline Flint: None of the Department's administrative functions are outsourced overseas. However, in April 2005, the Department entered into a 50/50 joint venture partnership with Xansa to provide shared services to the national health service, called NHS Shared Business Services. NHS Shared Business Services now has over 100 clients on board for finance and accounting services and it is expanding into other areas such as payroll and e-procurement.

To date, NHS Shared Business Services has offshored some activities to India:

elements of information technology development;

user amendment and set-ups;

supplier information set-up and maintenance; and

accounts payable verification.

Overseas Doctors

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rules and regulations govern overseas doctors who work in the national health service; who assesses the competence of overseas doctors; and whether that assessment is carried out by a *(a)* national and *(b)* local scheme. [89099]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Overseas doctors who work in the national health service are subject to the same terms and conditions of employment as their United Kingdom (UK) counterparts. Like all doctors, before they can practise medicine in the UK they must be registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) and are subject to the GMC's standards of fitness to practise.

At present, for international medical graduates from outside the European economic area the first step is to gain limited registration. This will enable them to practise in the NHS in supervised employment. Before they can be granted limited registration they must provide the GMC with evidence of their medical knowledge and skills-passes at part one and part two of the PLAB test.

Parallel-traded Medicines

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the value was of parallel-traded prescription medicines in the UK in 2005-06; [88880]

(2) what estimate she has made of the effect of parallel imports on the NHS pharmaceutical budget in 2005-06; [88881]

(3) what the additional earnings were of pharmacists from the purchase of parallel traded medicines in 2005-06; [88882]

(4) what assessment she has made of the effect of the reimbursement mechanism for pharmacists in England on *(a)* parallel imports and *(b)* new branded medicines entering the market. [88884]

Andy Burnham: No estimates are available centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency ensures that the procedures that the research and development based pharmaceutical industry has to follow to ensure quality and patient safety is followed by parallel import traders. [88883]

Andy Burnham: The United Kingdom (UK) parallel import licensing scheme, as required by the European treaty, allows medicinal products already authorised in other European Union (EU) member states to be marketed in the UK provided the imported products have no therapeutic difference from the equivalent UK products and do not appear in the light of scientific knowledge to differ as regards their safety and efficacy.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) liaises closely with the relevant competent authorities in the EU to obtain the necessary information to ensure that only those products which fully comply with the stringent criteria for parallel import are granted a licence.

Quality and patient safety are further ensured by a thorough assessment of the proposed labelling and/or packaging and the patient information leaflet by assessors prior to the issuing of a licence. Repackaging of the imported product when it occurs is carried out by an approved company in possession of a manufacturer's or assembler's licence, issued by the MHRA. In addition, patient information leaflets

and/or packaging are kept up to date by variations to the parallel import licences when relevant information becomes available via the MHRA's pharmacovigilance activities.

Parallel import traders are also subject to routine inspections by staff of the MHRA's inspection and standards division.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether parallel importers of pharmaceuticals are asked to guarantee continuous supplies to the NHS. [89171]

Andy Burnham: Neither parallel importers or pharmaceutical companies are asked to guarantee continuous supplies to the national health service. However, for those products tendered and contracted for by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency on behalf of NHS trusts, arrangements are in place to ensure that the supply chain is robust.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to question 22980, tabled by the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam on 25 October 2005, on NHS organisations' financial recovery plans. [88901]

Andy Burnham: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 22 August 2006.

Patient Care Records

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has issued to doctors following the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommendations on the advisability of patients being given a record of significant matters discussed during diagnosis and at key stages during their treatment; and if she will make a statement. [86718]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Cancer networks have developed action plans to ensure the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) supportive and palliative care guidance is implemented. This includes setting key milestones for delivery, including setting a date by which patients will be provided with a permanent record of important points relating to their consultation. Implementation of the NICE guidance will take place over a number of years and will be monitored by strategic health authorities. We have also commissioned work for the development of a tool to assess patient need at key stages throughout the cancer journey. This will report in spring 2007.

Practice-based Commissioning

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1228W, on practice-based commissioning, what the total level of expenditure on incentive payments for practices to take up practice-based commissioning was in each year since the incentive payments were first offered. [85831]

Caroline Flint: A directed enhanced service (DES) had been negotiated under the new general medical services contract to offer all practices an incentive payment to take part in practice based commissioning. The DES is for 2006-07 and has two component parts, each of 95p per registered patient. The DES is available until the end of March 2007, therefore a total expenditure for this year is not currently available.

Prescriptions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions were not used to collect medicines in each of the last five years for which records are available; [87772]

(2) what research she has undertaken to establish the principle reasons for prescriptions not being used by patients; [87773]

(3) what estimate she has made of the percentage of people earning less than £10,000 who are eligible for free prescriptions; [87774]

(4) what percentage of free prescriptions were provided under each type of exemption in each of the last three years; [87775]

(5) whether individual primary care trusts have any freedom to establish prescription charges on services that are provided free-of-charge nationally. [88279]

Andy Burnham: Information is not available about the number of prescriptions issued to patients but not subsequently dispensed and no research has been undertaken to establish the reasons for prescriptions not being used.

Anyone whose income (including earnings) is less than £15,050 per year and is receiving child tax credit, or working tax credit that includes a disability or severe disability element, is entitled to free prescriptions. No separate assessment has been made of the number with earnings under £10,000 who are eligible for free prescriptions.

Prescription charges may only be made in accordance with section 77 of the National Health Service Act 1977 and regulations made under that Act—the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Regulations 2000 (as amended).

Information about the percentage of the total prescriptions provided free in respect of each type of exemption is in the table.

Percentage

	2003	*2004*	*2005*
People aged 60 and over	64.9	65.7	64.9
Children under 16 and young people aged 16-18 in full time education	7.6	6.9	6.7
Maternity and medical exemption certificate held	8.2	8.4	8.3
Income based entitlement	13.8	13.6	13.1
Prescribed contraceptives	1.5	1.4	1.3
Items personally administered by a doctor	2.9	2.9	3.1

Other items including war pensioners and no specific declaration	1.2	1.2	2.5

Note:
The figures do not total 100 per cent. due to rounding. Source: The information in the table has been taken from the Statistical Bulletin which is available at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/prescriptionsdispensed and which provides more detailed information.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster are eligible for free prescriptions. [88381]

Andy Burnham: Information is not collected about the individuals in Barnsley and Doncaster who are entitled to free prescriptions. The information available about the number of free prescriptions is shown in the table.

Prescriptions dispensed in 2005

	Barnsley	*Doncaster*
Total items dispensed (million)	4.1	5.4
Total free of charge items (million)	3.6	4.7
Percentage of total dispensed free of charge	87.8	87.0
Total chargeable items (million)	0.5	0.7
Percentage of total chargeable	12.2	13.0

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts charge *(a)* day surgery and *(b)* accident and emergency patients for prescriptions. [88695]

Andy Burnham: The regulations governing prescription charges provide that a charge should be made by national health service trusts and foundation trust in respect of drugs supplied, other than for administration at a hospital, unless the patient is exempt. No information is collected about the manner in which the regulations are applied in respect of day surgery patients or accident and emergency patients.

Primary Care Trust Funding

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding per head of population was allocated to each primary care trust in 2005-06, ranked from the highest to the lowest. [86641]

Andy Burnham: The information requested has been placed in the Library. Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts on the basis of relative needs of their populations.

Prisoner Transportation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has held with health care professionals about the transportation of prisoners who are *(a)* pregnant and *(b)* suffering from medical conditions affecting mobility; what related guidance she has issued to (i) health care professionals and (ii) the National Offender Management Service; and if she will make a statement. [83814]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is a requirement for all prisoners to have their medical needs assessed by a health care professional prior to transportation. The precise arrangements for this are a matter for prisons and primary care trusts. The Department has not issued guidance centrally on this matter, and has had no recent meetings with health care professionals about the transportation of prisoners.

Psychotherapy Training

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychiatric trainees undertook psychotherapy training in 2005; and if she will make a statement. [88524]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 30 September 2005 there were 3,589 doctors training in the psychiatry specialties of which 43 were in psychotherapy.

In order to obtain a psychiatry specialist registrar post all candidates must have undertaken some training in psychotherapy.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by her Department or public bodies for which she is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83179]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 9 August 2006 which set out information on statistical surveys and statistical collections from the national health service and social care services. Information in respect of other parts of the question could not be produced without incurring disproportionate costs.

Redundancy Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on redundancy payments by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* strategic health authorities, *(c)* primary care trusts, *(d)* ambulance trusts and *(e)* other NHS bodies in each financial year since 1996-97; and if she will make a statement. [84841]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* Data for the national health service are not collected centrally. In early 2003 the Department began a substantial change programme which led to redundancy costs of £4.32 million in 2004-05 and £0.28 million in 2005-06. Any expenditure in earlier years could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Regulation Review

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to publish her Department's *(a)* review of information requirements and *(b)* wider review of regulation. [84455]

Andy Burnham: "The Health Reform in England: Update and Commissioning Framework" was published on 13 July 2006, and copies have been placed in the Library.

This document contains a detailed commissioning framework and updates on the future of provider reform, workforce development and system management and regulation and information needs.

A consultation document on system management and regulation will be published in the autumn.

Resources Allocation

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has carried out into the comparative costs of providing health services in urban and rural areas. [89035]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 25 July 2006]*: The weighted-capitation formula, used to inform revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), is continuously overseen by the advisory committee on resource allocation (ACRA). The issues faced by rural areas have been looked at by ACRA on numerous occasions when considering the allocation of funds to PCTs.

In 1997 a team of researchers was contracted to examine the effect of rurality on the cost of providing certain services. Accident and emergency services and patient transport costs were examined but no evidence of unavoidable geographical costs were found for these services. However, geographical cost differences were found for emergency ambulance services. This led to the introduction of an emergency ambulance cost adjustment (EACA) from the 1998-99 health authority allocations. The results of this study are recorded in "Study of Costs of Providing Health Services in Rural Areas Progress Report to Resource Allocation Group—Volumes 1 and 2". This research was published by Mallender Hancock Associates/ Operational Research in Health Ltd.

ACRA's current work programme includes looking again at rural issues. This work will inform the revenue allocations post 2007-08.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the review of the market forces factor of the weighted-capitation formula will report. [89036]

Andy Burnham: A review of the market forces factor (MFF) component of the weighted-capitation formula has been commissioned. The review is being overseen by the advisory committee on resource allocation (ACRA). ACRA will report to Ministers on the MFF review in advance of the next allocations round, as the review will inform revenue allocations to primary care trusts post 2007-08.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the members of the Advisory Committee on Resources Allocation were selected; and what steps her Department took to ensure that experts on health services in rural areas were included on the Advisory Committee. [89037]

Andy Burnham: Officials at the Department on behalf of the Secretary of State appoint members of the advisory committee on resource allocation (ACRA) and its subsidiary, the technical advisory group (TAG). In appointing ACRA and TAG members, the aim is to ensure there is the appropriate mix of expertise and experience in all technical and health service issues covered by the groups, including expertise in health services in rural areas.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recommendations have been made by the turnaround team auditors of the Royal Cornwall hospitals' trust in respect of *(a)* hospital services, *(b)* hospital sites and *(c)* hospital staff. [87662]

Andy Burnham: The turnaround plan is produced locally by the trust with its partners where the specific information will be available.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health, announced the turnaround teams in a written ministerial statement on 1 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 37WS.

The first stage was a baseline assessment, the aim of which was to ensure there is an agreed understanding of the local financial problem and that actions were in hand to address the problem. The contract for the baseline assessment, which took place for the royal Cornwall hospital's trust in February 2006, was awarded to consultants KPMG.

This assessment stage resulted in KPMG rating organisations as:

immediate priority. Need for urgent intervention to drive turnaround;

additional expertise/resource needed to support the turnaround;

drive/focus. Maintain high priority of actions; and

regular challenge of management. Encourage to share what works and deliver easy wins.

The Royal Cornwall hospital NHS trust was rated by KPMG as an immediate priority and needing urgent intervention to drive turnaround. The KPMG assessment therefore did not make specific recommendations in relation to actions for individual organisations. The trust subsequently appointed advisers to help the trust produce a turnaround plan which describes the actions that the trust plans to undertake.

Rule of Rescue Principle

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the rule of rescue principle applies to NHS treatment of *(a)* brain tumours and *(b)* other conditions; and if she will make a statement. [49591]

Andy Burnham: Decisions on the most appropriate care of any individual patient are usually taken by their treating clinician in consultation with the patient, bearing in mind the individual's clinical circumstances, relevant evidence and the need to make effective use of the national health service's resources.

Rural Health Services

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment of health needs in rural areas is undertaken by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* primary care trusts. [85134]

Andy Burnham: Nationally, the Department rural proofs policy across much of its business. In policy development we ensure that all communities, including those in rural areas, are able to benefit from our national objectives for healthcare. Examples of our rural proofing activity can be found in the Commission for Rural Communities annual report on rural proofing at: www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk. This commends our White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services" highlighting policies aimed at providing care closer to the home. Proposals for social care and integration, initiatives to support carers, such as a dedicated telephone helpline, and set of community hospitals will be particularly beneficial to rural populations.

The Department's document "Health reform in England: update and commissioning framework", published on 13 July 2006, sets out a framework for strengthening commissioning in the new primary care trusts (PCTs). An essential part of this is the effective assessment of the health needs of all communities, including those in rural areas. PCTs' effectiveness is assessed by the strategic health authorities, as well as by the Healthcare Commission.

To further support delivery of health objectives in rural communities, the Department with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs funded the Institute of Rural Health, an independent research charity, for the production of a rural proofing toolkit. This was launched at the House of Commons in October 2005, and now acts as a resource for primary care organisations to help ensure that all health care delivery is accessible and appropriate for people living in rural areas.

Section 19 Referrals

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for which trusts and strategic health authorities auditors have considered, but not made, section 19 referrals in the last 12 months; [85623]

(2) pursuant to her answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 605W, on the Audit Commission Act, how many reports she has received in each category since issuing that response; [85639]

(3) pursuant to her answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 605W, on the Audit Commission Act, for what reason *(a)* West Midlands strategic health authority, *(b)* West Hertfordshire hospitals NHS trust and *(c)* Avon Ambulance Service NHS trust were absent from her response in the *Official Report* of 21 June 2006, column 1942W; [85640]

(4) pursuant to her answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 605W, on the Audit Commission Act, for what reason East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust is not listed; [85641]

(5) pursuant to her answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 604W, on the Audit Commission Act, if she will break down the number of *(a)* Section 8 reports, *(b)* Section 19 referrals and *(c)* Qualifications on accounts Section 19 referrals by month since 2003, including any referrals that have been made since that answer. [85642]

Andy Burnham: Consideration of whether or not to make a referral under section 19 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 is a matter solely for the appointed auditor and information is not available centrally on instances where this has been considered, but no referral has been made.

Since the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 605W, two further referrals have been made in respect of organisations having little prospect of achieving financial balance within a three or five year period.

In the response of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1942W, West Hertfordshire national health service trust was included in the list of section 8 reports under West Hertfordshire Quadrant, which also constituted a referral under section 19. The referral for Avon Ambulance Trust was not included as it had not been made at the time of compilation of the answer.

The previous answers referred to above omitted West Midlands South strategic health authority (from the answer of 21 June) and East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (from the answer of 29 June), and the number of qualifications on account referrals in 2003 should have been 16 (in the table in the answer of 29 June).

The number of section 8 reports, section 19 referrals and qualification on accounts section 19 referrals by month since 2003 is in the following tables.

Year/month	*Section 8 reports*	*Section 19 referrals*	*Qualification on account referrals*[1]
2003			
March	1	—	—
April	1	—	—
July	—	—	16
Total	2	0	16
2004			
January	—	1	—
July	—	—	53
September	1	1	—
December	1	—	—
Total	2	2	53
2005			
February	—	1	—
March	2	—	—
June	2	1	—
July	9	1	93
August	1	—	—
September	2	1	—
November	3	—	—
December	4	3	—
Total	23	7	93
2006 to date			
January	1	—	—
February	6	6	—

Year/month	Section 8 reports	Section 19 referrals	Qualification on account referrals[1]
April	8	12	—
June	1	3	—
July	—	1	—
Total	16	22	[3]—

[1] The section 19 referrals issued to these organisations took the form of regularity reports on accounts and did nor constitute a full report to the Secretary of State.
[2] To date.
[3] Not yet available.

Sexual Health

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what interim monitoring her Department is undertaking of the delivery by primary care trusts and strategic health authorities of the Government's 2008 targets *(a)* to reduce the level of new infections of gonorrhoea and *(b)* to ensure that all patients have access to genito-urinary medicine clinics within 48 hours. [81520]

Caroline Flint: Data on the number of sexually transmitted infections for 2005 for each region were published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on 4 July in each region. The number of cases of gonorrhoea has decreased by 14 per cent. in England since 2004. The report is freely available from the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/epidemiology/datatables2005.htm

Sexual health and access to genito-urinary (GUM) clinics is one of the six top priorities for the national health service in 2006-07. By 2008 everyone should be offered an appointment within 48 hours of contacting a GUM clinic. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) have all submitted plans to meet this target.

The GUM clinic waiting times audit collects data on waiting times for all GUM clinics in England for a period of one week every quarter. All patients attending a GUM clinic with a new episode or registering for the first time are asked to complete the short questionnaire on waiting times. This audit has been chosen as the initial method of monitoring and improving access to genito-urinary medicine services. Current analysis is published on numbers seen within 48 hours. The most recent survey is for May 2006 which shows that in England 54 per cent. of attendees were seen within 48 hours and a further 4 per cent. were offered an appointment but did not attend. This compares with 45 per cent. seen within 48 hours in May 2004. A summary of the data is published on the HPA website at the following web address:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/epidemiology/results_May_2006.htm

In addition the Department is working with SHAs and primary care trusts to establish a new continuous monitoring system for GUM access to all local areas to better performance manage their progress to the 2008 target. We expect GUM services to start returning data in August 2006.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* gonorrhoea, *(b)* syphilis, *(c)* chlamydia and *(d)* thrush were diagnosed in each primary care trust in London in the last year for which figures are available. [81687]

Caroline Flint: Data on the number of sexually transmitted infections for 2005 for each region was published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on 4 July in each region. Copies have been placed in the Library. The report is freely available from the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/epidemiology/datatables2005.htm

Figures on the number of cases of thrush are not collected centrally.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many free condoms her Department has issued in each London borough in each year since 1997. [87506]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 635W.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners have opted out of providing sexual health services in each year from 1997 to 2005 *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by region. [89089]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected centrally.

Shared Business Services

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS organisations have transferred their finance, accounting and payroll services to shared business services; what estimate she has made of the reduction in the number of NHS posts as a result of the transfer of these services; and to what extent predicted cost savings have been achieved. [86147]

Andy Burnham: Since the inception in April 2005 of the Department's 50/50 Joint Venture (JV) with Xansa to provide shared services to the national health service, 56 NHS organisations have transferred their finance and accounting to the JV, whilst 20 have transferred payroll.

The estimate of the reduction in the number of NHS posts as a result of the transfer of these services is over 200.

For the 56 trusts that have joined for finance and accounting, they are achieving savings of over 30 per cent. (which is relative to their previous in house costs) and greater than the original commitment by the JV of achieving 20 per cent. savings. This amounts to a saving, for the 56, of circa £3.9 million per annum.

Sight Loss (Emotional Support)

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* social services departments provide emotional support services for patients in Shropshire at the time of sight loss. [88673]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. It can be obtained from Shropshire County Primary Care Trust and Shropshire county council.

Smoking

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methods she uses to estimate the number of children who *(a)* smoke and *(b)* have stopped smoking. [88046]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The survey "Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England" collects information on secondary school children's smoking behaviour. This includes information on the proportion of children who: are regular smokers; are occasional smokers; have tried smoking; used to smoke, that is, have now given up; have ever smoked; and have never smoked.

The methodology for this survey is available within the report. A copy is available in the Library.

Social Care

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to increase the number of social care workers available to individuals requiring assistance during the evenings and at night time. [86237]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is the responsibility of local employers to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of social care workers available to provide the full cover to meet service needs.

Social Marketing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to implement the recommendations in the National Consumer Council document on the potential for effective social marketing within the Health Service; and if she will make a statement. [82478]

Caroline Flint: We commissioned the National Consumer Council to write a report analysing the case for using social marketing and give recommendations on how we could embed the necessary techniques and systems to achieve our Choosing Health white paper commitment to implement a social marketing strategy for England. This report was published on 26 June 2006, and the Department is currently reviewing these recommendations. Following evaluation over the summer we will announce in the autumn what recommendations we will be taking forward to enable us to implement a social marketing strategy for England.

Social Services Care

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2163-70W, on social services care, what guidance her Department has issued on the splitting of each of the four eligibility bands into sub-priorities. [87083]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* The Department has not issued specific guidance on the splitting of each of the four bands of categorisation contained in the fair access to care services (FACS) guidance into sub-priorities.

Specialised Children's Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to report on the review into commissioning of specialised children's services. [88717]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The review into commissioning arrangements for specialised services was published on 19 May 2006. A number of services covered by specialised commissioning arrangements are for children. The key messages in that Review have been incorporated in the commissioning framework—national health service guidance issued on 13 July—with the aim of achieving more robust, consistent commissioning arrangements across the country to improve quality of, and reduce variation in, specialised service provision.

Specialist Nurses

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses are employed in the NHS to care for people who have *(a)* multiple sclerosis, *(b)* Parkinson's disease, *(c)* palliative care, *(d)* rheumatology, *(e)* diabetes and *(f)* epilepsy in (i) Guildford and Waverley primary care trust, (ii) Surrey and (iii) England; whether her Department plans to increase the number of specialist nurse posts in each specialty; and whether there have been redundancies of specialist nurses in the NHS since 1997. [87917]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

The annual workforce census does not collect information about nurses by speciality. It is the responsibility of local national health service employers and strategic health authorities to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of nurses to meet their local service needs.

Speech Therapists

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speech and language therapists *(a)* started and *(b)* finished employment within the NHS in each year since 1997. [86775]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by her Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85188]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Statutory instruments were reported on five occasions, in the committee's 4th, 10th, 13th, 25th and 30th reports. Reports from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments contain full details of the statutory instruments which they have reported.

Sterilisations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many sterilisations were carried out *(a)* alone and *(b)* with other procedures in each health authority in England in the last year for which figures are available; [87216]

(2) how many sterilisations have been carried out within each health authority in England in each year since 1990, broken down by sex; [87217]

(3) what the cost to the NHS of *(a)* male and *(b)* female sterilisations in each health authority was in the last year for which figures are available; [87218]

(4) what the average time spent in hospital by women having sterilisation operations in each health authority was in the last period for which figures are available. [87219]

Caroline Flint: The information available has been placed in the Library.

The cost to the national health service for these treatments is not collected centrally.

Substance Misuse (Hospital Admissions)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions there have been via accident and emergency departments for *(a)* alcohol-related conditions and *(b)* illegal drug-related conditions for (i) those aged over 18 and (ii) under 18s in (A) absolute terms and (B) per 1,000 population in (1) rural areas and (2) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [84622]

Caroline Flint: Information is not held centrally split between rural and non-rural areas.

National data on the number of alcohol and drug related admissions via accident and emergency departments between 1996-97 and 2004-05 is shown in the table.

This data is broken down between under 18, over 18 and also provides data in terms of per 1,000 of the population.

Count of accident and emergency admissions for alcohol and drug related conditions as primary diagnosis (see footnotes for codes used). Data for all national health service hospitals in England, data years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05

Alcohol related admissions

Data year	Under 18	18 and over	Total episodes	Admissions per 1,000 of population
2004-05	4,616	25,188	29,804	0.59
2003-04	4,514	29,909	34,423	0.69
2002-03	3,891	25,036	28,927	0.58
2001-02	4,212	23,032	27,244	0.55
2000-01	4,179	21,126	25,305	0.51
1999-2000	4,502	20,260	24,762	0.51
1998-99	3,736	18,406	22,142	0.45
1997-98	4,131	17,603	21,734	0.45
1996-97	3,866	15,584	19,450	0.40

Drug related admissions

Data year	Under 18	18 and over	Total episodes	Admissions per 1,000 population of
2004-05	15,463	86,015	101,478	2.03
2003-04	15,453	76,187	91,640	1.84
2002-03	14,150	65,903	80,053	1.61
2001-02	14,215	68,370	82,585	1.67
2000-01	14,284	68,793	83,077	1.69
1999-2000	15,060	73,190	88,280	1.80
1998-99	15,942	75,574	91,516	1.87
1997-98	18,958	79,778	98,736	2.03
1996-97	18,030	73,007	91,037	1.88

Notes:
1. Population of England figures used: 2004: 50,093,130 2003: 49,855,740 2002: 49,646,853 2001: 49,449,746 2000: 49,233,311 1999: 49,032,872 1998: 48,820,583 1997: 48,664,777 1996: 48,519,129
2. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis) The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Finished consultant episode (FCE) An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
4. Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data, that is, the data are ungrossed.
5. Codes used as advised by data standards for drug related conditions, Connecting for Health: The ICD-10 code categories for mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use (including acute intoxication or abuse) are as follows: F11: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids. F12: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids. F13: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics. F14: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cocaine. F15: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine. F16: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of hallucinogens. F17: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco. F18: Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents. F19: Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances. The ICD-10 code categories for poisoning (either self-inflicted or accidental) are as follows: T36: Poisoning by systemic antibodies. T37: Poisoning by other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics. T38: Poisoning by hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified. T39: Poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics. T40: Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens]. T41: Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases. T42: Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs. T43: Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified. T44: Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system. T45: Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified. T46: Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system. T47: Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system. T48: Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system. T49: Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs. T50: Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances. Codes used as advised by data standards for alcohol related conditions, Connecting for Health: F10: Mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol. K70: Alcoholic Liver Disease. T51: Toxic Effect of Alcohol.
Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Swimming Pools (Asthma)

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been undertaken by her Department on whether there is a link between chlorine in swimming pools and asthma. [88633]

Caroline Flint: The Committee on Medical Aspects of Air Pollution made a statement on swimming pools and asthma in August 2003. The committee was examining a paper that had been published in the Journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine 2003; 60:385-394.

The committee felt that the study was of interest and that further focused research in this area was advisable to take further these preliminary findings. Members accepted that exposure to airway irritants such as chloramines could trigger the symptoms of asthma. It was argued that it was important to distinguish clearly between induction of asthma as a disease and the triggering of symptoms. The primary cause of most cases of asthma is unknown as are the reasons for the increase in asthma in the United Kingdom over the past 20 years. That exposure to chlorine and associated reaction products had played a significant part in causing this increase was felt to be unlikely.

Syringe Drivers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from where the NHS sources its syringe drivers; what the cost was in 2005-06; and how the NHS ensures it pays a competitive price. [88877]

Andy Burnham: Syringe drivers are contracted for at a local level and the cost is not held centrally. Price is generally dependant on the quantity purchased. The price is competitive because trusts are given guidelines to follow under competitive purchasing procedures, which take into account the price of the product over the contract duration.

Teeth-whitening Treatments

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether her Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated research into the safe level of hydrogen peroxide in teeth-whitening treatments; [88052]

(2) what discussions she has had with interested parties on proposals from the European Commission to raise the safe level of hydrogen peroxide in over-the-counter teeth-whitening treatments from 0.1 per cent. to 6 per cent. [88053]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The European Union scientific committee on cosmetics and consumer products (SCCP) was asked to review the safety of increasing the percentage of hydrogen peroxide in over the counter tooth whitening products from 0.1 per cent. to 6 per cent. This report published in March 2005 outlined and reviewed all the relevant research into the safe levels hydrogen peroxide used in tooth whitening and concluded that in the opinion of SCCP:

the use of tooth whitening products up to 0.1 per cent, hydrogen peroxide is safe;

the proper use of tooth whitening products containing greater than 0.1 per cent, to 6 per cent, hydrogen peroxide, or equivalent for hydrogen peroxide releasing substances, is considered safe after consultation with and approval of the consumer's dentist. Tooth whitening is not recommended prior to or immediately after dental restoration and care should be taken by persons with gingivitis and other periodontal diseases or defective restorations;

there is an absence of good clinical data and long-term epidmiological studies that assess possible adverse effects within the oral cavity; and

new additional data supplied does not provide the necessary reassurance in terms of risk assessment to support that safety of hydrogen peroxide up to 6 per cent. in tooth whitening products freely and directly available to the consumer.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the Department have noted and support the outcome of the committee's findings.

Tooth whitening products are cosmetic products and are therefore not provided as part of the national health service in meeting patients' reasonable clinical needs.

Tooth whitening products, along with other oral hygiene products are regulated by the Cosmetics Directive, implemented in the United Kingdom in the Cosmetic Product (Safety) Regulations. The European Commission and member states are currently considering how the SCCP opinion can be implemented to allow consumers to buy products containing up to 6 per cent. hydrogen peroxide. Any proposal will address the concerns of the SCCP including requiring industry to conduct epidemiological studies to assess the long-term effects of usage of this type of product.

Telephones (Hospitals)

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what authority NHS hospitals prohibit the use of mobile phones within their premises on grounds of potential interference with *(a)* medical equipment, *(b)* patients' privacy and *(c)* patients' peace and quiet. [87859]

Andy Burnham: Every national health service trust has responsibility for the safe use of medical equipment within their hospitals and should undertake a local risk assessment to determine those areas where it is safe to permit mobile telephone usage and those areas where usage should be prohibited, due to the presence of electrically sensitive medical devices. For example, this risk assessment should cover not only the public's use of mobile telephones and other radio equipment, but also the use of communication equipment by hospital staff and the emergency services.

Restrictions in other areas of the hospital premises may be introduced for reasons other than their impact on the safety of medical equipment, such as the desire to reduce the disruption caused by the uncontrolled use of mobile telephones and the possible invasion of patients' privacy from phones with built in cameras, for example. Mobile telephone ring tones may be confused with medical device alarm signals by hospital staff, which could have a direct impact on patient safety.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has recently published "Frequently asked

questions on the use of mobile phones in hospitals on its website at www.mhra.gov.uk." This has links to other MHRA publications on the effects of mobile telephones on medical equipment.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response she has made to the conclusions of the review group on the costs to users of bedside television and telephone systems in NHS hospitals. [87943]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 43WS.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason the NHS decided to allow the subsidy of patients' bedside telephone and entertainment services from charges for incoming calls. [87951]

Andy Burnham: The telephone service is primarily a service for the patients, while in hospital.

Three private companies are licensed to provide bedside televisions and telephones to major hospitals in England. The incoming call charges range from 35 pence per minute to 49p per minute.

At the time of setting up the licensing procedure the Department specified that the outgoing call rate should be set at less than the national call rate and that free television should be made available for children.

The private companies set charges for all the other services to ensure the commercial viability of the initiative.

Transfats

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulations govern acceptable levels of transfats in food products specifically marketed to children; and if she will make a statement. [89088]

Caroline Flint: There are no specific regulations that govern levels of trans fatty acids (TFAs) in any food products. The average consumption of TFAs is below the maximum level recommended by the committee on medical aspects of food policy in 1994.

Trust Deficits

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the relative contribution of *(a)* management failure, *(b)* inaccurate resource allocation and *(c)* other factors to the deficits in trusts in 2005-06; [87448]

(2) how many trusts experienced account deficits in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and what assessment she has made of the factors causing differences in the level of deficit. [87449]

Andy Burnham: The information requested on the number of trusts in deficit for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 has been placed in the Library.

A report by the Department's director of finance, "NHS financial performance 2005-06", was placed in the Library on 7 June 2006. The provisional analysis set out in the report indicates both that there is no single, simple cause of deficits and no single simple solution, and that there are no strong relationships between deficits and a range of funding factors.

Further detailed analysis on the causes of deficits has been commissioned from the Department's chief economic advisor.

Trust Surpluses

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether strategic health authorities (SHAs) were provided with an incentive by her Department to retain surpluses generated by constituent trusts and primary care trusts in the 2005-06 financial year at the SHA level; and whether they are provided with an incentive to do so in the 2006-07 financial year. [85787]

Andy Burnham: In 2005-06, a strategic health authority (SHA) incentive scheme was introduced and managed by the NHS Bank. The main aim of the scheme was to encourage good financial management. Any SHA taking advantage of the incentive scheme needed to demonstrate satisfactory delivery of key performance targets.

In 2006-07, SHAs will take the lead locally in developing and implementing a service and financial strategy for managing the financial position within their locality. This will include creating local reserves. The size of the reserves and any contribution from each primary care trust (PCT) will vary according to local circumstances, but the underlying principle will be fairness. We expect SHAs to maintain the integrity of the allocations system with PCTs entitled to repayment of any contributions over a reasonable period not normally exceeding the three-year allocation cycle.

Tuberculosis

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of tuberculosis was in each region in each year for which figures are available. [83840]

Caroline Flint: Details of tuberculosis case reports and rates per 100,000 population by region, in England and Wales, are shown in the following tables which are also available on Health Protection Agency website at www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/tb/epidemiology/table15.htm.

Tables 1 and 2: Tuberculosis case reports and rates (per 100,000 population) by region, England and Wales, 1999 to 2004

	1999		2000		2001	
Region	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*
London	2,308	32.8	2641	37.2	2,717	37.8
West Midlands	654	12.4	734	14.0	713	13.5
North West	680	10.1	638	9.5	652	9.7

Tables 1 and 2: Tuberculosis case reports and rates (per 100,000 population) by region, England and Wales, 1999 to 2004

	1999		2000		2001	
Region	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*
East Midlands	424	10.2	418	10.1	570	13.7
Yorkshire and the Humber	486	9.8	543	11.0	563	11.3
South East	415	5.2	454	5.7	470	5.9
East of England	215	4.0	280	5.2	328	6.1
South West	193	4.0	225	4.6	216	4.4
North East	164	6.5	158	6.3	185	7.4
Wales	165	5.7	180	6.2	183	6.3
Total	5,704	11.0	6,271	12.1	6,597	12.7

	2002		2003		2004	
Region	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*	*Number*	*Rate (per 100,000)*
London	2,986	40.6	3,049	41.3	3,129	42.1
West Midlands	807	15.2	810	15.2	912	17.1
North West	649	9.6	592	8.7	588	8.6
East Midlands	489	11.6	475	11.2	443	10.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	514	10.3	547	10.9	544	10.8
South East	456	5.7	455	5.6	465	5.7
East of England	352	6.5	328	6.0	395	7.2
South West	230	4.6	205	4.1	270	5.4
North East	155	6.2	147	5.8	149	5.9
Wales	156	5.3	172	5.9	191	6.5
Total	6,794	13.0	6,780	12.8	7,086	13.4

Sources:
Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance, Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates, as at 17 March 2006.
Communicable disease surveillance centre (CDSC), Health Protection Agency centre for infections.

Turnaround Teams

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding her Department has allocated for turnaround teams for NHS organisations; and what average period of time teams have remained in organisations in the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* strategic health authority, *(b)* primary care trust and *(c)* hospital trust. [89066]

Andy Burnham: The Department is funding the national programme office and the strategic health authority (SHA) turnaround directors but trusts and primary care trusts are responsible for funding the support they decide they require. The Department will spend in 2005-06 and 2006-07 about £11 million, excluding VAT and expenses, on the turnaround programme at a national and SHA level covering local baseline assessments, a national programme office, one-off local support payments and SHA turnaround directors.

It is for local organisations to determine and commission the turnaround support they require and the Department does not maintain records on the average period of time these teams remain in the organisations.

Vocational General Practice Training Scheme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people completed the vocational general practice training scheme in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [84365]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total number of vocational general practice training certificates has increased year on year in the last five years.

	Total
2001	1,787
2002	1,978
2003	1,907
2004	2,244
2005	2,567

Waiting Times/Lists

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area were waiting more than (i) three months, (ii) six months and (iii) a year for an NHS operation in each year since 1997. [87373]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the information relating to the Sunderland health authority (HA) and the Sunderland primary care trust (PCT) is shown in the tables.

Number of patients waiting for inpatient treatment, Sunderland HA, quarter four, 1996-97 to 2001-02

	Total waiting	Waiting more than three months		Waiting more than six months		Waiting more than 12 months	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1996-97	7,064	3,318	47.0	1,480	21.0	1	0
1997-98	7,259	3,275	45.1	1,513	20.8	1	0
1998-99	6,562	2,886	44.0	1,303	19.9	2	0
1999-2000	5,918	2,407	40.7	1,100	18.6	6	0.1
2000-01	5,880	2,457	41.8	1,259	21.4	2	0
2001-02	6,060	2,755	45.5	1,329	21.9	0	0

Number of patients waiting for inpatient treatment, Sunderland PCT, quarter four, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Total waiting	Waiting more than three months		Waiting more than six months		Waiting more than 12 months	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2002-03	5,744	1,912	33.3	508	8.8	0	0
2003-04	4,720	1,374	29.1	310	6.6	0	0
2004-05	3,894	920	23.6	15	0.4	0	0
2005-06	4,508	892	19.8	0	0	0	0

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what incentives her Department has introduced to reduce waiting times for *(a)* elective surgical procedures, *(b)* initial consultation and *(c)* diagnostic procedures. [87658]

Andy Burnham: A description of the Department's approach to implementing the 18 week referral-to-treatment waiting time target is set out in detail in "Tackling hospital waiting: the 18 week patient pathway—an implementation framework", published in May. The document is available in the Library and on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/46/69/04134669.pdf.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* a hip replacement operation and *(b)* an MRI scan in (i) each London strategic health authority and (ii) each London primary care trust in each of the last three years. [87722]

Andy Burnham: The table shows average hip replacement waiting times by London primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Data on average waits for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans is not held in the format requested. However, the following table shows average waits for MRI scans by London primary care trusts in April 2006 which is the latest information available.

Median waits for MRI scans in London PCTs and SHAs, April 2006

Organisation	Median wait (weeks)
Hillingdon PCT	6.6
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5.3
Ealing PCT	6.9
Hounslow PCT	8.6
Brent PCT	7.3
Harrow PCT	5.9
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5.3
Westminster PCT	6.6
Barnet PCT	8.4
Enfield PCT	8.3
Haringey PCT	8.9
Camden PCT	9.3
Islington PCT	8.9
Havering PCT	10.0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	12.1
City and Hackney PCT	5.8
Tower Hamlets PCT	3.4
Newham PCT	2.7
Redbridge PCT	8.3
Waltham Forest PCT	7.0
Bromley PCT	3.4
Greenwich PCT	3.4
Lambeth PCT	4.6
Southwark PCT	4.3
Lewisham PCT	3.5
Bexley Care Trust	3.9
Kingston PCT	6.3
Croydon PCT	6.7
Wandsworth PCT	5.6
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	7.8
Sutton and Merton PCT	4.2
North West London SHA	6.7
North Central London SHA	8.6
North East London SHA	6.3
South East London SHA	3.8
South West London SHA	6.1

Source:
DM01 diagnostic waiting times returns

Hip replacement waiting times (mean and median) 2002-03 by London PCT and SHA of residence NHS hospitals, England

SHA of residence	PCT of residence	Median waiting time	Mean waiting time
North Central London HA	Barnet PCT	185	213
North Central London HA	Camden PCT	158	199
North Central London HA	Enfield PCT	341	327
North Central London HA	Haringey PCT	170	247
North Central London HA	Islington PCT	182	219
North Central London HA		206	244

Hip replacement waiting times (mean and median) 2002-03 by London PCT and SHA of residence NHS hospitals, England

SHA of residence	PCT of residence	Median waiting time	Mean waiting time
North East London HA	Barking And Dagenham PCT	367	326
North East London HA	Chingford, Wanstead And Woodford PCT	405	380
North East London HA	City And Hackney PCT	64	107
North East London HA	Havering PCT	381	342
North East London HA	Newham PCT	170	178
North East London HA	Redbridge PCT	245	254
North East London HA	Tower Hamlets PCT	231	232
North East London HA	Walthamstow, Leyton And Leytonstone PCT	405	384
North East London HA		286	278
North West London HA	Brent PCT	138	190
North West London HA	Ealing PCT	121	167
North West London HA	Hammersmith And Fulham PCT	200	200
North West London HA	Harrow PCT	122	164
North West London HA	Hillingdon PCT	134	173
North West London HA	Hounslow PCT	85	149
North West London HA	Kensington And Chelsea PCT	152	179
North West London HA	Westminster PCT	140	184
North West London HA		135	176
South East London HA	Bexley PCT	327	321
South East London HA	Bromley PCT	269	271
South East London HA	Greenwich PCT	319	322
South East London HA	Lambeth PCT	192	229
South East London HA	Lewisham PCT	312	299
South East London HA	Southwark PCT	275	282
South East London HA		282	286
South West London HA	Croydon PCT	356	321
South West London HA	Kingston PCT	147	219
South West London HA	Richmond And Twickenham PCT	118	167
South West London HA	Sutton And Merton PCT	314	293
South West London HA	Wandsworth PCT	196	241
South West London HA		245	259

Hip replacement waiting times (mean and median) 2003-04 by London PCT and SHA of residence NHS hospitals, England

SHA of residence	PCT of residence	Median waiting time	Mean waiting time
North Central London Strategic HA	Barnet PCT	172	198
North Central London Strategic HA	Camden PCT	192	204
North Central London Strategic HA	Enfield PCT	176	202
North Central London Strategic HA	Haringey Teaching PCT	207	216
North Central London Strategic HA	Islington PCT	217	226
North Central London Strategic HA		183	207
North East London Strategic HA	Barking And Dagenham PCT	238	235
North East London Strategic HA	City And Hackney Teaching PCT	71	110
North East London Strategic HA	Havering PCT	276	264
North East London Strategic HA	Newham PCT	150	157
North East London Strategic HA	Redbridge PCT	248	241
North East London Strategic HA	Tower Hamlets PCT	210	211
North East London Strategic HA	Waltham Forest PCT	277	245
North East London Strategic HA		221	227
North West London Strategic HA	Brent Teaching PCT	134	162
North West London Strategic HA	Ealing PCT	100	139
North West London Strategic HA	Hammersmith And Fulham PCT	145	153
North West London Strategic HA	Harrow PCT	111	146
North West London Strategic HA	Hillingdon PCT	161	182
North West London Strategic HA	Hounslow PCT	71	118
North West London Strategic HA	Kensington And Chelsea PCT	108	161
North West London Strategic HA	Westminster PCT	114	165
North West London Strategic HA		111	153
South East London Strategic HA	Bexley Care Trust	256	258
South East London Strategic HA	Bromley PCT	211	227
South East London Strategic HA	Greenwich PCT	325	295
South East London Strategic HA	Lambeth PCT	200	200
South East London Strategic HA	Lewisham PCT	234	235
South East London Strategic HA	Southwark PCT	230	228
South East London Strategic HA		241	242

Hip replacement waiting times (mean and median) 2003-04 by London PCT and SHA of residence NHS hospitals, England

SHA of residence	PCT of residence	Median waiting time	Mean waiting time
South West London Strategic HA	Croydon PCT	226	240
South West London Strategic HA	Kingston PCT	118	172
South West London Strategic HA	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	99	152
South West London Strategic HA	Sutton and Merton PCT	224	215
South West London Strategic HA	Wandsworth PCT	122	168
South West London Strategic HA		163	197

Hip replacement waiting times (mean and median) 2004-05 by London PCT and SHA of residence NHS hospitals, England

SHA of residence	PCT of residence	Median waiting time	Mean waiting time
North Central London Strategic HA	Barnet PCT	172	175
North Central London Strategic HA	Camden PCT	178	187
North Central London Strategic HA	Enfield PCT	181	188
North Central London Strategic HA	Haringey Teaching PCT	153	164
North Central London Strategic HA	Islington PCT	140	143
North Central London Strategic HA		165	173
North East London Strategic HA	Barking And Dagenham PCT	193	200
North East London Strategic HA	City And Hackney Teaching PCT	129	137
North East London Strategic HA	Havering PCT	218	209
North East London Strategic HA	Newham PCT	119	135
North East London Strategic HA	Redbridge PCT	175	172
North East London Strategic HA	Tower Hamlets PCT	167	181
North East London Strategic HA	Waltham Forest PCT	215	206
North East London Strategic HA		180	186
North West London Strategic HA	Brent Teaching PCT	168	164
North West London Strategic HA	Ealing PCT	91	117
North West London Strategic HA	Hammersmith And Fulham PCT	101	119
North West London Strategic HA	Harrow PCT	67	111
North West London Strategic HA	Hillingdon PCT	126	141
North West London Strategic HA	Hounslow PCT	90	107
North West London Strategic HA	Kensington And Chelsea PCT	110	149
North West London Strategic HA	Westminster PCT	88	131
North West London Strategic HA		106	131
South East London Strategic HA	Bexley Care Trust	198	224
South East London Strategic HA	Bromley PCT	189	200
South East London Strategic HA	Greenwich Teaching PCT	180	197
South East London Strategic HA	Lambeth PCT	175	179
South East London Strategic HA	Lewisham PCT	128	154
South East London Strategic HA	Southwark PCT	169	170
South East London Strategic HA		182	194
South West London Strategic HA	Croydon PCT	176	171
South West London Strategic HA	Kingston PCT	166	171
South West London Strategic HA	Richmond And Twickenham PCT	122	131
South West London Strategic HA	Sutton And Merton PCT	195	181
South West London Strategic HA	Wandsworth PCT	206	177
South West London Strategic HA		167	166

Notes:

1. *Time waited (days):*
Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
2. *Ungrossed Data:*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care

OPCS codes for identifying hip replacement operations

Code	
W37	Total prosthetic replacement of hip joint using cement
W38	Total prosthetic replacement of hip joint not using cement
W39	Other total prosthetic replacement of hip joint
W46	Prosthetic replacement of head of femur using cement
W47	Prosthetic replacement of head of femur not using cement
W48	Other prosthetic replacement of head of femur

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2086-88W, on waiting times/lists, if she will make a statement on the differences between the averages given by the Korner aggregate returns and those given by the Hospital Episode Statistics. [87690]

Andy Burnham: A detailed analysis of the differences between the hospital episode statistics and Korner waiting times can be found in a Health Statistics Quarterly article at the following address: www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/hsq/HSQ24waiting-time.pdf.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Welfare Food Scheme

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pregnant women in *(a)* England, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland have participated in the welfare food scheme since 2001. [87972]

Caroline Flint: The number of pregnant women in England who have received either milk tokens or healthy start vouchers since November 2004 is 111,422. Prior to November 2004, routine information on milk tokens was not collected centrally.

Data is not collected by constituency or district, therefore the information requested for Tees Valley or Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pregnant women have participated in the welfare food scheme in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster since 2001. [88377]

Caroline Flint: Data relating to recipients of welfare food is not collated by constituency or district. Therefore, figures relating specifically to Barnsley or Doncaster would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Yellow Card Reporting System

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adverse reaction reports were received through the yellow card reporting system for *(a)* all anti-psychotic drugs, *(b)* traditional anti-psychotic drugs and *(c)* atypical anti-psychotic drugs in 2005; and how many prescriptions there were for each type of drug for those aged (i) 50 to 64, (ii) 65 to 74 and (iii) 75 years and over. [88965]

Andy Burnham: The yellow card scheme is the United Kingdom system for collecting and monitoring information on suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs). The scheme is run by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the commission on human medicines (CHM). The scheme relies upon voluntary reporting of suspected ADRs by health professionals. Marketing authorisation holders are legally obliged to report any serious suspected adverse reaction that comes to their attention to the MHRA/CHM.

The following tables contain the number of suspected ADR reports received via the UK yellow card scheme for *(a)* all anti-psychotic drugs, *(b)* traditional anti-psychotic drugs and *(c)* atypical anti-psychotic drugs in 2005; together with the estimated number of prescriptions written in the community in the UK for the 12 months ending 31 March 2006.

Table 1: Number of suspected ADR reports UK 2005

Age group	*All anti-psychotic drugs*	*Traditional anti-psychotic drugs*	*Atypical anti-psychotic drugs*
All	2,567	100	2,467

Table 2: Estimated number of prescriptions written in the community between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006

Age group	*All anti-psychotic drugs*	*Traditional anti-psychotic drugs*	*Atypical anti-psychotic drugs*
50 to 64	1,191,360	584,256	607,104
65 to 74	604,928	311,386	293,542
75 years and over	1,577,981	735,107	842,874

It is important to note that a report of an adverse reaction does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease. Other factors such as the time since a drug was first marketed, media interest, the reason for prescribing or regulatory action can also influence the frequency of reporting. This means that reporting rates based on numbers of spontaneous reports and numbers of prescriptions are not true measures of the frequency of reactions or the ideal basis for comparisons between drug substances or classes. For these reasons, no firm conclusions can be drawn from a possibly higher reporting rate in 2005, of suspected adverse reactions with the more recently marketed atypical anti-psychotics, based on yellow card data, compared to more traditional anti-psychotics.

York Hospital

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much capital expenditure there has been at York hospital in each year since 1996-97; and what new facilities and equipment were purchased with the expenditure in each year. [86522]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 24 July 2006]*: Information on capital expenditure for York hospitals NHS trust is shown in the following table. Information is not held centrally relating to particular facilities orequipment purchased. Accounts information on individual national health service bodies is only currently available between 1998-99 and 2004-05.

£000

	Intangibles	Buildings	Assets under construction	Equipment
1998-99	0	1,794	91	1,300
1999-2000	0	972	172	1,634
2000-01	34	3,613	133	2,791
2001-02	88	1,065	628	2,378

£000

	Software licences	Buildings	Assets under construction	Plant and machinery	Transport equipment	Information technology
2002-03	133	2,106	6,294	933	10	756
2003-04	388	2,581	3,199	3,002	68	2,009
2004-05	90	7,782	5,286	1,727	76	532

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules for York Hospitals NHS Trust

Environmental Health Inspections (Food Outlets)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many establishments serving food have been closed following environmental health inspections in each London borough in each of the last five years. [87780]

Caroline Flint: I am advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the information requested is not available centrally in the form requested.

Local authorities (LAs) are required to report to the Food Standards Agency the number of food premises subject to formal enforcement action, including those to which written warnings, improvement notices, prohibition orders and emergency prohibition orders were issued. But the monitoring data returns from London boroughs cover the enforcement of both food hygiene and food standards, and the total enforcement action data cannot be divided between the two.

Information on general food law enforcement action by LAs in 2004-05 was set out in the paper presented to the Food Standards Agency Board in February 2006, paper FSA 06/02/04. I have arranged for a copy of the paper to be placed in the Library.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Monday 4 September and Friday 8 September 2006

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Chevening Scholarships

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships were awarded in each of the last 10 years, broken down by country from which students obtaining such scholarships have come. [88030]

Mr. Hoon: The number of Chevening scholarships awarded in each of the last 10 years, broken down by country, is provided in the following table:

Chevening scholarships awarded between 1995-96 and 2004-05

Country	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	—
Albania	3	5	4	3	14
Algeria	10	17	12	8	13
Andorra	—	—	—	—	—
Angola	2	2	3	1	3
Anguilla	—	—	—	1	—
Antigua and Barbuda	1	1	1	—	1
Argentina	34	29	23	25	24
Armenia	2	3	4	4	10
Australia	16	14	21	22	26
Austria	1	1	2	1	1
Azerbaijan	4	4	5	4	9
Bahamas	3	4	5	3	3
Bahrain	11	11	11	13	12
Bangladesh	9	5	6	5	10
Barbados	3	4	6	3	3
Belarus	6	3	5	7	16
Belgium	7	6	8	7	6
Belize	4	3	3	5	5
Bhutan	—	—	—	—	—
Bolivia	7	6	3	4	6
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	4	7	7	6
Botswana	3	—	2	4	2
Brazil	75	71	65	84	56
British Virgin Islands	—	—	—	—	1
Brunei	—	—	—	1	3
Bulgaria	9	9	9	4	19
Burma	7	4	3	2	—
Cambodia	3	1	2	4	3
Cameroon	2	3	3	3	3
Canada	13	12	10	12	11
Cayman Islands	2	3	2	2	11
Chile	7	11	9	10	11
China (including Hong Kong)	79	116	131	138	186
Colombia	21	11	14	15	17
Congo	—	—	—	—	1
Costa Rica	6	8	8	5	3
Croatia	5	6	6	6	11
Cuba	5	4	4	6	5
Cyprus	14	32	21	12	25
Czech Republic	9	8	9	11	18
Denmark	16	16	12	12	14
Dominica	—	—	—	—	1
Dominican Republic	10	6	5	8	8
East Timor	—	—	—	—	—
Ecuador	4	4	4	3	3
Egypt	59	53	58	58	41
El Salvador	2	2	3	—	3
Eritrea	—	—	—	—	—
Estonia	5	7	6	4	10
Ethiopia	8	5	7	7	8
Fiji	3	5	5	3	3
Finland	7	6	4	5	6
France	35	20	20	14	12
Gambia	1	—	1	1	1
Georgia	3	4	6	3	9
Germany	24	27	14	18	14
Ghana	9	8	10	10	8
Greece	6	4	6	7	5
Grenada	—	1	—	—	—
Guatemala	—	—	3	2	—
Guyana	2	4	4	4	5
Honduras	—	—	1	—	—
Hungary	12	17	14	9	23
Iceland	9	12	9	11	6
India	60	85	122	93	125
Indonesia	72	63	64	58	69
Iran	—	—	—	—	4
Iraq	—	—	—	—	—
Irish Republic	17	16	11	14	10
Israel	31	37	32	29	24
Italy	19	13	14	10	10
Ivory Coast	2	3	3	3	4
Jamaica	7	3	4	7	4
Japan	7	6	6	7	6
Jordan	36	32	28	25	18
Kazakhstan	12	8	8	6	15
Kenya	10	10	11	11	12
Kiribati	—	—	—	—	—
Korea (South)	67	79	66	55	58
Kosovo	—	—	—	—	—
Kuwait	12	8	5	4	4
Kyrgyzstan	—	—	—	—	3
Latvia	7	4	6	4	10
Lebanon	5	7	3	8	6
Lesotho	4	3	4	3	3
Libya	—	—	—	—	—
Lithuania	5	5	8	4	17
Luxembourg	5	9	10	7	5
Madagascar	1	1	3	3	3

Chevening scholarships awarded between 1995-96 and 2004-05

Country	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*
Malawi	4	5	7	5	10
Malaysia	73	72	82	45	40
Mali	—	—	—	—	—
Maldives	—	1	1	2	1
Malta	12	14	9	9	10
Marshall Islands	—	—	—	—	—
Mauritania	1	—	1	—	—
Mauritius	3	3	4	2	3
Mexico	109	83	79	68	62
Micronesia	—	—	—	—	—
Moldova	—	—	—	1	3
Mongolia	5	4	5	6	8
Montserrat	—	—	—	1	1
Morocco	7	6	10	8	6
Mozambique	6	5	4	5	5
Namibia	7	4	1	2	2
Nepal	5	7	5	5	5
Netherlands	10	14	13	9	11
New Zealand	7	11	7	10	7
Nicaragua	2	1	1	2	1
Nigeria	61	36	42	55	42
Norway	—	13	13	11	6
Oman	5	7	7	9	9
Pakistan	69	73	60	55	50
Palau	—	—	—	—	—
Panama	—	—	—	—	—
Papua New Guinea	6	7	4	4	3
Paraguay	3	2	2	3	1
Peru	13	8	11	8	7
Philippines	12	11	18	13	9
Poland	14	13	13	15	34
Portugal	16	19	12	13	14
Qatar	—	—	—	—	2
Romania	13	12	12	10	33
Russia	25	19	23	20	29
Rwanda	—	—	1	—	4
Saudi Arabia	7	11	14	10	6
Senegal	4	5	5	5	3
Serbia and Montenegro	—	—	—	—	—
Seychelles	4	3	3	3	—
Sierra Leone	1	2	2	—	—
Singapore	14	8	10	7	10
Slovakia	15	17	15	12	11
Slovenia	—	—	—	—	9
Solomon Islands	—	—	1	3	—
Somalia	—	—	—	—	—
South Africa	24	36	24	24	18
South Pacific	—	—	—	—	2
Spain	1	—	—	—	—
Sri Lanka	4	3	3	2	2
St. Helena	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	1	—	—	1
St. Lucia	2	—	—	1	2
St. Vincent	1	1	2	1	2
Sudan	5	8	15	14	12
Swaziland	1	2	1	2	1
Sweden	9	8	7	5	4

Chevening scholarships awarded between 1995-96 and 2004-05

Country	*1995-96*	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*
Switzerland	5	6	7	4	7
Syria	15	8	16	34	15
Taiwan	11	15	17	19	16
Tajikistan	—	—	—	—	1
Tanzania	5	6	7	7	6
Thailand	41	30	29	34	27
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	4	7	6	8
Tonga	1	2	2	2	1
Trinidad and Tobago	6	4	3	4	5
Tunisia	6	9	6	8	8
Turkey	100	129	118	185	124
Turkmenistan	—	—	—	2	3
Turks and Caicos	—	—	1	1	—
Tuvalu	—	2	1	—	—
Uganda	6	6	6	7	10
Ukraine	14	10	15	12	32
United Arab Emirates	5	5	2	2	2
United States	—	—	—	—	—
Uruguay	8	7	4	4	4
Uzbekistan	6	8	10	7	11
Vanuatu	1	1	—	1	3
Venezuela	34	25	18	18	14
Vietnam	10	12	15	13	23
West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza Strip	21	19	22	18	11
Yemen	5	8	12	24	8
Yugoslavia	6	8	6	7	10
Zaire	—	—	—	1	2
Zambia	6	8	6	7	9
Zimbabwe	14	9	14	10	12
Undefined	4	—	—	—	5
Total	1,891	1,910	1,920	1,894	2,022

Country	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Afghanistan	—	—	34	20	13
Albania	10	16	11	13	13
Algeria	8	3	5	—	1
Andorra	—	—	1	—	—
Angola	2	4	1	3	3
Anguilla	—	—	—	—	—
Antigua and Barbuda	2	—	1	—	2
Argentina	31	28	25	23	17
Armenia	8	6	17	6	8
Australia	22	33	25	31	24
Austria	1	3	1	—	—
Azerbaijan	5	6	8	9	7
Bahamas	5	4	3	3	2
Bahrain	14	15	25	21	16
Bangladesh	6	9	15	15	10
Barbados	2	5	5	3	3
Belarus	12	12	10	11	11
Belgium	3	3	3	—	—
Belize	4	6	5	3	3

Country	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Bhutan	—	—	—	1	1
Bolivia	4	5	5	6	7
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5	12	11	13	12
Botswana	4	6	8	7	5
Brazil	84	87	65	72	63
British Virgin Islands	1	2	3	1	1
Brunei	3	4	2	6	2
Bulgaria	28	24	30	25	20
Burma	7	4	1	16	2
Cambodia	4	4	3	3	3
Cameroon	3	7	5	10	9
Canada	18	17	14	27	26
Cayman Islands	2	1	1	3	1
Chile	13	18	16	13	13
China (including Hong Kong)	224	211	290	311	277
Colombia	20	17	13	20	18
Congo	—	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica	3	3	3	4	2
Croatia	10	20	24	31	32
Cuba	5	4	4	3	4
Cyprus	11	20	21	15	17
Czech Republic	23	19	12	14	18
Denmark	15	9	8	—	—
Dominica	1	1	2	1	1
Dominican Republic	8	8	7	8	5
East Timor	6	4	3	2	3
Ecuador	5	4	5	2	2
Egypt	52	40	43	40	36
El Salvador	2	2	2	—	1
Eritrea	3	3	—	1	—
Estonia	14	14	14	9	7
Ethiopia	7	10	8	12	8
Fiji	4	6	7	6	4
Finland	6	6	4	—	—
France	8	7	6	—	—
Gambia	2	1	2	3	3
Georgia	8	11	12	10	13
Germany	11	8	1	—	—
Ghana	12	13	21	16	19
Greece	6	5	3	—	—
Grenada	2	2	2	1	—
Guatemala	4	2	3	3	5
Guyana	6	4	7	6	10
Honduras	—	1	1	1	—
Hungary	25	25	20	35	15
Iceland	9	9	8	7	8
India	135	130	133	121	130
Indonesia	77	80	72	74	59
Iran	7	11	40	14	10
Iraq	—	—	—	8	48
Irish Republic	12	10	4	—	—
Israel	17	12	14	15	12
Italy	6	4	—	—	—
Ivory Coast	4	4	5	3	2
Jamaica	7	10	7	8	9
Japan	16	16	19	14	5
Jordan	16	16	15	27	19

Country	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Kazakhstan	13	11	9	16	14
Kenya	15	13	14	20	16
Kiribati	1	—	1	1	—
Korea (South)	66	82	75	71	67
Kosovo	—	—	10	13	14
Kuwait	4	3	4	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	3	2	5	5	6
Latvia	13	11	11	11	10
Lebanon	5	6	9	9	9
Lesotho	2	6	4	5	4
Libya	5	8	8	5	5
Lithuania	13	14	13	9	7
Luxembourg	8	8	7	10	5
Madagascar	3	3	2	4	4
Malawi	7	8	10	13	12
Malaysia	54	48	57	56	36
Mali	—	—	—	1	—
Maldives	1	1	2	1	—
Malta	10	11	12	10	17
Marshall Islands	—	1	—	—	—
Mauritania	—	—	—	—	—
Mauritius	6	5	7	5	6
Mexico	81	77	67	68	56
Micronesia	1	—	—	—	—
Moldova	1	4	8	6	7
Mongolia	15	7	12	7	6
Montserrat	4	2	2	2	2
Morocco	9	9	8	6	5
Mozambique	6	6	4	5	6
Namibia	4	6	6	3	4
Nepal	10	8	6	10	3
Netherlands	7	6	5	—	—
New Zealand	12	12	10	12	8
Nicaragua	3	2	2	2	2
Nigeria	45	37	46	39	35
Norway	5	7	5	5	—
Oman	10	12	16	11	14
Pakistan	51	51	57	62	52
Palau	2	—	—	—	—
Panama	2	1	2	1	1
Papua New Guinea	5	3	6	3	6
Paraguay	3	2	3	4	2
Peru	9	8	9	7	6
Philippines	13	15	15	13	13
Poland	36	46	37	29	23
Portugal	11	14	5	—	—
Qatar	2	2	3	3	—
Romania	32	25	22	29	26
Russia	70	83	66	80	53
Rwanda	6	4	3	4	3
Saudi Arabia	10	6	14	13	16
Senegal	5	8	6	4	5
Serbia and Montenegro	16	26	18	21	15
Seychelles	—	—	2	6	2
Sierra Leone	2	3	4	4	1
Singapore	18	16	13	14	11
Slovakia	18	13	11	12	9
Slovenia	11	9	11	7	14

Country	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Solomon Islands	3	2	2	2	1
Somalia	—	—	1	—	—
South Africa	31	26	33	34	32
South Pacific	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	—	—	1	—	—
Sri Lanka	4	3	6	8	4
St. Helena	1	1	1	1	—
St. Kitts and Nevis	2	—	1	—	—
St. Lucia	3	2	1	2	—
St. Vincent	3	3	1	—	1
Sudan	12	18	15	13	5
Swaziland	3	6	4	7	4
Sweden	2	2	2	—	—
Switzerland	6	5	4	5	—
Syria	20	15	20	24	25
Taiwan	24	30	30	19	12
Tajikistan	1	2	3	7	6
Tanzania	8	14	7	9	6
Thailand	29	34	25	25	20
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	12	16	11	14	12
Tonga	2	1	1	2	2
Trinidad and Tobago	5	6	5	10	6
Tunisia	5	9	8	10	6
Turkey	76	45	49	49	51
Turkmenistan	4	7	6	6	6
Turks and Caicos	—	—	—	—	—
Tuvalu	—	—	—	—	—
Uganda	10	12	15	22	15
Ukraine	25	30	27	38	27
United Arab Emirates	2	2	4	2	2
United States	1	—	—	2	1
Uruguay	7	8	7	5	5
Uzbekistan	11	10	16	12	16
Vanuatu	3	2	3	2	1
Venezuela	22	18	16	21	12
Vietnam	19	15	24	20	22
West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza Strip	16	9	10	10	15
Yemen	4	7	5	6	7
Yugoslavia	—	—	—	—	—
Zaire	—	—	—	—	—
Zambia	11	11	12	12	13
Zimbabwe	14	16	23	35	49
Undefined	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,285	2,284	2,387	2,401	2,124

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value was of each IT contract awarded by her Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88990]

Mr. Hoon: The main suppliers, categories and values of Information Communication Technology (ICT) contracts over £1 million are illustrated as follows:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office's ICT contracts over £1 million as at May 2006

Category	*Title of contract*	*Supplier*	*Period of contract*	*Total value of contract when let (£)*
Hardware, software and external support services	Compass	WorldReach (Canada)	June 2001 to June 2006	1,500,000
Hardware, software and external support services	GenIE/GenIE Worldwide	3M/AIT	April 1999 to March 2009 (Replaced by Biometrics contract—see below)	3,000,000
Hardware, software and external support services	Biometric Passports	3M UK plc	April 2005 to April 2009	6,500,000
Hardware, software and external support services	Focus	Fujitsu Consulting	January 2002 to March 2003	10,500,000
Hardware, software and external support services	Focus (Knowledge Management)	Fujitsu Consulting	March 2003 to December 2005	1,087,000
Hardware, software and external support services	FCONet2 (FCO's Intranet)	Fujitsu Services	November 2004 to October 2005	2,077,000
Hardware, software and external support services	WIOL Project Management	Fujitsu	April 2003 to February 2005	1,090,000
Hardware, software and external support services	WIOL/WIPA Technical refresh. Work performed by Fujitsu Services to migrate the WI from Windows NT to Windows XP.	Fujitsu	March 2006 to March 2007	1,773,262
Hardware, software and external support services	Cash Registers (world-wide maintenance and support)	Wincor Nixdorf Ltd	September 2003 to September 2008	1,500,000
External support services	Consultancy Services	AKC	June 2003 to May 2005	5,000,000

Foreign and Commonwealth Office's ICT contracts over £1 million as at May 2006

Category	*Title of contract*	*Supplier*	*Period of contract*	*Total value of contract when let (£)*
Hardware, software and external support services	Firecrest Global Support	Hewlett Packard	May 2001 to April 2005	5,000,000
Hardware, software and external support services	Future Firecrest	Hewlett Packard	February 2005 to February 2012	189,500,000
Hardware, software and external support services	ICT - provision of technical installers for overseas installations	Serco Defence	January 2003 to December 2005	1,238,000
Telecommunications	FCO global telecommunications network (PFI)	Global Crossing	May 2000 to April 2010	180,000,000
External support services	Implementation of ICT Strategy and Pre-procurement of Future Firecrest (Stage 2c & 3)	KPMG	from May 2002	3,329,000
External support services	Implementation of ICT Strategy and Pre-procurement FF (Stage 3)	AKC	from August 2004	1,700,000
Electronic Archive	E-Archive services (Minerva)	British Telecom	November 1996 to March 2007	1,500,000
Hardware, software and external support services	Internet Project	LogicaCMG	from March 2002	6,500,000
Hardware, software and external support services	FCO Website -support and maintenance	LogicaCMG	March 2005 to March 2008	1,401,000
Hardware, software and external support services	Prism integrated accounting, HP and procurement system	CGEY	January 2002 to January 2010	53,800,000

Private Office Costs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of his private office was in the last year for which figures are available. [55718]

Mr. Hoon: I apologise for the delay in replying.

As far as our systems will allow us to identify, "running costs" relating to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's Private Office, for Financial Year 2005-06, total approximately £725,000.

This is made up of charges for staff salaries, stationery, books, publications and newspapers, office machinery (including photocopiers, fax machines and their maintenance charges), refreshments, and telephone equipment and calls (including desk phones, mobiles, blackberries, broadband connection and actual call costs).

Running costs for corporate overheads such as heating and lighting are calculated across the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and it is therefore not possible to identify which charges relate specifically to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's Private Office.

Shebaa Farms

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK Government received from the Lebanese Government concerning the Shebaa farms during the visit of the Lebanese Prime Minister to the UK in May. [86626]

Mr. McCartney: Prime Minister Siniora of Lebanon raised the Shebaa farms with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister when they met in London on 9 May 2006.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK Government have made to Israel in the last 12 months regarding its armed presence in the Shebaa farms. [86627]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has not made formal representations to the Government of Israel in the last 12 months regarding the Shebaa farms, although we have discussed the issue in the course of bilateral talks. The UK believes the issue of the Shebaa farms is a bilateral issue for the Governments of Lebanon and Syria which should be resolved through a delineation of their common border as called for in United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1680. As set out in UNSCR 1701, the United Nations Secretary-General is requested to draw up proposals for implementation of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords and UNSCRs 1559 and 1680, including on the disputed Shebaa farms area.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which country the Government recognise the Shebaa farms as being a part of. [86686]

Mr. McCartney: The UK believes the issue of the Shebaa farms is a bilateral issue for the Governments of Lebanon and Syria which should be resolved through a delineation of their common border as called for in United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1680. As set out in UNSCR 1701, the

United Nations Secretary-General is requested to draw up proposals for implementation of the relevant provisions of the Taif Accords and UNSCRs 1559 and 1680, including on the disputed Shebaa farms area.

TRANSPORT

Cycling Accidents

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious and *(c)* slight injuries suffered by cyclists on (i) urban roads and (ii) rural roads in each year since 2003 resulted from collisions involving (A) at least one motor vehicle, (B) no motor vehicles and (C) powered two-wheel vehicles. [87211]

Dr. Ladyman: *[pursuant to the reply, 24 July 2006, Official Report, c. 738W]:* the information requested is given in the table. The figures relate to casualties in personal injury road accidents reported to the police.

Cyclist Casualties on Urban and Rural Roads, by Vehicle Involved in an Accident: 2003-05[1]

Accidents involving:		*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Motor vehicle[2]				
Urban	Fatal	58	67	65
	Serious	1,644	1,537	1,628
	Slight	12,041	11,877	11,787
Rural	Fatal	46	52	65
	Serious	479	477	432
	Slight	2,170	2,063	2,083
No motor vehicle				
Urban	Fatal	2	6	8
	Serious	95	98	100
	Slight	311	309	236
Rural	Fatal	8	9	10
	Serious	73	61	52
	Slight	88	75	90
Two-wheeled motor vehicle				
Urban	Fatal	2	2	2
	Serious	37	41	30
	Slight	234	225	217
Rural	Fatal	0	0	3
	Serious	8	14	13
	Slight	56	38	47

[1] Excludes accidents which do not have an urban/rural marker.
[2] Includes accidents which involve a two-wheeled motor vehicle.

DEFENCE

Armoured Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the work undertaken to align the withdrawal from service of the current fleet of armoured vehicles with the introduction into service of *(a)* the Future Rapid Effect System and *(b)* the Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle. [84559]

Mr. Ingram: The Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) and the PANTHER Command Liaison Vehicle will replace the FV430, CVR(T) and Saxon families of vehicles.

The PANTHER, now in the demonstration and manufacture phase, has a detailed fielding plan. Under the Sustained Armoured Vehicle Capability Pathfinder programme, work is under way to ensure that the withdrawal of FV430, CVR(T) and Saxon is coherently aligned with the introduction of FRES and that there is continuity of the required capability.

Defence Attachés

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expenditure on defence attachés was in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [60781]

Mr. Ingram: The overall cost to the Ministry of Defence of Defence Attachés in each financial year is as follows:

Financial year	*Costs identified (£ million)*
2004-05	37.2
2005-06	38.7

Under the terms of the MOD/FCO service level agreement, costs are shared with the FCO, which pays 30 per cent. of the total in respect of accommodation, fixed communications, security and some other support costs. The figures quoted in the table represent the balance (70 per cent.) attributable to the Defence Budget.

Full costs of Defence Attaché posts are not held centrally and their calculation would involve disproportionate cost.

Iran

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any British Armed Forces personnel, including special forces, are operating in Iran. [82199]

Des Browne *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* No. British Armed Forces personnel are not operating in Iran. It is long standing Government policy not to comment on special forces.

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Woodspring, 23 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1154, on what date he first asked his officials to explore the options for replacing the nuclear deterrent with a successor system; and when he expects to be presented with their findings. [48009]

Des Browne *[holding answer 2 February 2006]:* As was made clear in the December 2003 Defence White Paper (Paragraph 3.11), we have continued to take steps to keep options open on the possible replacement of Trident. As the then Defence Secretary indicated previously on 30 June 2004, *Official Report*, column

358W, this included concept studies on options for platforms to carry the Trident missile in the longer term, which began in May 2002.

Ministers have been briefed by officials on some of the relevant issues and have requested that further work be undertaken. As the Prime Minister said on 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 254, during Prime Minister's Questions, decisions on this issue will be taken later this year.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Radioactive Material

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many train journeys carrying nuclear waste there were in *(a)* Brent, *(b)* London and *(c)* England in the last 12 months; and how much waste was transported in each case. [89155]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The transport of radioactive material by rail is a highly regulated activity that is carried out in accordance with stringent national and international regulations. The intention of the regulatory system is to ensure that these shipments are safe irrespective of the route chosen.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Environmental Health Notices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many environmental health notices were issued in each London borough since 1997. [87228]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

I am advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that the information requested is not available centrally in the form requested.

Local authorities (LAs) are required to report to the Food Standards Agency the number of food premises subject to formal enforcement action, including those to which written warnings, improvement notices, prohibition orders and emergency prohibition orders were issued. But the monitoring data returns from London boroughs cover the enforcement of both food hygiene and food standards, and the total enforcement action data cannot be divided between the two.

Information on general food law enforcement action by LAs in 2004-05 was set out in the paper presented to the Food Standards Agency Board in February 2006, paper FSA 06/02/04. I have arranged for a copy of the paper to be placed in the Library.

Social Care Funding

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the social care formula spending share per head was for each local authority for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults for 2006-07. [88798]

Mr. Woolas: In announcing the provisional 2006-07 Local Government Finance Settlement on 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 627, I explained to the House that we were abolishing Formula Spending Shares. These notional spending figures were misunderstood and misused for a variety of purposes for which they were neither intended nor suitable.

Formula grant, which comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula Police Grant, is an unhypothecated block grant—i.e. councils are free to spend it on any service. Because of this, and because of the calculation of formula grant, in particular floor damping, it is not therefore possible to say how much grant an authority received for a particular purpose. I would therefore refer the hon. Member to the table showing formula grant per head placed in the Libraries of the House in response to a question from the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2103W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Abdoulie Njie

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the immigration status is of Abdoulie Njie, recently convicted of rape in Stoke-on-Trent Crown court. [81843]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* It is not our policy to comment on individual cases to Members who do not hold a constituency responsibility for the named individual.

Adelphi System

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on the Adelphi finance and human resource system. [88504]

Mr. Byrne: The total expenditure on the Adelphi programme, relating to HR, finance and procurement, from January 2003 to June 2006, is £51,907,961.

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81918]

Mr. McNulty: The advertising campaigns the Home Office has run since 2004-05 are listed in the table. Due to the way media are invoiced and as our campaigns are long term and not month specific, we cannot break down costs by month.

The breakdown by each financial year, however, is as follows:

	£
2004-05	
Frank Drugs Campaign	1,135,091
Gun Crime	200,000
Antisocial Behaviour	600,006
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	7,578,732

	£
Police Recruitment—Special Constables	1,968,171
Domestic Violence	450,635
Child Safety on the Internet	299,094
Clean Up Week—Community Sentences	33,295
2005-06	
Frank Drugs Campaign	1,588,007
Antisocial Behaviour	638,313
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	3,967,890
Single Non Emergency Number	151,781
Alcohol Misuse	93,865
Police Recruitment—Special Constables	1,427,014
Police Recruitment—High Potential Scheme	226,865
Domestic Violence	542,456
Child Safety on the Internet	879,002
Safer Car Parks—Park Mark Scheme	95,656
Crime Stoppers	84,039
Clean Up Week—Community Sentences	49,278
Rape	67,108
2006-07—invoiced to date	
Frank Drugs Campaign	190,456
Knife Amnesty	138,622
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	158,650
Single Non Emergency Number	56,280
Alcohol Misuse	233,832
Domestic Violence	314,694
Rape	287,664

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87061]

Mr. McNulty: The advertising campaigns the Home Office ran between 2000-01 and 2004-05 are listed as follows. Due to the way media are invoiced and as our campaigns are long term and not month specific, we cannot break down costs by month.

The breakdown by each financial year, however, is as follows:

	£
2000-01	
Vehicle Crime Reduction	8,377,736
Police Recruitment	7,580,663
Police Recruitment—Fast Track	137,371
Human Rights	765,956
Rolling Registration	3,236,126
UK Immigration Service	7,783
Postal Voting	1,322,750
Fire Safety	2,005,093
2001-02	
Vehicle Crime Reduction	5,847,867
Police Recruitment	6,473,845
Police Recruitment—Special Constables	499,938
Police Recruitment—Fast Track	126,310
Police Reform	45,000
UK Immigration Service	8,568
Postal Voting	864,093
Fire Safety	1,698,875
Drugs Campaign	1,404,398
Child Protection on the Internet	1,281,529
2002-03	
Vehicle Crime Reduction	4,911,621
Police Recruitment	4,736,223
Drugs Campaign	669,185
Child Protection on the Internet	763,290
Firearms Amnesty	600,000
2003-04	
Vehicle Crime Reduction	4,617,658
Police Recruitment	4,987,946
Drugs Campaign	2,348,500
Child Protection on the Internet	825,557
Domestic Violence	936,587
Youth Offenders	39,214
2004-05	
Frank Drugs Campaign	1,135,091
Gun Crime	200,000
Anti Social Behaviour	600,006
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	7,578,732
Police Recruitment—Special Constables	1,968,171
Domestic Violence	450,635
Child Protection on the Internet	299,094
Clean Up Week—Community Sentences	33,295

Airport Security

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which airports have *(a)* 24 hour security and *(b)* security provision during operating hours. [87299]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport is responsible for regulating and monitoring aviation security in the UK under the provisions of the Aviation Security Act 1982, as amended by the Aviation and Maritime Security Act 1990.

It would be inappropriate to comment on the specific security arrangements which have been put in place at UK airports.

Alan Kittle

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he proposes to take in respect of Alan Kittle, Senior Immigration Inspector in charge of the criminal casework team responsible for deciding whether foreign prisoners should be deported after release from prison. [68419]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* Issues of performance or conduct of individual members of staff are a matter for the permanent secretary and are addressed in accordance with the Department's internal procedures.

Antisocial Behaviour

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will visit Castle Point to discuss antisocial behaviour with local residents and the police. [78183]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Secretary regularly undertakes visits in respect of his departmental responsibilities. However, due to existing diary commitments, he has no plans to visit Castle Point in the immediate future.

Asylum/Immigration

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish First Minister about the interaction between the UK Government's policy on asylum and immigration and the Scottish Executive's policy on attracting fresh talent to the country. [25323]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Secretary has regular discussions with the Scottish First Minister about immigration and other issues.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals seeking asylum in the UK since 1997 have been granted leave to remain as a result of their application taking too long to process. [84414]

Mr. Byrne: Asylum applications are decided on an individual case by case basis. Information on any cases falling into the category mentioned in this question is not available and could be available only by examination of individual case records.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria were used in drawing up the regional language list by the National Asylum Support Service for the dispersal of asylum seekers; and if he will make a statement. [86883]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The language list is no longer in operation, although language remains a factor in placing asylum seekers. It is just one of the criteria considered by relevant stakeholders when considering dispersal issues.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for asylum have had their applications rejected in the last *(a)* one, *(b)* three and *(c)* 12 months. [85748]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* Information on asylum applications is published in quarterly web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Copies of these publications and others relating to general immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1041W, on asylum/immigration, how competency in the English language is assessed. [87302]

John Reid: For potential employees of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND), competency in the English language may be assessed through formal academic qualifications and/or through ability testing including verbal reasoning. Potential employees must meet a minimum standard of competence to be offered a post. Progression to higher grades involves competency based assessment including psychometric testing and other exercises.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers convicted of criminal offences in the UK have been detained pending deportation in each of the last five years. [86728]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not currently collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2305W, on illegal immigrants, what estimate was made of the cost of providing the information. [61251]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are illegal immigrants. [71445]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested on the immigration status of prisoners is not currently available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In my Written Ministerial Statement of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 29WS, I set out the progress the Department is making to address the fact that there is no unique identifier to link individuals who come in contact with the asylum and immigration and criminal justice systems. We have commenced development of a comprehensive approach to identity management across all Home Office areas and will finalise a strategic action plan in this area by the end of September 2006.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Founia Ilyas, reference 3107 2668, will be notified of her immigration status. [53913]

Mr. Byrne: Ms Ilyas was notified of a decision on her application on 18 January 2005 when at the same time her documents were returned to her home address.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the status is of the following Russian nationals *(a)* Chernysheva, Natalia Vladimirovna, *(b)* Chernikova, Irina Vladimirovna, *(c)* Karaseva, Alla Alexandrovna, *(d)* Spirichev, Alexey Valerievich, *(e)* Kartashov, Vladislav Nikolaevich, *(f)* Maruev, Dmitriy Lavovich, *(g)* Gorbachev, Alexander Lavovich, *(h)* Golubovich, Alexey Dmitrievich, *(i)* Gololobov, Dmitriy Vladimirovich, *(j)* Burganov, Ranil Raisovich, *(k)*

Temerko, Alexander Viktorovich, *(l)* Trushin, Mikhail Anatolevich and *(m)* Beilin, Yuri Arkadevich. [84103]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* No. It is the general policy of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate not to disclose to a third party personal information about another person, including information concerning their immigration status, as well as personal details.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inmates were detained on behalf of the Immigration Service awaiting deportation in each of the last five years, broken down by prison; what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum period of detention beyond completion of a sentence was in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost of this detention; and if he will make a statement. [66545]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not collate information in the format requested and it could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* Bexley borough have been waiting more than six months for a decision on their immigration status; and if he will make a statement. [86222]

Mr. Byrne: Information is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees who escaped from the Yarl's Wood detention centre on 14 February 2002 had previously been in custody for committing an offence prior to being sent to Yarl's Wood. [74046]

Mr. Byrne: Of the 23 individuals who escaped from Yarl's Wood on the night of 14 February 2002, there is no record of 19 having committed offences prior to being detained. Records indicate three had previous convictions and one other is a possible match.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of the seven detainees who escaped from Yarl's Wood following the fire on 14 February 2002, and whose whereabouts remain uncertain, are suspected to have committed a crime since their escape in February 2002. [79193]

Mr. Byrne: To our knowledge none of the seven detainees, who escaped from Yarl's Wood on the night of 14 February 2002 and whose whereabouts are unknown, have committed a crime since their escape in February 2002.

Bird and Bird Solicitors

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts were awarded by his Department to Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 1997; what the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of each such contract was; and if he will make a statement. [88181]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the *(a)* value and *(b)* duration of contracts awarded by the Home Department to Bird and Bird Solicitors in each year since 1997 are as follows:

Year awarded	*Contract and duration*	*Expenditure to date (£)*
1997-98	IPS: Provision of legal advice and services to IPS and CRB 1997-2007	805,693
1998-99	Prisons Quantum Project and associated IT projects 1998-2006	1,451,590
2000-01	Managed Payroll Service Contract, August	1,293
2002-03	Managed Payroll Service Contract	9,955
2005-06	Prisons: Control accounts, Phoenix Shared Service Centre and Service Management Group 2005	91,000
2005-06	Financial and banking matters 2005	64,449

Bogus Marriages

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many marriage visas were refused on the grounds that the marriage in question was not considered to be genuine in each of the last five years. [86682]

Mr. Byrne: The figures on the number of spousal visas refused are contained in the following table. Also included is another table showing the number of refusals of extension of leave to remain in the United Kingdom on the basis of marriage.

It is not possible to determine how many were refused on the grounds that the marriage was not considered to be genuine without examination of individual case records at disproportionate costs.

Refusals of extension of leave to remain[1] in the United Kingdom excluding EEA nationals[2] and Switzerland, 2001 to 2005[3]— United Kingdom

Category	*All refusals*	*Number of decisions Of which: Spouse (probationary period applications)[4]*
2001[5]	15,485	1,850
2002[5]	18,575	735
2003[5]	33,175	2,445
2004[2]	24,730	1,895
2005[3]	27,175	1,265

[1] Excludes dependants of principal applicants, asylum related decisions and withdrawn applications.
[2] Includes nationals of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.
[3] Provisional and subject to change.
[4] Data include unmarried partners.
[5] Excludes the outcome of appeals.

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Immigration Research and Statistics Service, RDS-IND, Home Office

Visa applications and refusals for spouse endorsements, 2001 to 2005

Endorsement	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
To accompany spouse					
Applications received	5,011	3,931	3,536	5,032	5,077
Refusal decisions	64	60	63	162	325
Refusal rate (percentage)	1	2	2	3	6
To join spouse					
Applications received	5,058	3,818	5,442	6,635	6,672
Refusal decisions	182	189	385	854	1,260
Refusal rate (percentage)	4	5	7	13	19
EEA Family Permit: to accompany spouse					
Applications received	—	—	—	660	12,948
Refusal decisions	—	—	—	4	272
Refusal rate (percentage)	—	—	—	1	2
EEA Family Permit: to join spouse					
Applications received	—	—	—	150	2,586
Refusal decisions	—	—	—	3	90
Refusal rate (percentage)	—	—	—	2	3

Note:
"UKvisas makes every effort to ensure that statistics produced from our 'Central Reference System' are accurate. However, the complexity of our global business, including technical failures or occasional inconsistencies in data entry across any of over 150 offices, means we cannot 100% guarantee accuracy. UKvisas continues to work on IT and working practices to improve the quality of the statistics we provide."
Source:
UKVisas Central Reference System 24 July 2006

Child Trafficking

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many child trafficking victims were deported after being taken into custody by the authorities in the last period for which figures are available. [75976]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not centrally recorded and therefore not available, however the Government would not normally consider a person for deportation in his or her own right if he or she is under 16 years of age.

Where a child is thought to have been a victim of trafficking, referrals to the police and local authority children's services are made. In the case of a child who has been trafficked and who is neither a UK nor European Union citizen, the immigration and nationality directorate will determine what action it will take by taking into account what is in the best interests of the child.

Consultants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the companies which were paid consultancy fees by his Department in 2005-06; how much each was paid; and what each of the companies was used to accomplish. [69701]

Mr. Byrne: The definition of consultancy was revised by Office of Government Commerce (OGC) during 2005-06. Consultancy now falls under the wider category of professional services which covers the following areas: general management and business, legal, human resources, IT property and financial. Consultancy services cover one or more of advice, design and development, and implementation where the assignment is time limited or ad hoc, and is in addition to business as usual activity.

We do not currently hold a central record of overall consultancy expenditure; however, the total fees paid in respect of management consultancy in 2005-06 were £19,500,297 in respect of the core Home Office and £8,959,716 for the agencies. To provide details of expenditure against a list of companies and what each of the companies was used to accomplish would incur disproportionate cost.

Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the immigration and nationality directorate will reply to the letter of 18 January from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, on behalf of Andrew Russell, of Park Lane, Birmingham (Home Office Reference R1050090, correspondence ref. B1755/5). [29145]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration and nationality directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on 6 April 2005.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he will answer the letter of 8 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. S. Khan; [77587]

(2) when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 8 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. S. Khan. [88197]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 27 July 2006.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate will reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's fax of 5 May regarding Ali Baker Zerar. [80374]

Mr. Byrne: Officials advise me that they have been unable to trace the fax sent from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's office on 5 May. However, they are in contact with the hon. Member's office to take this matter forward.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to provide a substantive reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sunderland, South of 4 April regarding Mr. Joseph Dede Omanga (HO 01066013). [82974]

Mr. Byrne: The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Andy Burnham) wrote separately to my hon. Friend regarding Mr. Joseph Dede Omanga on 27 April 2006. It is expected that a substantive response to these representations will be provided by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate within the next few weeks.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Immigration and Nationality Directorate will reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 10 April 2006 (acknowledgement reference B9696/6) and 24 May 2006 on behalf of Mulukjan Begum (Home Office reference M1273553). [83365]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the hon. Member for Ladywood on 6 July 2006.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter dated 6 June 2006, from the hon. Member for Peterborough, concerning the immigration status of Wakil Sahebzadeh; and if he will make a statement. [84940]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 14 July.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 22 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Emmanuel Yawe Dzisi. [88195]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary wrote to the hon. Member on 2 August 2006.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will provide a substantive reply to the letter of 5 July 2006, on behalf of his constituent Mrs. Martha Patricia Vargas, of St. George's Road, Cheltenham (Home Office reference V2037814) regarding the refusal of her application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK. [88250]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The IND replied to the hon. Member for Cheltenham on 29 August 2006.

Crime (Non-UK Citizens)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the proportion of crime in England which is committed by non-UK citizens; and if he will make a statement. [73421]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Denbighshire. [86983]

Mr. Byrne: I understand that the Denbighshire Partnership has helped to achieve notable reductions in crime but some further reductions are required if they are to achieve the current levels of performance being achieved by partnerships with similar challenges elsewhere in England and Wales.

Data Protection Act

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Data Protection Act Section 10 notices he has received in each year since 1998. [86866]

John Reid: The Home Office does not, and is not required to keep central statistics on the number of Data Protection Act Section 10 Notices received. The receipt of such a notice is a very infrequent occurrence. The department is aware of having received two such notices since 1998. One was received in 2002 and one other last year.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protocol his Department follows when it receives a formal Data Protection Act Section 10 Notice to Correct Erroneous Data; and if he will make a statement. [86867]

John Reid: Section 10 of the Data Protection Act gives data subjects the right to prevent the processing of personal data which are causing, or are likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to them or another person where that processing is or would be unwarranted. Section 14 of the Data Protection Act provides data subjects with rights in relation to the correction of inaccurate personal data. The Home Office does not currently have, and is not required to have, a formal written protocol for either circumstance. The Home Office is committed to meeting its legal

obligations in relation to both, however. With regards to the correction of inaccurate personal data, when an error is highlighted all necessary steps are taken to correct that error and, where necessary, remedy any underlying faults that caused the mistake.

Departmental Data

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1423W, to the right hon. Member for Edinburgh, East (Dr. Strang) on departmental data, with which other *(a)* Departments and *(b)* public sector organisations his Department shares data. [88932]

Mr. Byrne: In addition to sharing data within the constituent parts of the Department, the Home Office shares information, in accordance with relevant legislative provisions, with the following Government Departments and public sector organisations:

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
NI Director of Public Prosecutions
Magistrates Courts in England and Wales
Scottish Executive
Department of Trade and Industry
Crown Prosecution Service
Department of Work and Pensions
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority
The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
UK Visas
National Health Service
Department for Education and Skills
The Royal Navy Regulating Branch
All UK Police forces
The Royal Marines Police
The Royal Military Police
The Royal Air Force Police
The Ministry of Defence Police
The British Transport Police
The Civil Nuclear Constabulary
The States of Jersey Police Force
The Salaried Police Force of the Island of Guernsey
The Isle of Man Constabulary

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on external consultants and advisers by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body and (ii) executive agency for which his Department is responsible and *(c)* each independent statutory body, organisation and body financially sponsored by his Department in each year since May 1997. [39101]

Mr. Byrne: The information held by the Home Office on its spend on consultants is given in the following table:

	Spend on consultants (£)
1997-98	7,627,016
1998-99	4,588,445
1999-2000	10,302,672
2000-01	27,877,286
2001-02	21,147,058
2002-03	Not held
2003-04	106,800,000
2004-05	46,900,000

We do not hold information on the Department's total expenditure on consultants for 2002-03 and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Total expenditure figures on consultants by non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), executive agencies, independent statutory body organisations and bodies financially sponsored by the Department for the period in question is not held centrally. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The definition of consultancy covers investigating problems, providing analysis or advice, or assisting with the development of new systems, new structures or new capabilities within the organisation.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81312]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Secretary and his Ministerial team hold a wide range of meetings involving an extensive number of organisations and individuals throughout the year. These meetings allow them to consider various perspectives and the differing interests of stakeholders when formulating Home Office Policy and where necessary, the legislation needed to implement it.

The Home Office more widely, when developing policy or drawing up legislation, regularly undertakes informal consultation with those directly affected or involved. We routinely undertake formal written public consultations which are listed on our website and reported in our annual report. In conducting such consultations, the Home Office follows the guidance laid down in the Code of Practice on Consultation issued by Cabinet Office. The published results of the consultation include a summary of the responses both from individuals and from representative organisations. Wherever possible, the summary will also include the next steps in policy development and reasons for any decisions taken.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the Deposited Papers placed in the Library by his Department since 2000; and when they were published. [81321]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held in one central unit and therefore it is impossible to collate without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid to his Department from the Access to Work Scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget he plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government Departments; and if he will make a statement. [89009]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the last available figures for the Access to Work Scheme.

Consideration is being given to how reasonable adjustments should be funded once the Access to Work funding is withdrawn for central Government Departments.

£

	2005-06	2004-05
Core Home Office	1903.35	—
Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND)[1]	n/a	42,437.18
HM Prison Service[2]	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] Figures are no longer available for IND as the purchase of such equipment has been devolved to individual units and no central record is kept.

[2] Purchase of equipment was devolved to individual prison establishments five years ago; therefore no central record is kept.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of his Department's employees have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997; [88461]

(2) how many staff members in his Department have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted following fraud charges since 1997. [88446]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not centrally held and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic violence cases have been brought to trial in each of the last five years in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* constituency; and if he will make a statement. [82930]

Mr. Byrne: The CPS does not hold a historical record of domestic violence data for each London borough. During the year April 2005 to March 2006, there was a total of 4,841 prosecutions for domestic violence in the jurisdiction of the London courts. Of these, 2,503 (51.7 per cent.) were convicted, 1,882 (38.9 per cent.) were not proceeded with and 456 (9.4 per cent.) were acquitted.

Nationally, during the year April 2005 to March 2006, there was a total of 49,782 prosecutions for domestic violence. Of these, 29,719 (59.7 per cent.) were convicted, 17,311 (34.8 per cent.) were not proceeded with and 2,752 (5.5 per cent.) were acquitted.

During the year April 2004 to March 2005, there was a total of 2,807 prosecutions for domestic violence in the jurisdiction of the London courts. Of these, 1,365 (48.6 per cent.) were convicted, 1,187 (42.3 per cent.) were not proceeded with, and 255 (9.1 per cent.) were acquitted.

Nationally, during the year April 2004 to March 2005, there was a total of 34,839 prosecutions for domestic violence. Of these, 19,156 (55 per cent.) were convicted, 13,599 (39 per cent.) were not proceeded with and 2,084 (6 per cent.) were acquitted.

Comparable figures are not held for years prior to 2004-05.

Extradition

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 544W, on extradition, if he will break the figures down by the alleged offence. [88390]

John Reid: Details are given in the following tables, which has been updated to 24 August 2006 in order to reflect developments since the original answer. It should be noted that:

(a) an extradition request is not included in this table unless the individual has been arrested for extradition and is in custody, or on bail, or has been surrendered

(b) an individual may be arrested in a different year from that in which the request is made;

(c) the offences quoted are brief descriptions and not detailed charges e.g. "fraud" also covers "conspiracy to defraud";

(d) an individual may be wanted for more than one crime—the principal offences only are shown in the table; and

(e) more than one request may have been received for an individual, so that a surrender may be pursuant to more than one request.

US requests to England and Wales 2001 to 2005

2001	*Number*
Surrenders	
Child abduction	2
Child enticement	1
Drugs	3
Fraud	1
Money laundering	1
Murder	2
Theft	1
Wire fraud	1
Closed without surrender	
False statements to Government agency	1
Fraud	1
Murder	1
Terrorist-related	1
Outstanding from the year	—

2002

	Number
Surrenders	
Bank robbery	1
Fraud	1
Sex assault on children	1
Closed without surrender	
Drugs	1
Terrorist-related	1
Fraud	1
Theft	2
Outstanding from the year	
Drugs	1

2003[1]

	Number
Surrenders	
Child abduction	1
Drugs	2
Theft/bribery	1
Fraud	2
Closed without surrender	
Fraud	2
GBH	1
Rape	1
Outstanding from the year	
Murder	2
Rape	1
Theft	1

[1] One figure for 2003 has been moved from the "Closed without surrender" column to the "Surrender" column because the individual was the subject of requests in both 2003 and 2004, and it has been confirmed that he was extradited pursuant to both of them.

2004

	Number
Surrenders	
Child pornography	1
Drugs	6
Fraud	5
Forgery	1
GBH on minor with intent	1
Indecent assault	1
Mail fraud	1
Rape	1
Sex assault on minor	1
Wire Fraud	2
Closed without surrender	
Drugs	1
Fraud	1
Outstanding from the year	
Computer fraud	1
Drugs	1
Fraud	3
Robbery	2
Satellite signal theft	3
Terrorist-related	2

2005

	Number
Surrenders	
Child pornography	1
Theft	1
Closed without surrender	
Fraud	1
Sex offences	1
Outstanding from the year	
Drugs	2
Fraud	1
Terrorist-related	1

False Accusations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list organisations that received funding from his Department to help individuals who claim to have been falsely accused of criminal offences; and how much each organisation received in the last 10 years for which figures are available. [47402]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Criminal Cases Review Commission has received Grant in Aid from the Home Office from its inception in 1996 to date, as shown in the following table. The Commission's role is to review and investigate possible miscarriages of justice and to refer cases to an appropriate appeal court where there is a real possibility that the conviction, finding, verdict or sentence will not be upheld.

The Citizens Advice Bureau at the Royal Courts of Justice provides free, confidential and independent advice to members of the public who have cases in the Court of Appeal. It has received funding from 2004-05 as follows:

2004-05: £97,000 grant for a pilot scheme

2005-06: grant of £108,445

2006-07: grant of £119,400.

Criminal Cases Review Commission: Grant in Aid

	Amount (£)
1997-98	[1]4,303,977
1998-99	4,517,134
1999-2000	5,530,000
2000-01	5,415,000
2001-02	6,525,000
2002-03	7,000,000
2003-04	7,800,000
2004-05	[2]5,750,000
2005-06	6,834,628

[1] This figure includes the last three months of 1996.

[2] The 2004-05 figure was reduced in comparison with the previous years because the CCRC had to use their cash reserves as required by the Treasury under the rules of Government Accounting.

Foreign Criminals

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil service staff hours have been expended on duties related to the release of foreign offenders since July 2005. [68619]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the former foreign national prisoners identified as not having been assessed for deportation and subsequently relocated have been claiming benefits. [68745]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration and nationality directorate are working with all other relevant agencies to conclude all cases where foreign national prisoners were released without due consideration. The information as requested is not currently available in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the foreign nationals who were not assessed for deportation on release from prison were visited by foreign consular services during their incarceration; and which embassies were involved in each case. [68768]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally. During the induction process for new prisoners, it is a requirement that all foreign national prisoners are offered the opportunity to contact their embassy or high commission.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will instruct chief police officers to publish any available photographs in their respective constabulary areas of foreign nationals considered for deportation but released on completion of their sentences and still at large, to facilitate their arrest; and if he will make a statement. [70168]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary already explained during his appearance before the Home Affairs Committee on 23 May 2006 that this is an operational matter for the police. Discussions have taken place between officials from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on whether making public details of ex-offenders would assist in locating them. It is the considered view of ACPO that a decision should only be taken on a case by case basis as to whether to publicise the details of those individuals who are the subject of ongoing deportation action and still need to be located.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are *(a)* awaiting trial and *(b)* helping police with inquiries. [67458]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules govern applications for *(a)* leave to remain and *(b)* British citizenship by foreign nationals who have served in the British Army. [82372]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The rules applying to applications for leave to remain in the UK by foreign nationals discharged from the British Army are set out in paragraphs 276L to 276Q of the Immigration Rules. I would refer the hon. Gentleman to the information contained on the IND website at: http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/immigrationrules/part7.

Foreign nationals who have served in HM Forces and who wish to apply for British citizenship must make a successful application for naturalisation under sections 6(1) or 6(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981. Policy requirements and procedures for handling applications are available for viewing on the IND website at: http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/britishnationality.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Lin Homer's letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee, what crimes were committed by the seven serious foreign national offenders who have not been detained; what the nationality was of each; how long each served in prison; and when each was released. [88953]

John Reid: It is not the general policy of the Department to disclose specific details into the public domain which may identify individuals included among the 1,013 foreign national prisoners who were released without deportation consideration.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals were released from HMP Wellingborough in *(a)* March, *(b)* April and *(c)* May 2006; and how many were considered for deportation. [85596]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Comprehensive statistical information on discharges is not centrally available, and providing information based on manually stored records could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not hold information on how many foreign nationals released from HMP Wellingborough in *(a)* March, *(b)* April and *(c)* May were considered for deportation and could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners *(a)* claimed asylum and *(b)* were deported at the end of their prison sentence in each of the last five years. [73531]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested for the period concerned is not collected centrally and only available at disproportionate cost. In a written ministerial statement of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 28WS, I provided an update to the House on the progress the Department is making to ensure that foreign national prisoners face deportation as early as possible within their sentences.

Hadi Nozadi

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will conclude consideration of the status of Hadi Nozadi of Lower Sharpham Barton, Ashprington, Totnes, who was refused asylum on 22 November 2001. [77516]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan), wrote separately to the hon. Member regarding Hadi Nozadi on 26 June 2006.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff there are in each civil service grade in the immigration and nationality directorate who have been recruited since 1 January *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2005; and if he will make a statement. [75161]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration and nationality directorate does not hold this information in the format requested, which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions have taken place between officials of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and Jobcentre Plus regarding the allocation of national insurance numbers. [76196]

Mr. Byrne: Officials at a variety of levels in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate have been in regular contact with their counterparts in Jobcentre Plus about the procedures for allocating national insurance numbers. No central record is kept of the detail of these discussions. However, they have covered a wide variety of legislative, policy and procedural matters relating to the recently announced changes to these procedures. These changes introduced from July 2006 a "right to work" condition for employment related applications for national insurance numbers.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what investigations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the police are conducting into allegations that (i) permanent residency visas and (ii) changes in residency status are being bought from immigration officials; and if he will make a statement. [84146]

John Reid: The Department takes all allegations of misconduct very seriously. Any such allegation will be thoroughly investigated and any necessary action taken in accordance with departmental procedures.

To provide details about the investigations that are under way at the moment would risk compromising their successful outcome.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports have been lost while being held by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate pending an immigration decision in each of the last five years. [85402]

John Reid: The only information on passports relates to applications made under managed migration routes for variation of leave, work permits and citizenship. Management information for all of these work streams is only available for the last three years. This indicates that the number lost in 2003-04 was 588, in 2004-05 was 452 and in 2005-06 was 288.

Information Technology

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88986]

Mr. Byrne: The following tables outline those details that are centrally held in relation to major IT projects with a value over £10 million. The Home Office runs a number of smaller IT projects but details of these are not held centrally.

Desktop Services

Business	*IT Unit*	*Supplier/contract*	*Value (£ million)*	*Year*
IND	HOITSS	Atos Origin/TBC	200	2004
NOMS (Probation Service)	NOMS	Steria/OMNI	250	2006

IT Enabled Change Programmes

Business	*Programme*	*Supplier/contract*	*Value (£ million)*	*Year*
IND	Project Semaphore (part of e-Borders)	IBM	31.9	From 2004 to date
	Project IRIS (part of e-Borders)	Sagem	2.8	2004
	Mycroft	SERCO/Mycroft	42	From 2004 over five years
	Points Based System	Atos Origin Sirius FCO Services	<4	Still in definition stage and has therefore contracted less than £4 million to date
	Warnings Index	Fujitsu—WI and WW Tech Refresh	14	May 2005
	Warnings Index	Fujitsu—WI Support Procurement	14.5	May 2006

IT Enabled Change Programmes

Business	*Programme*	*Supplier/contract*	*Value (£ million)*	*Year*
NOMS	NOMIS	EDS/Steria	190	2005
CS	EDRM	CapGemini/Sirius	16.8	2005-06

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many IT projects have been developed for his Department since 2001; and whether he has agreed to make public Gateway reviews for these projects *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part. [23519]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of projects is not held centrally and is therefore not available. To provide a complete answer in the time available would therefore incur disproportionate costs.

A Gateway review is conducted on a confidential basis for the Senior Responsible Officer. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 each request for the release of information contained in a Gateway Review is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Life in the UK Test

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have *(a)* taken and *(b)* successfully completed the Life in the UK test for adult applicants who want to become British citizens since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [88450]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of individuals who have taken the Life in the UK Test is not currently available, as some applicants will have taken the test more than once before passing it. Between the introduction of the Life in the UK Test in November 2005 and 22 July 2006, 82,375 tests were taken. Of these, 56,615 were passed and 25,760 failed, giving an overall pass rate of 68.7 per cent.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the Life in the UK test for adult applicants who want to become British citizens. [88519]

Mr. Byrne: No. The Life in the UK test is a multiple choice test comprising 24 questions, selected from a bank of around 200 questions, which were carefully scrutinised by the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration. All of the answers to the test questions can be found through study of the handbook "Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship". It would not be appropriate to publish the test questions, as this would enable people to learn them by rote and thus defeat the object of the test.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the towns in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the European Union that he has visited in an official capacity in each month since 1997; what the purpose was in each case; what the (i) date, (ii) time, (iii) location and (iv) duration was of each meeting; if he will place in the Library the text of any speech made; and if he will make a statement. [65001]

Mr. Byrne: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, all ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers. The Government publishes on an annual basis lists of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500 which will include visits to the European Union. Lists covering 1997 to 2005 are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2005-06 is currently being compiled and will be published when it is available.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what visits *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas Ministers in his Department have made in the last 12 months. [73677]

Mr. Byrne: This answer can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [84004]

Mr. Byrne: The current Home Secretary and his immediate predecessor visited the Government regions of the South West, the South East, the West Midlands, the North East and London over the last 12 months.

National Asylum Support Service

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the National Asylum Support Services stakeholder briefing pack for target contracts-transition document has been removed from the Department's website. [84598]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 July 2006]:* The stakeholder briefing pack for the target contracts—transition phase has not been removed from the Department's website. However the website link to this briefing pack has recently changed. The new link is: http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/nass/newsandinfo/projects/nassaccommodationproject/stakeholderengagement

Offender Managers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a date has been set for introducing Going Straight contracts between offenders and offender managers as set out in the five year strategy for protecting the public and reducing re-offending. [80377]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Proposals on Going Straight contracts will be developed by the National Offender Management Service, alongside the implementation and delivery of Offender Management. Decisions on their possible content and implementation have yet to be made.

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81564]

Mr. Byrne: The Director of Specialist Crime is responsible for Olympic-related activity within the Home Office and is a member of the Inter-Departmental Steering Group.

Opinion Polling

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what issues his Department has conducted opinion polling in the last 12 months. [88944]

John Reid: The Home Office undertakes a wide range of research activities that support the development of information-led policy, including surveys of public opinion that consider Home Office issues and its related areas of responsibility.

The Department commissions such work only when it is justified by the specific needs of a particular policy or programme and when this is the most economic, efficient and effective way to achieve the purpose. Consulting and involving the public helps inform both policy formulation and delivery of better quality public services.

Opinion polls have been conducted in the last 12 months on the following issues:

Identity Cards

Late night businesses' attitudes to alcohol related crime and disorder

Offending behaviour programmes delivered to offenders serving community sentences

Public concern about organised crime

Prison Service Staff Issues

Measuring the Quality of Prison Life

Evaluation of Intensive Supervision and Monitoring schemes for persistent offenders

Cognitive Skills Booster Evaluation

Juvenile cohort feasibility

Single intervention Randomised Control Trial feasibility

Satellite tracking

National Evaluation of Community Safety Officers

Perceptions of border control among the travelling public

Northwest Offender Management Pathfinder

Employment Pathfinder

Investigating the Targeting, Tailoring and Sequencing of Interventions feasibility study

Evaluation of neighbourhood policing

Crime Patterns.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question 67922, on release of foreign prisoners, tabled by the hon. Member for Somerton and Frome for named day answer on 3 May. [70179]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2020W.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to Questions *(a)* 68921, *(b)* 68923, *(c)* 68918, *(d)* 68919, *(e)* 68920, *(f)* 68922 and *(g)* 68924, on prisoners, tabled on 3 May by the hon. Member for Wellingborough. [79465]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* In respect of questions 68920 and 68922 I replied to the hon. Member on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 634W.

With regard to questions 68918, 68919, 68921, 68923 and 68924 my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe) replied on 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 2031W.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer question 67756, on prisoners released from Shepton Mallet prison, tabled by the right hon. Member for Wells on 27 April 2006. [81662]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* I refer the right hon. Member to my reply of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 646W.

Passports

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what stage of the process passport applications are assessed for rejection. [89170]

Joan Ryan: The current process for checking passport applications has two main stages: an initial check that the application has been fully completed and all necessary documents have been provided, followed by examination to establish the identity and nationality of the applicant. If a deficiency is found at the first stage, an explanation is given of what is needed to correct the problem. If the application has been made in person at either a post office, any accredited travel agent or a regional passport office, the incomplete or incorrect application is handed back with the explanation and the passport fee is not taken. If the application has been made by post, the form and fee are retained and a letter is sent either asking for missing documents or a fresh application form, depending on the problem.

The action taken to resolve problems encountered during the examination stage varies. The Identity and Passport Service will not issue a passport until the applicant's identity and nationality have been established.

Police

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours he expects to spend working on police reorganisation until the end of 2006. [68612]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Secretary and his Ministerial team have had and will continue to have various meetings and conversations with officials and interested parties to discuss general policing matters and police reform. It is not possible to quantify the amount of time each has spent or will spend discussing the specific issue of police restructuring.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the total police staff hours, including uniformed staff and support staff, that will be spent on duties related to the release of foreign offenders in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [68614]

Mr. Byrne: The level of detail requested is not required under the Annual Data Return that must be submitted to the Department by police forces in England and Wales. We would not wish to impose additional burdens on police forces by asking them to carry out such ad hoc surveys. The police continue to play a key role in working with all other relevant agencies to pursue those cases where foreign national prisoners were released without due consideration.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received about the performance of police in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend in each of the last seven years. [46394]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 30 January 2006]:* The current and previous Home Secretary have received numerous representations regarding police forces in England and Wales. In addition, there have been formal reports published relating to the performance of the police service and of Essex police force specifically. These can be found on the websites for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) at http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/ and the Home Office at http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/assessments-2004-2005/

The next police performance assessments will be published in October.

The latest HMIC publication regarding Southend was the BCU inspection report (September 2003) and the report of the follow-up visit (December 2004).

Port Security

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1676W, on port security, for how long each day the port of Swansea has immigration, customs and security services present; and which ports' immigration, customs and security teams provide an out-of-hours service to the port of Swansea. [86449]

Mr. Byrne: Small ports such as Swansea are staffed in a targeted way based on risk and supported by reliable intelligence. It is believed to be the most effective method of countering the overall threat, and the best use of the finite staff resources.

This information cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue & Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Prisoners

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British criminals sentenced to custody abroad have been deported to the UK after sentence in each of the last five years. [68802]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South West Devon (Mr. Streeter) on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1670W.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 57W, on prisoners, if he will confirm that the figures provided for 2004-05 are for the first three quarters of the year; and when the figures for January to March 2005 will be available. [30985]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures in respect of prisoners released on parole licence were the figures for the whole year as reported by the Parole Board in its annual report 2004-05. The Parole Board has confirmed that it has not been notified of any further charges since the answer was laid.

The figures in respect of prisoners released on to the home detention curfew scheme were the figures for the year as a whole as notified to the Home Office at the point the question was laid. Data in respect of re-offending on the home detention curfew scheme are changing constantly as new information is received. This is because notifications of further offences, either by the police or other criminal justice agencies, is supplemented by a quarterly interrogation of the police national computer or through notification of acquittals or withdrawal of charges.

The total number of charges as currently notified to the Home Office in respect of prisoners on the home detention curfew scheme for the whole of the year 2004-05 is 1,313. This figure is likely to be further amended as new information is received.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people, who were later found not to be guilty of the offences for which they were imprisoned, were imprisoned in England and Wales in each year since 1998. [49865]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the relative efficiency of the Prison Service and the private sector in delivering penal services; and if he will make a statement. [48507]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The relative efficiency of public sector and private sector delivery of penal services has been assessed through market testing. Each of the four prisons which had been managed by the private sector after opening in the early 1990s was market tested before the expiry of their contracts. In the case of two, Blakenhurst and Buckley Hall, the management was won by the Prison Service. The private sector retained the management of the other two, Doncaster and Wolds. In addition the Prison Service managed Manchester in accordance with a service level agreement (SLA) following a market test after it re-opened in 1994. The management was market tested again, in 2000, and the Prison Service won the competition and was awarded a new SLA.

The individual efficiency of all prisons, including the nine prisons designed, constructed, managed and financed under the private finance initiative, is assessed quarterly through the performance rating system which comprises a raft of performance measures such as cost performance and findings from external inspections.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are used to determine whether a prison is meeting the obligations contained in its service level agreement. [63294]

Mr. Byrne: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) requires Service Providers to deliver high quality services as specified in the Service Level Agreement (SLA), including high performance against an operational requirements specification. Each SLA contains a Performance Measurement System (PMS) that is designed to measure the Service Providers' delivery of the operational requirements in key areas over an agreed period.

Compliance with the requirements of the SLA includes achieving all Service Delivery Targets and providing NOMS with quality assurance systems, principally through a comprehensive self-audit programme supplemented with a range of policy documents and procedural guidance to staff, together with a meetings structure that ensures that performance, standards and contractual compliance are achieved.

Private Finance Initiative

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what total amount private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible that went over budget did so in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [83649]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that none of the private finance initiative projects for which the Home Department is responsible went over budget in the last five years.

Public Bodies (Reorganisation)

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take to ensure that the consultation on non-departmental public bodies includes Welsh organisations. [88175]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 July 2006]:* In the Home Office Action Plan, From Improvement to Transformation, we announced an in-depth review of the Home Office's non-departmental public bodies. We have already written to the bodies concerned and we aim to consult as widely as possible when we begin to develop our proposals.

Public Information

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on his Department's public relations and information services in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [48957]

Mr. Byrne: Information services are defined as websites and phone lines set up for campaigns. The following table shows expenditure on phone lines established for campaigns.

Phone line information service expenditure by year

£

	Police recruitment	*Car security*	*Year of the volunteer*
2001-02	241,273	—	—
2002-03	258,962	23,095	—
2003-04	348,236	—	—
2004-05	179,648	—	12,707
2005-06	92,818	—	—

To obtain the information regarding websites would incur disproportionate costs.

Public relations are handled by the Department's press office—costs for the last five years are in the following table.

£

Financial year	*Total*
2000-01	[1]2,446,227
2001-02	[2]2,078,723
2002-03	3,009,489
2003-04	2,959,966
2004-05	2,777,578
2005-06	3,113,249

[1] 2000-01. Expansion of the Home Office press office followed an external consultant's review of its staffing and operation in 1999 and recommended the creation of the Newsdesk to better meet the demands of the 24-hour media. This improved efficiency from 'losing' in excess of 20 per cent. of the calls pre-expansion, to a positive where from June 2003 to June 2004, 91.8 per cent. of 61,070 calls received by the Newsdesk were answered.
[2] 2001-02. The Home Office press office and the Prison Service press office merged in May 2001.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department or public bodies for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was in each case. [83177]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Russian Orchestras

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the cost of visas and work permits for visiting orchestras from Russia; and if he will make a statement. [72174]

Mr. Byrne: Proposals for recovering, through fees and charges, the costs of the new Points Based System are at an early stage of development. Alongside developing these, we have continued to engage with key stakeholders, including representatives from the Arts and Entertainment sector and are aware of the issues surrounding touring groups such as visiting orchestras. We will be undertaking a public consultation on fees and charges in the autumn.

Science Applications International Corporation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total value was of contracts entered into by his Department with Science Applications International Corporation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [87567]

Mr. Byrne: From available records, the total value of contracts entered into by the Home Department with Science Applications International Corporation in each year since 1997 is as follows:

	Total value of contracts (£)
1997	500,000
1998	0
1999	0
2000	0
2001	4,000
2002	[1]7,022,000
2003	0
2004	2,350
2005	0

[1] Value includes a contract initially entered with another company that was subsequently acquired by SAIC.

Security Industry

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are in place to ensure that persons applying for a security licence from the Security Industry Authority are not asylum seekers. [75665]

Mr. Byrne: Employers have clear legal responsibilities under the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 which makes it a criminal offence to employ a person who is subject to immigration control unless that person has permission to work in the UK. The possession of a Security Industry Authority licence does not give a person a right to work in the UK, and employers are still expected to assure themselves that their employees have the necessary permission.

Security Service Personnel

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment the Government have made of the incidence of security service personnel *(a)* infiltrating terrorist groups and *(b)* colluding in paramilitary killings; and if he will make a statement. [61774]

Mr. McNulty: The longstanding practice of successive governments is not to comment on the work of the security and intelligence agencies. The agencies operate within the law. Any person may complain to the Independent Investigatory Powers Tribunal if he or she is aggrieved by anything they believe has been done to them or their property by the agencies. The tribunal has full powers to investigate and order such remedial measures as it sees fit.

Select Committee Recommendations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what actions have been taken by his Department to implement Home Affairs Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 Session; and if he will make a statement. [77773]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office regularly reports its progress on accepted recommendations to the Home Affairs Committee.

The latest report, "Memorandum from the Home Office: progress in implementing accepted Committee recommendations 2001-05", was published by the Home Affairs Committee on 26 May 2006. A copy is available in the House Library and on the Home Affairs website at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmhaff/1007/100702.htm

Somalia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support his Department has provided for Somali community groups in each of the past five years; what support is planned for 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [84957]

Mr. Byrne: The grants presented in the following table have been provided by the Home Office, through the Immigration and Nationality Directorate or its former Communities Group (now part of the Department for Communities and Local Government) to Somali community organisations over the past five years, or will be provided in 2006-07:

Date	*Grant*
2000-01	A total of £31,826 to two organisations under the European Refugee Fund (ERF) Scheme (the scheme is administered by the Home Office, and funding is provided by the European Commission)
2002	A total of £41,869 to two organisations under the ERF Scheme
	A total of £22,500 to six Somali groups: grants were paid from the Home Office Refugee Community Development Fund
2003	A total of £35,752 to two Somali organisations: grants were paid from the Home Office Refugee Integration Challenge Fund.
	A total of £69,164 to 15 Somali groups, from the Refugee Community Development Fund
	A total of £7,520 to two Somali groups: grants were paid from the Home Office Purposeful Activities for Asylum Seekers Fund (the Fund supports constructive activities by asylum seekers while they await decisions on their asylum applications)
2004	£50,000 to one Somali organisation, from the Refugee Integration Challenge Fund
	A total of £16,013 to four Somali groups, from the Refugee Community Development Fund
2005-06	£30,150 to one Somali organisation, from the Refugee Integration Challenge Fund
	A total of £38,416 to eight Somali groups, from the Refugee Community Development Fund
	£30,000 to one Somali organisation: the grant was paid by the Home Office Communities Group
	A total of £7,500 to two Somali organisations: the grants were paid from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, a government fund overseen by the Home Office Communities Group
2006-07	A total of £132,074 is to be provided to four Somali organisations from the Refugee Integration Challenge Fund, and a total of £26,000 to two Somali groups from the Purposeful Activities for Asylum Seekers Fund.

Special Advisers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas visits special advisers in his Department made in an official capacity since 31 March 2004; what places were visited; and how much each visit cost. [52666]

Mr. McNulty: Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 158WS, and for the financial year 2005-06 on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 86WS. Since 31 March 2004 to 31 January 2006, special advisers accompanied Ministers on the visits that they made to Italy (October 2004), France (November), Germany (June 2005), Switzerland (July), France (September), USA (October), Luxembourg (October), Belgium (November and December), France (December), Austria (January 2006), and Jordan-Egypt-Libya (February). The travel costs of special advisers accompanying Ministers on overseas visits are included in the annual list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers. All travel by special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Tasker Inquiry

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the issues raised by the Tasker Inquiry. [66561]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Tasker Inquiry has not yet been completed. It is expected that a report will be received by the London area manager by the end of September.

Traffic Notices

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many traffic offences have been lost under the six-month rule in each of the last eight years; and what estimate he has made of the resulting loss of revenue from fines. [61277]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Unaccompanied Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unaccompanied children have entered the UK in each of the last three years; how many of them have *(a)* been returned immediately to their country of origin, *(b)* been granted indefinite leave to remain and *(c)* entered the UK and subsequently been returned to their country of origin as the result of a failed asylum claim; and what proportion *(c)* were (i) under 18 years and (ii) over 18 years at the time of their deportation. [82616]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* Information relating to the number of unaccompanied children who have entered the UK and subsequently been returned to their country of origin as a result of a failed asylum claim is unavailable and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum applications and initial decisions for unaccompanied children is published quarterly and annually. Copies are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

US-UK Extradition Treaty

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations he has received on the US-UK Extradition Treaty in 2006. [88327]

John Reid: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Video Conferencing

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many video conferencing units are installed in *(a)* the Department and *(b)* each agency of the Department; what percentage of offices have these facilities in each case; and what plans there are to increase the number. [16199]

Mr. Byrne: Details are given in the following table.

It should also be noted that individual business units within Home Office Corporate Services may have purchased video-conferencing facilities out of their own budgets and there is no centrally held record of these.

Business area	*Number of VC Units*	*Percentage of office coverage*	*Plans to increase*
Corporate Services	8	25	None
IPS	9	100	None
CRB	2	50	None
IND	28	15	Financial provision and plans for seven additional units during 2006-07
NOMS			
Prisons	54	39	Consideration is being given to expanding VC capacity across the NOMS estate. There are no firm figures and the final decision will be based on evidence of it offering financial savings and opportunity for improved performance
Probation	22	[1]52	

[1] This percentage relates to coverage of Probation areas, not offices. Each Probation area has many offices.

Visas

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there have been any recent allegations made to his Department of visas being sold by UK officials at home or overseas; and if he will make a statement. [73833]

Mr. Byrne: The Department takes all allegations of misconduct very seriously. Any such allegation will be thoroughly investigated and any necessary action taken in accordance with departmental procedures.

To provide details about the investigations that are under way at the moment would risk compromising their outcome.

Youth Cluster

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for funding Youth Cluster *(a)* has applied for and *(b)* has been granted in each of the last five years; to what funding programmes the organisation applied; and if he will make a statement. [87975]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* As far as I am aware, the Home Office has received two applications for funding from Youth Cluster in the last five years.

One application was granted in July 2004 under Positive Futures. One application was not granted under Connecting Communities Plus.

Youth Crime (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to tackle youth crime in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [53701]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Youth Justice Board awarded a grant of £248,000 to Peterborough Youth Offending Team (YOT) for services to prevent youth crime and anti-social behaviour between 2005 and 2008. The grant is to fund an activity-based Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) and develop the role of a Youth Offending Service co-ordinator. The YOT is also planning to part-fund a multi agency Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP), to provide support for young people at risk, providing it can attract additional partnership funding. The YOT also receives £755,700 per annum to provide a range of services for young offenders during and after their custodial sentence, including the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP), and Resettlement and Aftercare Provision (RAP) for young offenders with substance misuse problems. The YOT uses a multi-agency response to increase the resources and expertise available.

HEALTH

General Practitioners

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP practices in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region were single-handed in each of the last five years. [88148]

Caroline Flint: The latest available information up to September 2005 is given in the following table. The data relate to strategic health authority areas in existence prior to 1 July 2006.

GP practices and single handed contracted and salaried GPs[1] by strategic health authority, at 30 September 2001-05

numbers (headcount)

		2001			2002		
			of which:			of which:	
		GP practices	Single handed	Percentage single handed	GP practices	Single handed	Percentage single handed
	England	8,910	2,626	29.5	8,833	2,566	29.1
	North East	408	86	21.1	407	83	20.4
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	168	35	20.8	169	37	21.9
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	240	51	21 3	238	46	19.3
	North West	1,398	470	33.6	1,377	460	33.4
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	448	134	29.9	445	132	29.7
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	378	125	33.1	370	119	32.2
Q14	Greater Manchester	572	211	36.9	562	209	37.2
	Yorkshire and the Humber	878	243	27.7	875	243	27.8
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	265	70	26.4	266	74	27.8
Q23	South Yorkshire	229	59	25.8	226	62	27.4
Q12	West Yorkshire	384	114	29.7	383	107	27.9
	East Midlands	653	145	22.2	648	143	22.1
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	226	53	23.5	223	48	21.5
Q24	Trent	427	92	21.5	425	95	22.4
	West Midlands	1,050	386	36.8	1,036	385	37.2
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	536	236	44.0	530	238	44.9
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	272	105	38.6	267	100	37.5
Q28	West Midlands South	242	45	18.6	239	47	19.7
	East of England	819	194	23.7	806	182	22.6
Q02	Bedford and Hertfordshire	231	54	23.4	230	52	22.6
Q03	Essex	279	96	34.4	275	93	33.8
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	309	44	142	301	37	123
	London	1,713	739	43.1	1,696	722	42.6
Q05	North Central London	309	140	45.3	313	145	46.3
Q06	North East London	384	196	51.0	381	194	50.9
Q04	North West London	463	210	44.5	457	200	43.8
Q07	South East London	307	117	38.1	300	112	37.3
Q08	South West London	244	76	31.1	245	71	29.0
	South East	1,224	266	21.7	1,224	256	20.9
Q18	Kent and Medway	308	118	38.3	302	113	37.4
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	380	82	21.6	379	72	19.0
Q16	Thames Valley	297	40	13.5	302	46	15.2
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	239	26	10.9	241	25	10.4
	South West	767	97	12.6	764	92	12.0
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	328	46	14.0	326	41	12.6
Q22	Somerset and Dorset	185	22	11.9	185	22	11.9
Q21	South West Peninsula	254	29	11.4	253	29	11.5

numbers (headcount)

		2003			2004		
			of which:			of which:	
		GP practices	Single handed	Percentage single handed	GP practices	Single handed	Percentage single handed
	England	8,833	2,578	29.2	8,542	2,285	26.8
	North East	409	91	22.2	406	91	22.4
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	168	37	22.0	169	35	20.7
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	241	54	22.4	237	56	23.6
	North West	1,361	442	32.5	1,327	424	32.0
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	442	127	28.7	426	115	27.0
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	362	116	32.0	356	113	31.7
Q14	Greater Manchester	557	199	35.7	545	196	36.0
	Yorkshire and the Humber	865	227	26.2	836	196	23.4
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	262	66	25.2	253	56	22.1
Q23	South Yorkshire	222	58	26.1	219	55	25.1
Q12	West Yorkshire	381	103	27.0	364	85	23.4
	East Midlands	645	138	21.4	635	124	19.5
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	226	54	23.9	223	55	24.7
Q24	Trent	419	84	20.0	412	69	16.7
	West Midlands	1,028	384	37.4	996	352	35.3
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	521	233	44.7	507	225	44.4
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	270	104	38.5	255	84	32.9
Q28	West Midlands South	237	47	19.8	234	43	18.4
	East of England	810	194	24.0	804	189	23.5
Q02	Bedford and Hertfordshire	232	54	23.3	231	52	22.5
Q03	Essex	275	102	37.1	273	106	38.8
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	303	38	125	300	31	103
	London	1,752	768	43.8	1,607	606	37.7
Q05	North Central London	320	159	49.7	291	127	43.6
Q06	North East London	376	183	48.7	349	149	42.7
Q04	North West London	472	214	45.3	441	179	40.6
Q07	South East London	332	143	43.1	294	100	34.0
Q08	South West London	252	69	27.4	232	51	22.0
	South East	1,209	254	21.0	1,180	225	19.1
Q18	Kent and Medway	296	106	35.8	290	107	36.9
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	379	76	20.1	367	64	17.4
Q16	Thames Valley	299	44	14.7	291	33	11.3
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	235	28	11.9	232	21	9.1
	South West	754	80	10.6	751	78	10.4
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	326	36	11.0	323	37	11.5
Q22	Somerset and Dorset	176	15	8.5	176	13	7.4
Q21	South West Peninsula	252	29	11.5	252	28	11.1

number (headcount)

		2005		
			of which:	
		GP practices	Single Handed	Percentage single handed
	England	8,451	2,176	25.7
	North East	404	85	21.0
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	170	33	19.4

number (headcount)

		2005		
			of which:	
		GP practices	*Single Handed*	*Percentage single handed*
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	234	52	22.2
	North West	1,303	410	31.5
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	425	115	27.1
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	348	113	32.5
Q14	Greater Manchester	530	182	34.3
	Yorkshire and the Humber	826	183	22.2
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	253	55	21.7
Q23	South Yorkshire	218	54	24.8
Q12	West Yorkshire	355	74	20.8
	East Midlands	630	117	18.6
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	223	53	23.8
Q24	Trent	407	64	15.7
	West Midlands	989	3	35.1
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	500	219	43.8
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	257	87	33.9
Q28	West Midlands South	232	41	17.7
	East of England	802	167	20.8
Q02	Bedford and Hertfordshire	227	48	21.1
Q03	Essex	277	95	34.3
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	298	24	8.1
	London	1,591	574	36.1
Q05	North Central London	287	120	41.8
Q06	North East London	345	148	42.9
Q04	North West London	436	175	40.1
Q07	South East London	292	32	28.1
Q08	South West London	231	49	21.2
	South East	1,160	220	19.0
Q18	Kent and Medway	286	106	37.1
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	363	61	16.8
Q16	Thames Valley	280	27	9.6
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	231	26	11.3
	South West	746	73	9.8
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	319	32	10.0
Q22	Somerset and Dorset	176	14	8.0
Q21	South West Peninsula	251	27	10.8

[1] A single handed contracted and salaried GP is one who has no partners, although they may have a GMS/PMS other, GP registrar or GP retainer.

Note:

Data are estimated based on 2006 organisational structure.

Source:

The information centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics.

NHS Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cumulative break-even position was in 2005 for each NHS organisation in London as reported in the final accounts of national health service trusts. [88962]

Andy Burnham *[pursuant to the reply, 25 July 2006, Official Report, c. 1231-32W]:* I regret my previous reply was incorrect. The final total should read (90,331) not (610,539) as given in my answer.

The revised table showing financial position of all NHS organisations in London is as follows. The data given are the break-even cumulative position of NHS trusts.

2004-05 NHS trust break-even cumulative position

	£000
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	20
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	(19,564)
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	(757)
Barts and The London NHS Trust	(1,054)
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	28,754
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	2,447
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	5,392
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	(164)
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	(375)

2004-05 NHS trust break-even cumulative position

	£000
East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	235
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	(1,736)
Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust	1,771
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	(18,384)
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	(3,766)
London Ambulance Service NHS Trust	75
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	(65)
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	282
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	333
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	(5,360)
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	(13,546)
Oxleas NHS Trust	1,243
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	(8,942)
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	(6,512)
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	(3,165)
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	(3,769)
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	(339)
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	401
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	(23,596)
St. Mary's NHS Trust	(4,570)
Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust	54
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	(1,295)
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	(6,646)
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	(1,500)
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	(1,353)
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	(4,943)
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	63
	(90,331)

Note:
2004-05 data do not include information relating to NHS foundation trusts.
Source:
Audited NHS Trust summarisation schedules 2004-05.

NICE

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which drugs were not approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence which were assessed to have a cost per quality-adjusted-life-year of between £30,000 and £35,000 in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [87745]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* An analysis has been undertaken of drugs not approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), taking into account appraisals published between 1 January 2000 and 27 July 2006. Of the drugs appraised but not approved by NICE, none fell exactly into the cost quality-adjusted-life-year (QALY) range of between £30,000 and £35,000, although NICE's appraisal of Anakinra for rheumatoid arthritis (published in November 2003) identified a wide potential cost per QALY range of between £20,000 and £952,000. Further information on this appraisal can be found on NICE's website at www.nice.org.uk

Small Change Big Difference

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 31 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 31W, on Small Change Big Difference; how much the campaign has cost; and how much money has been allocated for the entirety of the campaign. [79761]

Caroline Flint: The Department has spent under £1,000 on the launch of the initiative. Small Change Big Difference is the working title for our social marketing strategy for England—a key Choosing Health commitment. The Department is currently developing the strategy over the next five years so the entire cost has yet to be determined.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Monday 11 September and Wednesday 13 September 2006

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Correspondence

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the Lord Chancellor will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight dated 6 April 2006. [90711]

Ms Harman: The Lord Chancellor sent a reply to the letter from the hon. Member on 22 May 2006. The Lord Chancellor hopes to be in a position to send a further letter later this month.

Courts Areas

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will request the Courts Service to reconsider its plans to merge the Essex Courts Area with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Courts Area. [90678]

Ms Harman *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Decisions were made on administrative area restructuring after careful consideration by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) of the need to provide the most effective way to administer the courts and keep costs to a minimum. Local area directors were fully involved in these decisions. Decisions in relation to the restructuring of courts boards areas have yet to be taken.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether it is her policy that courts areas should have the same boundaries as police forces; and if she will make a statement. [90679]

Ms Harman: It is not the policy of the Department for Constitutional Affairs that the administrative areas of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) should have the same boundaries as police forces. However, the operational business of HMCS should be arranged so that partnerships with other criminal justice agencies continues to operate effectively.

Departmental Contracts

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total value is of contracts his Department holds with *(a)* ER Consultants and *(b)* Praesta; and which Ministers make use of each company's services. [90909]

Bridget Prentice *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* My Department has a contract with ER Consultants for the provision of change management activities placed to the Wales Office, the contract value is in the region of £40,000. My Department has also engaged the services of Praesta for the provision of coaching programmes and leadership through a Home Office Framework Agreement. The contract value is in the region of £220,000.

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what estimate has been made of the cost to her Department of implementing sections *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 4 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; [86498]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1898-99W, on the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act, what estimate has been made of the cost to her Department of implementing sections *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 4 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [86509]

Ms Harman: Section 1 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (DVCVA) 2004—to make breach of a non-molestation order a criminal offence—is costed at £2.8 million per full year. Section 4 is costed at £2.9 million per full year. However, if brought in together this limits costs to £5 million per full year. These are annual continuing costs not just start-up costs.

Section 10 of the DVCVA 2004 (common assault to be an arrestable offence) was also costed at £5 million per full year. This has been commenced via the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCPA) 2005. Thus the full cost to DCA of implementing the DVCVA is £10 million per full year. We regularly review budgets to identify funding at the earliest opportunity.

Dr. David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1615W, on Dr. David Kelly, on what date this meeting was fixed; and what account was taken of the suspension of the inquest into the death of Dr. David Kelly in deciding whether discussing certification was appropriate. [90876]

Ms Harman: The Oxfordshire coroner suggested the meeting on 11 August 2003 the week before it took place as he was going to be in London on that day on other business. The Lord Chancellor had already indicated to the coroner that he was minded to invoke his section 17A powers unless there was exceptional reason why he should not do so. The meeting on 11 August was to discuss how the coroner might resume the inquest to admit further evidence of the cause of death so that it might be accurately recorded by the registrar.

Interim Possession Orders

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many interim possession order applications have been *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each year since 2000; and if she will make statement. [90574]

Ms Harman *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The following table shows the number of applications for interim possession orders and the number of orders made since 2000 for England and Wales.

The volumes of interim possession applications and orders have remained at a low level between 2000 and 2005. The Department does not collect data on the reasons for the steep changes in volumes for the years 2002 and 2003.

Number of applications for interim possession orders and orders made, 2000-05

	Applications for interim orders	*Interim orders made*
2000	409	76
2001	504	126
2002	[1]2,869	418
2003	[1]2,528	226
2004	230	103
2005	312	273

[1] The table shows large increase between 2002 and 2003, however this is less marked when divided by court and by month.

Law Students

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many bursaries were awarded by the Law Society to mature law students wishing to study the legal practice course in each year since 2001-02; and if she will make a statement. [90759]

Ms Harman: The details of the number of bursaries awarded to students over 25 are set out in the table as follows:

	Number of bursaries awarded by the Law Society to law students over 25
2006	8
2005	7
2004	9
2003	11
2002	9

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many training contracts the Law Society awarded to law students who were *(a)* in their 20s, *(b)* in their 30s, *(c)* in their 40s and *(d)* in their 50s in each year since 2001-02. [90760]

Ms Harman: The Law Society does not award training contracts. They are awarded by individual firms of solicitors and other authorised training establishments.

The number of training contracts by age is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table shows the number of total training contracts awarded irrespective of age.

	Number of training contracts awarded to law students
2005	5,732
2004	5,708
2003	5,650
2002	5,385
2001	5,162
2000	4,827

Legal Aid

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether it is the policy of the Legal Services Commission before making an award of legal aid to check whether applicants for legal aid are vexatious litigants acting *(a)* with and *(b)* without the permission of a High Court judge to initiate proceedings. [91033]

Vera Baird: No. When an applicant applies for legal aid, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) relies on the client's solicitor to supply them with all relevant information. The fact that an applicant is a vexatious litigant is a relevant factor for the LSC in assessing whether a case merits funding.

Medical Assessments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 286W, on medical assessments, in how many appeals the appellant was successful in each year since 2001, broken down by benefit type. [88746]

Vera Baird: The information requested is in Table 1.

Since my answer of 27 June 2006, more up-to-date data has become available regarding the number of appeals received and this is in Table 2.

Table 1: Appeals cleared in favour of appellant, April 2001 to March 2006

	Industrial injuries disablement benefit	*Incapacity benefit, without PCA*	*Incapacity benefit, with PCA*	*Disability living allowance*	*Attendance allowance*	*Total*
2001-02	7,490	1,410	13,480	41,620	4,460	68,450
2002-03	6,140	1,750	17,880	38,600	3,820	68,190
2003-04	5,490	1,720	20,530	37,230	3,400	68,370
2004-05	3,970	1,690	19,460	37,180	2,670	64,970
2005-06	3,750	1,730	21,950	35,500	2,300	65,220

Table 2: Appeals received by the Appeals Service, from April 2001 to March 2006

	Industrial injuries disablement benefit	*Incapacity benefit, without PCA*	*Incapacity benefit, with PCA*	*Disability living allowance*	*Attendance allowance*	*Total*
2001-02	22,330	6,260	43,510	83,430	11,490	167,010
2002-03	18,350	6,950	54,200	81,710	10,320	171,530
2003-04	15,560	7,410	55,560	84,320	9,730	172,580
2004-05	12,210	7,070	55,490	85,510	8,190	168,480
2005-06	11,560	7,200	56,430	82,230	7,220	164,650

Notes:
1. All figures are subject to change as more up-to-date data become available.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. PCA=Personal capability assessment.
4. These data are drawn from management information and should not be used in conjunction with sample statistics drawn from the benefit administration systems.
5. Financial years are from April to March each year.

Source:
100 per cent. download of the Generic Appeals Processing System (21 July, 2006).

Special Advisers

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what *(a)* qualifications and *(b)* previous experience the special advisers appointed to her Department have. [91002]

Vera Baird: My Department's special advisers were appointed in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87064]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA was created in June 2001. Significant advertising campaigns run by DEFRA's Communications Directorate during the period June 2001 to June 2004 included:

	Advertising campaigns on	*£*
2002-03	Illegal food imports	293,143
2003-04	Illegal food imports	119,146
2004-05	Horse passports	46,719

The Department did not maintain separate records of its overall expenditure on advertising during the period in question. The expenditure for publicity by DEFRA's Communications Directorate includes marketing, advertising, publications, events, shows and direct mailings and is recorded for the financial years since DEFRA's creation in June 2001 as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	6.6
2002-03	4.7
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	4.2

Carbon Audits

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish details of the proposed individual carbon audits for homes; and if he will ensure that such audits involve energy efficiency advice centres. [90598]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The Government recognises the importance of individual action in reducing carbon emissions from our homes. In order to help them take the right action, it is important that householders have relevant information about the energy use in their homes.

In view of this, we fund the activities of the Energy Saving Trust, which has developed a range of programmes to support improved energy efficiency in the household sector. The Trust provides home energy checks and audits via the Energy Efficiency Advice Centres and its Sustainable Energy Network.

We will be working with the Trust and other stakeholders to continue to improve the information available to householders. In addition, the Government are currently considering how to improve information to householders through better billing and metering.

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88771]

Barry Gardiner: The following items have been purchased through the Department's official purchasing mechanism, Buy4Defra. These figures do not include items that may have been purchased independently, such as purchases made through non-framework suppliers, the Government Procurement Card or claimed back through i-Expenses. Identifying this extra information, would incur disproportionate cost to the Department.

	(a) (i)	(a) (ii)	(b)[1]	(c)[1]	(d)[2]	(e)	(f)	(g)[2]
2005								
March	11	149	485	0	0	0	8	0
April	2	211	71	0	0	1	0	0
May	0	138	20	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	162	140	0	0	3	0	0
July	1	169	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	228	225	0	0	3	0	0
September	0	501	40	0	0	0	0	0
October	0	335	0	0	0	1	1	0
November	0	211	90	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	59	25	0	0	2	0	0
2006								
January	0	164	20	0	0	1	0	0
February	0	721	390	0	0	2	0	0
March	0	301	937	0	0	0	0	0
April	0	90	815	10	0	1	0	0
May	0	271	888	71	0	0	0	0
June	0	94	788	34	0	0	0	0
July[3]	0	59	n/a	n/a	0	2	2	0
Total	14	3,863	4,934	115	0	16	11	0

n/a = not available.

[1] These items are ordered as stationery.

[2] Defra outsourced its IT function to IBM on 1 October 2004 and, as part of this arrangement, Defra pays IBM for IT services, which includes the provision of laptop and desktop computers. Therefore, none of items *(d)* laptop computers and *(g)* desktop computers have been purchased in the period covered by this question.

[3] To 25 July 2006.

Correspondence

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed's letters of 15 December 2005 and 28 February 2006 concerning the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (DEFRA Ref: 228270). [90667]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member's letters. A reply was sent on 22 July 2006. I have arranged for another copy to be sent.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88473]

Barry Gardiner: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was not responsible for the creation of any criminal offences by Order in Council between October 2000 and August 2006.

Providing an answer to the question for the period 1997 to October 2000 would involve a disproportionate use of time and resources because of the amount of research that would have to be done.

Departmental Staff (Criminal Activity)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's employees have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997. [88452]

Barry Gardiner: The number of employees *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since it was created on 9 June 2001 is as follows:

	Number
2001	1
2002	3
2003	0
2004	1
2005	0

The above cases all went through stages *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)*.

The Civil Service Management Code sets out the requirements for Departments to have procedures in place to deal with conduct and disciplinary issues. The DEFRA procedures are laid down in the staff handbook which is accessed on the departmental Intranet.

Direct Mail (Recycling)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of direct mail which can be recycled; what estimate he has made of the proportion of paper waste represented by direct mail in the last year for which figures are available; and what steps the Government are taking to reduce the volume of direct mail. [84063]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 15 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1063W.

Energy Generation Projects

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government have allocated funding to projects to generate energy from human waste. [90728]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* No DEFRA funding has been allocated to projects to generate energy from human waste. Generating energy at sewage treatment works via gas engines using gas from anaerobic digestion is proven technology in place for decades, so a project of this kind is unlikely to warrant special development funds.

Environment Agency and British Waterways

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the recently announced reduction in the 2006-07 budget of the Environment Agency and British Waterways; and if he will make a statement. [90743]

Barry Gardiner: Following the announcement of the budget reductions, the Department has been working closely with both the Environment Agency and British Waterways to consider further the impact of the cuts and options for managing the shortfall.

The Environment Agency Board will be considering actions to be taken at its meeting on 19 and 20 September. The Board of British Waterways will be considering what actions are necessary at its meeting on 27 and 28 September.

Once the Boards' proposals are clear, we will take stock of the implications for the strategic targets and outcomes.

Flood and Coastal Defences

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his answer of 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 717W, on flood and coastal defences, whether his Department has required the Environment Agency to reduce expenditure on flood defences in 2006-07. [90689]

Ian Pearson: Spending on flood risk management will be reduced by £14.9 million in 2006-07. This will be applied to the Environment Agency's flood risk management grant in aid which will be reduced from £428 million to £413 million.

The reduction will apply only to non-capital spend which funds such items as staff costs, operational spend and maintenance of defences. Funding for the Agency's capital flood risk improvement programme is not affected. This reduction applies to 2006-07 only. Funding for later years has yet to be decided.

The Government are committed to the effective management of flood and coastal erosion risk. Total central and local government funding has nearly doubled from £307 million in 1996-97 to some £600 million in 2005-06, an increase in real terms of 40 per cent. after inflation.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in defining flood risk from the River Derwent in the section of the river within the district of South Derbyshire. [90690]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The Environment Agency (EA) is the principal operating authority for flood risk management in England and has a general supervisory duty over all matters relating to flood defence. The EA's River Derwent preliminary strategic review (PSR), which recommended the consideration of future works in South Derbyshire, including Alvaston, Derby and Little Chester, was completed in August 2004.

A viability report identified a number of gaps in data and the need for improvements to the existing hydraulic model through Derby. The report reviewed the economic case in the PSR and suggested that a significant number of properties were at risk overall during a one in 100 year flood risk event. The report was completed in October 2005.

Due to the scale of flooding problems, a strategic analysis is appropriate for the business case. This strategy, which is due to be completed in autumn 2007, will examine the alternative options for sustainable flood risk management in Derby during the next 100 years.

The strategy has now been extended to consider the Derwent from Derby to the River Trent, including Ambaston. Data on this area are currently being collected and work undertaken to develop the hydraulic model to extend it down to the confluence. The strategy is at the pre-scoping data gathering stage. It is anticipated that the scoping report will be issued in November 2006. The strategy will provide a plan for the first five years of capital investment, including an assessment of the appropriate maintenance strategy for the existing defences. A strategic environmental assessment will also be produced. The scoping report will be reissued to cover the increased project scope and area. An extensive process of consultation is planned.

Horse Exports

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many former racehorses have been exported from the UK for slaughter in each of the last five years; [90707]

(2) how many horses were exported from the UK in each of the last five years; and how many of these were exported for slaughter. [90708]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* According to the Department's system for issuing export health certificates, the number of equines certified for export from the United Kingdom are as follows:

	Number
2002	10,785
2003	9,130
2004	12,856
2005	7,637
2006 (to end June)	2,820

These figures include the temporary export of equines as well as the re-export of imported animals and are subject to updating and amendment as more data become available.

These data do not include equines exported in accordance with the tripartite agreement, under which export health certificates are not required for the movement of certain horses from the United Kingdom to the Republic of Ireland and France.

The tripartite agreement was suspended during the foot and mouth outbreak which led to exports of equines to the Republic of Ireland and France requiring export health certificates.

No applications for the export of horses for slaughter have been received in the last five years.

Illegal Cattle Movements

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of making illegal cattle movements in each year since 2000 where the prosecution was subsequently found to have been made in error. [86863]

Barry Gardiner: Around 210 cases prosecuted by DEFRA and local authorities since 2003 have resulted in conviction for breach of the Cattle Identification Regulation. A further breakdown is not available because the figures are not held centrally.

These cases involved keepers prosecuted because of failure to undertake the necessary action to identify cattle and report their movements. These are fundamental requirements if we are to control disease and to prevent cattle which may have BSE from entering the human food chain.

We have advised that, although these keepers failed to comply with their European Community law obligations, the enforcement provisions in the Cattle Identification and Cattle Database Regulation are invalid because they are drafted in such a way that criminal liability depends on a failure to comply with the requirements set out in European legislation (Council Regulation 1760/2000) which was not in force at the time the offences were committed. This situation arose because the original Council Regulation 820/97 was replaced by Council Regulation 1760/2000 in July 2000.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88992]

Barry Gardiner: In each of the last five years DEFRA has awarded the following IT contracts:

In 2001 a contract to the value of £3 million + VAT was awarded to Infoterra Ltd.

In 2002 a contract to the value of £16.1 million was awarded to LogicaCMG.

In 2003 a contract to the value of £34.1 million was awarded to Accenture.

In 2004 a contract to the value of £85 million per year was awarded to IBM.

In 2005 no major IT contracts were awarded.

In addition, a very large number of IT-related contracts of varying values have been let throughout this period, including software licensing/support agreements and consultancy services. In particular, there were multiple consultancy support contracts for the e-nabling/outsourcing programme.

There will have also been many, smaller, IT contracts awarded; however, information on these is neither managed nor maintained centrally, and therefore it would incur disproportionate costs to collate.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88993]

Barry Gardiner: None of the IT contracts awarded by DEFRA in the last five years has been abandoned.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms he has put in place to assess the environmental benefits of the landfill tax credit scheme. [90960]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Landfill tax is one of a number of measures designed to improve the efficient use of resources, encourage effective management of waste and meet our commitment to reduce the volume of household waste sent to landfill. Other measures include landfill allowance trading scheme, regulation and recycling targets for local authorities. As part of the annual Budget process, the Government assesses the impact of landfill tax alongside these initiatives against a range of social, economic and environmental factors, including assessing the volume of waste sent to landfill and the impact on business competitiveness.

There are clear signs that the landfill tax and the other initiatives are working together to reduce our reliance on landfill. The amount of active waste going to landfill fell by almost 16 per cent. between 1997 and 2005 while the economy grew by nearly 25 per cent.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last met his Scottish counterpart; and what subjects were discussed. [88764]

Barry Gardiner: Ministers have regular dialogues with ministerial colleagues in the Scottish Executive, discussing a wide range of issues of mutual interest. It is not our practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87649]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State's private office has not been decorated since the relocation of the ministerial team from 3-8 Whitehall Place to the Nobel House complex in 1997.

Natural England

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chair of Natural England since his appointment on the budget of Natural England; and what the outcome was. [90653]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* I have discussed budgetary issues with Sir Martin Doughty, the Chair of Natural England, and we have agreed a revised budget for 2006-07. We hope to agree a 2007-08 budget by November.

I understand the concerns which have been expressed by stakeholders about the impact of a reduced budget on Natural England's important work, but I am confident that Natural England will have sufficient resources to be an effective champion of the natural environment.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact problems at the Rural Payments Agency have had on other areas of the Department's expenditure; and whether all spending areas, including those non-departmental bodies within the Department's responsibilities, have received this year's funding allocation. [90757]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Additional resources were allocated at the start of the year to maintain staffing levels at the agency and ensure that farmers receive their single payment scheme payments as soon as possible. This accounts for only one of a number of pressures DEFRA has faced this year, including avian influenza incidents, the sum of which is estimated to be in the region of £200 million.

As a consequence of these pressures, all areas of the Department's spend have been subject to rigorous scrutiny as part of a current budget review. The review, while comprehensive in nature, is seeking to ensure that DEFRA's funding is placed where it can have the greatest impact. Ministers have agreed revised budgets for 2006-07 and business areas, including non-departmental bodies, will be informed of these decisions in the coming weeks.

The Rural Payments Agency's difficulties are by no means the sole reason for undertaking this budget review but only one component. It is sensible for all Government Departments to review spending on a regular basis to ensure that taxpayers' money is being used in the most effective way.

Trees

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage tree cover in each EU member state was on the latest date for which figures are available. [84120]

Barry Gardiner: Based on a 2005 report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, forest as a percentage of land area is given in the following table:

Country	*Forest as percentage of land cover*
Austria	47
Belgium	22
Cyprus	19
Czech Republic	34
Denmark	12
Estonia	54
Finland	74
France	28
Germany	32
Greece	29
Hungary	21
Ireland	10
Italy	34
Latvia	47
Lithuania	33
Luxembourg	34
Malta	1
Netherlands	11
Poland	30
Portugal	41
Slovakia	40
Slovenia	63
Spain	36
Sweden	67
United Kingdom	12

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

EU Legislative Proposals

Mr. Brady: To ask the Leader of the House what mechanisms he proposes to put in place for the House to review and comment on EU legislative proposals. [91071]

Mr. Straw: Possible reform of the system for scrutiny by the House of Commons of European legislative proposals and other documents, including the Government's response to the report of the Modernisation Committee last year on this subject, remains under review. I will be discussing these matters with, among others, the European Scrutiny Committee.

I would be happy to meet with the hon. Member to discuss the matter.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee

Lynne Jones: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 865W, on the Intelligence and Security Committee, how the challenge function within the assessments staff has been strengthened. [91032]

The Prime Minister: The challenge function within the assessments staff has been strengthened through the creation of a dedicated challenge team, which, inter alia, assists in testing alternative hypotheses, and reviewing past judgments.

Travel Restrictions (Russia)

Mr. Brady: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has received regarding restrictions on travel to Russia placed on William Browder, Chief Executive of Hermitage Capital Management (UK) Ltd. by the Russian Government; and whether he raised this case in his meetings with President Putin during the recent G8 summit. [91069]

The Prime Minister: I have received a number of representations regarding Mr. Browder's case. We have raised it on a number of occasions with members of the Russian Government. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments.

SCOTLAND

New Deal

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many young people not in education or employment or training have participated in the new deal in each year from 2001; and how many of these have subsequently gained employment. [91066]

David Cairns: This information is in the public domain and is available from the DWP website at:
http://193.115.152.21/new_deals/ndyp/live/tabtool.html

TRANSPORT

A27

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for significant improvements to the A27 in West Sussex. [90966]

Dr. Ladyman: Proposals for improvements to the A27 Chichester are being developed for Worthing and Arundel. At Chichester and Worthing these are part of a package of transport measures developed together with West Sussex county council. These schemes have not been prioritised by the region for start before 2011; the region is expected to report back later in the year on priorities for transport schemes to be delivered in the period 2011-16, and we will take a view then.

Aviation

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely overall change in cost to the British Aviation Industry as a result of increased charges by the European Aviation Safety Agency. [90619]

Gillian Merron: The Commission Regulation setting out the European Aviation Safety Agency's charges was amended in late May 2006 as part of a package of emergency measures to meet a predicted shortfall in the Agency's 2006 budget. Other measures included a substantial increase in funding from the European Community budget and savings in Agency expenditure.

Increases in tariffs were limited to the very largest manufacturers in the Community. At the same time some fees for small enterprises were reduced and procedural changes made which eased the administrative burdens on all industry.

Given the varying effects of these changes and their emergency and temporary nature no estimate has been made of the overall effect on costs to the UK industry. A few of the largest manufacturers will be subject to the increased tariffs, but the overall package of measures has ensured that the Agency is now able to meet the current certification needs of UK industry as a whole without costly delay.

The Agency has taken steps to put future budgeting on a firmer footing, including the identification of long term amendments to its fee structure to be put in place next year. The UK Civil Aviation Authority has seconded an expert to support the Agency's work in this area.

Bembridge Harbour

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date the audited accounts from the Bembridge Harbour Improvement Company for each of the last 10 financial years were received by his Department in accordance with the Bembridge Harbour Acts. [91034]

Dr. Ladyman: The audited annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2005 for the Bembridge Harbour Improvement Company were received on 25 August 2006. The Department has no record of receipt of accounts from Bembridge in the previous nine years.

Bus Regulations

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* scope and *(b)* timetable is for the review of bus regulations being undertaken by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [90745]

Gillian Merron: As announced to the Transport Select Committee on 28 June, I am taking a long, hard look at bus policy with the aim of taking decisions in the autumn on whether or not changes need to be made. I am looking at a whole range of issues surrounding bus services, discussing them with stakeholders and will be considering any recommendations from the Committee.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Department's working assumption is of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions from a passenger mile for *(a)* trains and *(b)* cars. [91023]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department estimates that, based on average passenger loadings, a typical car emits 114 grammes of carbon dioxide per passenger kilometre and a typical train 49 grammes of carbon dioxide per passenger kilometre. The Department keeps both sets of figures under review to take account of changes to the car and train fleet and average passenger loadings.

Concessionary Fares

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's policy is on the provision of concessionary bus passes for people aged over 60. [90594]

Gillian Merron: Currently, persons aged 60 and over and disabled people are entitled to free off-peak bus travel within their local authority area. Local authorities can at their discretion offer enhancements to the statutory minimum entitlement, such as peak bus travel, concessions on other modes, and travel into neighbouring authorities. The entitlement will be extended from April 2008 to allow eligible people to travel off-peak on any local bus service in the country for free.

Galileo Satellite Project

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the economic impact of the UK not making the next payment due in relation to the Galileo Satellite Project; [90695]

(2) how much is required by 24 August from the UK Government to meet their commitment in relation to the Galileo Satellite Project; [90696]

(3) how much the UK has spent on its stake in the Galileo Satellite Project; [90697]

(4) what plans he has to make the payments necessary to fulfil the UK's commitment to the Galileo Satellite Project by 24 August; [90698]

(5) what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK's stake in the Galileo Satellite Project if the further payments of funding are *(a)* made and *(b)* not made. [90699]

Dr. Ladyman: Member states of the European Space Agency were invited earlier this year to provide further funding to meet the increased requirements of the development phase of the Galileo satellite navigation programme. Ministers have considered collectively the issue of making a further subscription to the Agency for Galileo. Following this my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry asked his officials to inform the Agency that the UK would be contributing an additional €31 million. This decision was notified to the Agency within the agreed subscription period that expired on 24 August. Previous contributions from the UK to the Agency for this programme have been €15.3 million (at 1998 prices) for the definition phase and €95.7 million (at 2001 prices) towards the development and validation phase.

Marine Environment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many enforcement actions there were related to Coastguard and other agencies' marine protection powers in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions were obtained in each year. [91088]

Dr. Ladyman: Figures recorded by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency are as follows:

	Investigations	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
2001	3	0	0
2002	15	2	2
2003	7	1	1
2004	8	1	1
2005	3	4	4

It should be noted that these figures relate to pollution from ships into the sea. They do not relate to pollution into harbour authority areas, for which harbour authorities keep separate records. They also do not relate to pollution from land into the sea for which the Environment Agency keeps records.

Rail Infrastructure

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of climate change on rail infrastructure. [90725]

Dr. Ladyman: In 2004, the Department for Transport commissioned a study into the impact of climate change across all transport modes[1] including rail. This work was informed by a climate adaptation study sponsored by the Rail Safety and Standards Board in 2003[2]. More recently, DEFRA published a case study considering the potential impact of climate change on the rail sector[3].

In addition to these studies, the Department maintains a close dialogue with Network Rail and other rail industry stakeholders in order to develop a better understanding of climate change risks and mitigation opportunities.

The Department will use this work and other climate change research to inform the development of its long term rail strategy, which will be published in summer 2007.

[1] The Changing Climate: Impact on the Department for Transport
http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_science/documents/pdf/dft_science_pdf_027568.pdf

[2] Safety implications of weather, climate and climate change
http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/reports/research/safety%20implications%20of%20weather.%20climate%20and%20climate%20change.pdf

[3] Railway Industry Case Study
http://www.defra.gov.uk/science/Project_Data/DocumentLibrary/GA01074/GA01074_3511_ABS.pdf

Sheffield Airport

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps his Department is taking to secure the future of Sheffield airport; and if he will make a statement; [90624]

(2) what assessment he has made of the environmental impact on South Yorkshire of the development of Sheffield Airport. [90625]

Gillian Merron: Sheffield City airport has incurred substantial losses in the past and commercial services were stopped in August 2002, since when it has operated as a general aviation facility with facilities for commercial airlines now available at the nearby Robin Hood airport.

Sheffield city council has received a planning application for a business park on part of the site, leaving the runway accessible to helicopters and light aircraft. The environmental impact of the development is a matter for the local authority to take into account when considering the planning application.

Speed Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were employed in the Essex camera enforcement office in each year since 1997; and what the annual administrative costs were in each year. [90885]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport does not hold this level of information; it may be available from Essex police.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue speed cameras have generated in Essex in each year since 1997; and how much of that revenue has been spent in Essex. [90886]

Dr. Ladyman: The information on fines and penalties for speeding offences detected by speed cameras in Essex is available for 1999-2003 and is set out in table A which has been provided by the Home Office. I am advised by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary that his Department's available information relates to the amount of fines ordered to be paid following speed offences detected by camera, not all of which may have been paid. This table shows all speeding offences in Essex including those detected outside the National Safety Camera Programme in Essex.

Information on the total revenue from offences detected by speed camera is not collected centrally, but an estimate can be made from the number of court imposed fines and fixed penalties and is given in the table from 1997 to 2004 (latest available).

2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Table A: Fixed penalty and court proceedings data for speeding offences detected by cameras[1] in the Essex police force area, 1999-2003

	Fixed penalties		Court proceedings		
Offence and year	*Number of tickets[2]*	*Estimated revenue (£)[3]*	*Number of fines*	*Total amount of fine (£)*	*Average fine[4]*
1997	18,800	753,700	880	93,900	107
1998	8700	346600	1700	227400	134
1999	19,800	791,400	2,100	357,400	169
2000	46,300	2,007,000	2,800	317,800	115
2001	81,900	4,911,000	6,500	651,200	101
2002	98,100	5,886,000	12,200	1,022,000	84
2003	64,500	3,872,000,	7,400	687,700	93
2004	65,300	3,912,000	6,700	536,900	81

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[2] Paid i.e. no further action.
[3] Estimate based on £40 fixed penalty charge to October 2000. From November 2000 the penalty was raised to £60.
[4] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

The latest available information on the amount recovered and spent in Essex to cover the costs of the Essex Safety Camera Partnership is set out in table B.

Table B: Amount recovered from speed and red light camera offences for Essex Safety Camera Partnership costs as part of the National Safety Camera Programme

Financial year	£
2000-01	1,846,480
2001-02	3,179,304
2002-03	5,150,286
2003-04	5,037,293
2004-05	4,622,413

Terrorism

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the procedures to deal with a serious terrorist alert at London's airports were last exercised prior to August 2006. [90904]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Most recently, the contingency plans were put in place for BAA London airports following the events of 7 July 2005. The National Aviation Security Programme requires the production, development and exercise of security contingency plans by aerodrome managers, aircraft operators and others in the aviation industry. All the London airports regularly undertake their own live and table-top exercises as well as taking part in other agencies' exercises.

Thames Gateway

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received regarding the proposed Thames Gateway bridge. [90824]

Dr. Ladyman: Ministers in the Department have received a limited number of letters from members of the public on the Thames Gateway bridge over recent months, either directly or via MPs.

Thameslink

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the bidders for the renewal of the Thameslink franchise expressed an interest in re-opening the Luton to Dunstable branch line; and why this offer was not taken up. [90705]

Gillian Merron: None of the bidders involved in last year's competition for the Thameslink/Great Northern franchise offered to invest in re-opening the Luton to Dunstable branch line.

Traffic Officer Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service; and if he will make a statement. [90893]

Dr. Ladyman: The Traffic Officer Service was first established in the West Midlands (WM) region in April 2004.

Two targets were set for the WM region in the 2005-06 Highways Agency business plan:

1. For the busiest sections of motorway in the West Midlands, HA Traffic Officers will attend 75 per cent. of incidents within 15 minutes of being deployed.

The WM service achieved 92 per cent. in 15 minutes.

2. In the West Midlands, HA Traffic Officers will clear 75 per cent. of incidents within 30 minutes of taking full responsibility for re-opening the road to traffic.

The WM service achieved 84 per cent.

This experience has enabled the Highways Agency to identify a set of key performance indicators for the service. These indicators will be used to measure the activities that will contribute to delivery of the public sector agreement (PSA) target for journey reliability 2007-08 and to the delivery of the financial benefits of the service. The financial benefits derived from the introduction of the Traffic Officer Service are not due to be assessed until 2008 when the service will have been fully operational across all regions for 12 months. The Highways Agency has analysed data over a 12 month period for the West Midlands and observed a 2 per cent. reduction in incident related congestion.

I would expect the full assessment, which will cover the impacts of introducing the Traffic Officer Service on reducing incident related congestion; improving safety; and freeing up police resources for tackling criminality on the strategic road network to be published at the end of 2008 when the data have been gathered and analysed.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what has been the cost of the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service since it was introduced. [90894]

Dr. Ladyman: The cost of the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service since it was introduced is £180,369,505.00.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments (Sussex)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* head count staff and *(b)* whole-time equivalents work in (i) Brighton Royal Sussex county hospital accident and emergency department and (ii) Worthing hospital accident and emergency department; how many of these are agency staff; and what the annual budget was for staff in each of the last five years. [90973]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not collected centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency admissions were handled by the Royal Sussex county hospital in Brighton in each of the last five years; what increase in admissions is assumed if the Worthing accident and emergency department is downgraded; and what studies have been carried out to ensure the capacity of Brighton Royal Sussex county hospital to handle an increase in admissions. [90974]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not collected in the requested format. The following table shows the number of admissions to hospital via type one accident and emergency (A&E) for the Brighton and Sussex university hospitals NHS trust and Worthing and Southlands hospitals NHS trust for the last five years.

Number of admissions via type one A&E

	Brighton and Sussex university hospitals NHS trust	*Worthing and Southlands hospitals NHS trust*
2005-06	17,331	14,124
2004-05	16,901	13,688
2003-04	15,639	12,168
2002-03	17,779	11,911
2001-02[1]	[2]13,732	[2]7,809

[1] Prior to Q1 2002-03, Brighton and Sussex university hospitals NHS trust did not exist. Data from before this date are from the two constituent trusts of Brighton Healthcare NHS Trust and Mid Sussex NHS Trust.
[2] Admissions via A&E were first collected in Q2 2001-02, so that data for 2001-02 are for the last three quarters only.

Anti-psychotic Drug Treatments

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 60 years were prescribed anti-psychotic drug treatments on the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in 2005; and if she will make a statement. [90550]

Andy Burnham: Information is not available in the form requested. The Department does not hold data on the number of people who are prescribed medication. However in 2005 the total number of prescriptions dispensed for anti-psychotic drugs in England as a whole was 2,352,000. The number of prescriptions dispensed to those aged 60 and over, by strategic health authority (SHA), is detailed as follows:

Total number of anti-psychotics prescriptions dispensed to those aged 60 and over in each SHA in England in 2005

SHA	*Total*
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	101,000
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	63,000
Birmingham and The Black Country	114,000
Chester and Merseyside	121,000
County Durham and Tees Valley	67,000
Cumbria and Lancashire	114,000
Essex	64,000
Greater Manchester	175,000
Hampshire and Isle of White	85,000
Kent and Medway	72,000
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	62,000

Total number of anti-psychotics prescriptions dispensed to those aged 60 and over in each SHA in England in 2005

SHA	Total
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	85,000
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	107,000
North Central London	43,000
North East London	55,000
North West London	58,000
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	74,000
Shropshire and Staffordshire	70,000
Somerset and Dorset	52,000
South East London	54,000
South West London	55,000
South West Peninsula	76,000
South Yorkshire	68,000
Surrey and Sussex	124,000
Thames Valley	86,000
Trent	124,000
West Midlands South	70,000
West Yorkshire	113,000

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals have been diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorders in *(a)* England and *(b)* each London borough in each year since 1997. [90549]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested on diagnoses of autistic spectrum disorders, for England and London since 1997 is shown in the following table. Information is only available by strategic health authority area and not by London borough.

Diagnosis of patients for autistic spectrum disorders national health service hospitals, England 1997-98 to 2004-05

Codes	Strategic Health Authority of Residence	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2000-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Q04	North West London	25	35	27	38	41	49	61	100
Q05	North Central London	18	34	38	38	27	47	68	73
Q06	North East London	26	36	41	33	69	74	59	100
Q07	South East London	33	39	52	50	76	71	86	100
Q08	South West London	43	45	44	65	56	90	74	90
	Total of London SHAs	145	189	202	224	269	331	348	463
	England	1,420	1,852	2,179	2,586	2,762	3,243	3,586	4,196

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre

Better Healthcare Closer to Home

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will *(a)* provide and *(b)* authorise funding for the Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme devised by the Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust, Epsom and St. Helier NHS University Trust and other organisations. [90946]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an issue for the London Strategic Health Authority (SHA).

In August 2006 the Secretary of State wrote to the chief executive of the London SHA asking him to review the proposals for a new critical care hospital and the model of care for the area more generally, including issues of affordability.

Branded Generic Drugs

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the results of the 2005 consultation on the reimbursement of branded generic drugs is expected to be published; and if she will make a statement; [90700]

(2) what her Department's policy is on the reimbursement by the NHS of branded generic medicines; [90701]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the effects on the NHS of reimbursing generic medicines below the drug tariff price. [90702]

Andy Burnham: Standard branded generics are covered by the provisions of the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme, subject to the outcome of public consultations (issued in January and September 2005) on proposals to transfer them to the new arrangements for the reimbursement for generic medicines.

Officials are currently reviewing the responses to proposals which have raised a number of complex issues. These responses require careful consideration. The Department has not determined its final conclusion on this matter and has not set any deadline that may constrain its deliberations.

There is no assessment to be made of the effects on the national health service as prescriptions for generic medicines, if listed, are reimbursed at drug tariff prices.

Breastfeeding

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of newborn babies exclusively breastfed until six months old. [91024]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland there was a significant increase in the incidence of breastfeeding between 2000 and 2005. However, no estimate of the proportion of newborn babies exclusively breastfed up until six months old has been made up to date.

The National Infant Feeding Survey 2005 is expected to provide information on the levels of exclusive breastfeeding up until six months old.

The results of the survey are expected in late spring 2007.

Broomfield Hospital

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Broomfield Hospital private finance initiative scheme to be approved; what obstacles need to be overcome before the scheme can be approved; and if she will make a statement. [90883]

Andy Burnham: The proposals for the new Broomfield private finance initiative (PFI) hospital have been considered as part of the PFI review by the Department. Further work, currently being undertaken by the trust and the strategic health authority, is needed to address outstanding affordability and capacity issues. An announcement about the scheme will be made in due course.

Care Costs

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people she estimates sold their homes to pay for long-term care in 2005-06; [90868]

(2) what percentage of patients who received long-term care from the national health service in 2005-06 had to pay towards their care; [90869]

(3) what steps the Department is taking to reduce the number of patients who have to sell their homes to pay for long-term nursing care. [90870]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service care, including continuing care and nursing care, is free at the point of delivery.

Social services care is means tested, based on an individual's assets, and is provided by local councils.

Since 2001, no one has had to sell their home in order to enter a care home as they can agree a deferred payment with their council, which is claimed back at a later date. Under this scheme, the council meets the cost of the care home place and these costs are recouped from the estate of the resident on death.

The Department has made no estimate of the number of people who have sold their homes to pay for their own social care.

Choice Agenda

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost *(a)* has been and *(b)* is expected to be over the next five years of the introduction of the choice agenda in the NHS. [91081]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In respect of choice at referral for planned care, the national audit office's report, "Patient Choice at the Point of Referral", published in January 2005, accepted our estimate of £122 million for the likely additional annual infrastructure costs and transaction costs for patient choice. The total spend on elective care in 2003-04 was £8.7 billion.

Choice will lead to increased efficiencies in both primary and secondary care as described in the national audit office's report. In hospitals, these efficiencies should include reductions in missed appointments and cancellations, meaning clinics can be run more efficiently. The cost of these in 2003-04 was approximately £100 million for the 1.5 million missed first out-patient appointments that are most likely to be addressed by choice.

"Health Reform in England—Update and Commissioning Framework" published in July 2006 signalled our intention to extend choice outside routine planned care. This is currently subject to an initial consultation on the overriding approach. Estimated costs are therefore not available for the next five years.

Choose and Book

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have used choose and book other than in doctors' surgeries to make appointments in secondary care. [89093]

Andy Burnham: 122,186 (83 per cent.) patient bookings were made through choose and book outside of general practitioner surgeries during June 2006. This figure excludes bookings made by local appointment lines, but includes patients booking via NHS Direct (20,271), through the internet (3,067) and into indirectly bookable services (98,848). The precise number of bookings actually made by patients themselves is not separately identifiable.

Chronic Fatigue Service

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on the provision of the chronic fatigue service in Leeds and West Yorkshire; and whether the value of her Department's direct funding for the service will be maintained in real terms over the next three years. [90922]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at 7 September 2006, the Department had received 23 letters from Members of Parliament and 22 letters from members of the public regarding the chronic fatigue service in Leeds and West Yorkshire.

In July 2006, strategic health authorities were given details of their share of almost £5.5 billion that had been earmarked for specific projects, including the funding of centres for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME). It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that services are provided to meet the needs of those living with CFS/ME.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what conclusions have been reached as a result of the discussions the Department has had with local NHS trusts in Northamptonshire in the last 12 months on tackling clostridium difficile in hospitals. [90613]

Andy Burnham: The Department has highlighted to the NHS East Midlands Strategic Health Authority the need for NHS trusts and primary care trusts to implement best practice and learn the lessons of the recent Healthcare Commission report on Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust has been working with the Health Protection Agency for some time to reduce the number of cases of clostridium difficile.

Connecting for Health IT Programme

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been of the Connecting for Health IT programme. [90803]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 331-32W.

Consultants

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rates of pay *(a)* consultant surgeons and *(b)* consultant anaesthetists receive from (i) independent sector treatment centres and (ii) NHS providers; how many (A) male and (B) female consultants are employed in each case; and if she will make a statement. [90605]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A new contract for consultants was agreed in 2003. There are around 90 per cent. of all consultants employed on those terms. Consultants working in independent treatment centres (ISTCs) on national health service terms and conditions will be paid on the same salary scale as those employed in NHS trusts. The salary scale for consultants employed on NHS terms and conditions starts at £70,822 and rises to £95,831.

The following table shows the breakdown of consultant surgeons and consultant anaesthetists in England by gender.

	Consultant anaesthetists	*Consultant surgeons*
Male	3,261	5,512
Female	1,241	476
Total	4,502	5,988

Source:
NHS Census 2005

Where staff are employed by ISTCs their terms and conditions are a matter for the employer and employee. We do not have any data on the arrangements agreed.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount staff were employed in (i) her Department and (ii) each of her Department's arm's length bodies in each year since 1997. [90631]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The full-time equivalent numbers of staff employed by the Department of Health in each year since 1997, which have been taken from the Department's Annual Reports for the years 2002 to 2006, are as follows:

	As at 31 March each year				
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
Core DH	4,486	4,247	3,611	3,753	3,632
NHS Pensions Agency	—	—	464	444	452
Medicine and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Devices Agency	—	144	143	141	149
Medicines Control Agency	378	413	492	490	436
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency (PASA)	—	—	—	285	291
NHS Estates	139	144	242	270	326
Total	5,003	4,804	4,953	5,100	5,272

	As at 31 March each year				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Core DH	3,809	3,390	2,964	2,189	2,364
NHS Pensions Agency	466	268	258	—	—
Medicine and Healthcare product Regulatory Agency	—	747	781	863	—
Medical Devices Agency	156	—	—	—	—
Medicines Control Agency	574	519	—	—	—
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency (PASA)	309	328	332	328	—
NHS Estates	435	390	375	314	—
Total	5,724	5,032	4,672	3,616	3,555

For special health authorities and non-departmental public bodies of the Department, we can only provide information from 2004-05 onwards. Obtaining the figures from earlier years would involve carrying out a collection exercise from numerous individual bodies and would incur disproportionate costs.

	WTE		
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Healthcare Commission	771	771	771
Mental Health Act Commission	36	43	43
Monitor	28	28	28
Commission for Social Care Inspection	2,622	2,492	2,335
Human Fertility and Embryology Authority	106	103	79
Human Tissue Authority	—	16	20
Commission for Regulation of Healthcare Professionals	11	11	11
General Social Care Council	262	262	234
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board	36	67	50
Dental Vocational Training Authority	32	—	—
National Institute Clinical Excellence	230	217	226
National Patients Safety Agency	238	281	281
Health Protection Agency	3,144	3,287	3,268
National Biological Standards Board	308	313	318
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse	88	126	132
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health	189	118	118
National Blood Authority (including BPL)	5,599	6,155	6,110
UK Transplant (merger into NHSBT)	121	—	—
NHS Litigation Authority	166	155	155
NHS Appointments Commission	51	58	57
Health and Social Care Information Centre	366	366	366
Dental Practice Board (See below part of British Service Authority (BSA))	—	—	—
Prescription Pricing Authority (See following part of BSA)	—	—	—
NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service (See following part of BSA)	—	—	—
NHS Pensions Agency(See following part of BSA)	—	—	—
Business Services Authority	2580	3,084	2,082
NHS Logistics	1,462	1,462	—
NHS Direct	3,461	3,461	—
NHS Professionals	807	742	871
NHS Institute for Learning, Skills and Innovation	170	170	170
National Programme for IT/Connecting for Health	786	605	605
Total	23,641	24,393	18,330

Emergency Readmissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to question 90302, what assessment she has made of the reasons behind the trend in the rate of 28-day emergency readmissions since quarter one of 2002-03. [90978]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Patients may be readmitted within 28 days of a previous admission for a wide variety of reasons unconnected with that earlier episode of care. Preliminary analysis suggests that the rise in readmissions is not confined to particular specialities. The Department has commissioned the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development to analyse the data further to see what conclusions can be drawn.

Event Monitor Hypoxia Study

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ensure that medical information stored in special case files held by Professor David Southall as part of the NHS-funded research relating to the Event Monitor Hypoxia Study and continuous negative extrathoracic pressure is copied into the patients' NHS medical files; and if she will make a statement. [90582]

Andy Burnham: Decisions about disclosure of medical information to clinicians for incorporation within medical records are the responsibility of the individuals to whom the findings relate. Researchers owe these individuals a duty of confidentiality. They are expected to clarify (either in advance, or where practicable, through subsequent contact with affected research participants) whether the individuals consent to the disclosure of the relevant information.

Funding (Warrington)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much capital funding has been received by Warrington hospital in each year since 1997; and which projects have been funded as a result. [91056]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much health funding has been spent in Warrington per head of population in each year since 1997. [91057]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested. However, expenditure per head for Warrington primary care trust is shown in the following table.

Warrington primary care trust

	Expenditure per head (£)
2002-03	815.42
2003-04	986.72
2004-05	1,056.59

Notes:
1. Warrington primary care trust did not come into existence until 1 April 2002. Figures cannot be provided prior to this date as Warrington was not a specific area for accounts data.
2. Expenditure on general dental services and pharmaceutical services accounted for by the Dental Practice Board and Prescription Pricing Authority, respectively, are excluded. This expenditure cannot be included within the figures for the individual health bodies as they are not included in commissioner accounts.

Sources:
1. Audited summarisation schedules of Warrington Primary Care Trusts 2002-03 to 2004-05.
2. Population figures.

Gloucestershire Partnership Trust

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with the strategic health authority responsible for the Gloucestershire Partnership Trust on the financial situation of that trust; whether merger with another body has been considered; and how the impact of changes to the current administrative arrangements will be measured. [90755]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Discussions about finance form part of the routine activity between the Department and the strategic health authorities (SHAs) on an ongoing basis.

It is the responsibility of SHAs to deliver both overall financial balance for their local health communities and to ensure each and every organisation achieves financial balance. From 2006-07, SHAs have the responsibility to develop and implement a service and financial strategy for managing the financial position within their locality. They will develop this with primary care trusts and national health service trusts in their area.

It is for local trusts to determine the appropriate pattern of local services, including reconfiguration of services within the available resources. NHS South West SHA has advised that mergers have been considered but are not deemed appropriate at this stage.

GovNet Expo 2006

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost is to the NHS of supporting GovNet Expo 2006. [79221]

Ms Rosie Winterton: GovNet Expo is organised by GovNet Events, part of GovNet Communications, a commercial media, conference and publications company, which is not funded by Government. Attendance at this event is free to the public sector, so costs will be limited to travel and expenses. The Department however, does not monitor these costs for individual national health service organisations.

Health Inequalities

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the extent to which each spearhead area is on track to meet the 2010 health inequalities target; and if she will make a statement. [91036]

Caroline Flint: The 2010 health inequalities target is based on the performance of the spearhead areas as a whole. The extent to which each individual spearhead area is on track to narrow their local life expectancy gap with England by 10 per cent. by 2010 is shown in the following list. While the national trend is for a continuing widening in the life expectancy gap between spearhead areas and England, the table shows that some 19 per cent. of spearhead areas are on track for males and females with a further 41 per cent. on track for either males or females.

Current activity to support achievement of the target includes improving our understanding of the key interventions to improve life expectancy in spearhead areas. Fast gains in life expectancy can be made by reducing the prevalence of smoking, effective control of blood pressure and cholesterol, and good care of people with long-term conditions such as diabetes. Improving performance management is also important and we have made health inequalities one of the Department's top six priorities for the national health service, and it will be a mandatory target within local area agreements.

We are also looking to spread best practice across all spearhead areas, and provide support for those areas that need it.

Assessment of spearhead area progress (70 local authority areas) against narrowing the local life expectancy gap with England[1]

On track for both male and female life expectancy (13 areas)

Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Lambeth
Southwark
Tower Hamlets
St. Helens
Coventry
Stockton-on-Tees
Warrington
Carlisle
Derwentside
Hyndburn
Nuneaton and Bedworth

On track for female life expectancy only (14 areas)

Greenwich
Haringey
Bury
Rochdale
Tameside
Barnsley
Doncaster
Gateshead
Newcastle upon Tyne

Birmingham
Wolverhampton
Redcar and Cleveland
Rossendale
Blyth Valley

On track for male life expectancy only (15 areas)

Lewisham
Newham
Manchester
Knowsley
Wirral
Walsall
Blackburn with Darwen
Chester-le-Street
Sedgefield
Wear Valley
Preston
Lincoln
Corby
Wansbeck
Tamworth

Off track for male and female life expectancy (28 areas)

Barking and Dagenham
Islington
Bolton
Oldham
Salford
Wigan
Liverpool
Rotherham
North Tyneside
South Tyneside
Sunderland
Sandwell
Bradford
Wakefield
Hartlepool
Middlesbrough
Halton
Blackpool
Kingston upon Hull, City of
North East Lincolnshire
Leicester
Nottingham
Stoke-on-Trent
Barrow-in-Furness
Bolsover
Easington
Burnley
Pendle

[1] The assessment is based on modelling a reduction of 10 per cent. in the gap with England for each spearhead area on the assumption that overall public service agreement life expectancy target for England to increase life expectancy at birth to 78.6 years for men, and to 82.5 years for women is reached. Confidence limits on the data mean that there will be a degree of uncertainty in the assessments—the assessment is based on the mid-point of the confidence interval of life expectancy for the spearhead areas.

Health Services (Sussex)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from managers of the South East Coast strategic health authority and the West Sussex primary care trust regarding effects of the funding formula on health funding in Sussex. [90776]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State has received no direct representations from managers at NHS South East Coast and Western Sussex primary care trust (PCT) regarding the effects of the funding formula on health funding in Sussex.

Revenue allocations are made to PCTs on the basis of a fair funding formula that directs funding to those areas of greatest need. To ensure equity in resource allocation, the development of the formula is kept under continuous review by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press and publicity officers are employed within the South East Coast strategic health authority; and at what cost. [90777]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what improvements in health services in Sussex are being considered as part of Fit for the Future. [90778]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The former Surrey and Sussex strategic health authority, now part of NHS South East Coast, is responsible for the "Creating an NHS Fit for the Future" programme. The NHS South East Coast reports that it is envisaged that patients in Sussex will benefit from having access to a clinically and financially sustainable health system which makes the best use of its resources to improve the health of the population and provide quicker and more convenient care closer to, or inside, peoples homes.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has undertaken on journey times between Worthing hospital and the Royal Sussex county hospital in Brighton; and what projections have been made for *(a)* five and *(b)* 10 years' time taking account of likely traffic growth. [90779]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect this information centrally. This is a matter for the local national health service.

Health Trusts

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes in *(a)* job numbers, *(b)* services and *(c)* beds each primary care and health trust has made in response to this year's financial position; and if she will make a statement. [76611]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not hold the information requested centrally.

Hospital Food

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on hospital food and nutrition in each NHS trust in England in each of the last five years. [90798]

Andy Burnham: Information on the amount spent on provisions has been placed in the Library. Information is not collected on how much is spent on nutrition.

The provisions data has been provided by national health service organisations to the Department of Health and has not been amended centrally. The completeness and accuracy of this data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Up to 2003-04, provisions data were collected on a compulsory basis. From 2004-05 onwards, such data were was provided voluntarily as part of a benchmarking exercise and therefore may be incomplete.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was allocated to *(a)* the better hospital food programme and *(b)* the Eating Well in Hospitals scheme in each year since their inception; and if she will make a statement on her plans for each scheme; [90799]

(2) how much has been spent by central Government on improving hospital nutrition in each year since 1997. [90800]

Andy Burnham: Information is not available in the exact format requested.

Between 2000 and 2005, around £34.5 million was spent on the better hospital food programme. This includes funding distributed directly to trusts, central initiatives such as the development of the menu planner and recipe book, and administrative costs for running the better hospital food panel.

"Eating Well in Hospital" refers to a broad group of activities undertaken by a range of organisations, not to a specific Department of Health or national health service programme. There is no specific funding.

The better hospital food programme closed in April 2006. It set an excellent foundation and resulted in measurable improvements in the quality and availability of hospital food. Taking this work forward is now a matter for local determination.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital were malnourished in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by (i) age and (ii) strategic health authority. [90801]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested has been placed in the Library. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year. Information on whether a patient was suffering from malnutrition when discharged from hospital is not held centrally.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were *(a)* admitted with malnutrition and *(b)* treated for malnutrition after admission in London hospitals in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [90825]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the form requested. However, the table shows the number of people admitted to hospitals within London strategic health authorities with malnutrition for the years 2000-01 to 2004-05.

Data year	*Number of people*
2004-05	33
2003-04	38
2002-03	42
2001-02	45
2000-01	37

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people suffering from malnutrition when they were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital spent (i) up to a week, (ii) between a week and a month, (iii) between one month and three months and (iv) more than three months in hospital in the last period for which figures are available; [90881]

(2) what estimate she has made of the percentage of people suffering from malnutrition when they are *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital who receive regular visits from friends or family throughout their stay. [90882]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on whether a patient was suffering from malnutrition when discharged from hospital is not held centrally. Information on the number of people admitted to hospital due to malnutrition in 2004-05, broken down by length of stay, is provided in the table.

Counts of in-year discharge episodes and counts of individual patients, Primary diagnosis = malnutrition, NHS hospitals in England, 2004-05

Length of stay group	*In-year discharge*	
	Episodes	*Patients*
Up to 1 week	100	75
1 to less than 4 weeks	98	98
4 weeks to less than 3 months	57	57
3 months to less than 1 year	5	5
Total	260	235

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Information on whether a patient received regular visits from friends or family throughout their stay in hospital is not held centrally.

Hunter's Syndrome

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Elaprase is available for the treatment of Hunter's syndrome in the NHS. [90675]

Andy Burnham: Elapase is not yet licensed in the United Kingdom for the treatment of Hunter's syndrome.

As with any unlicensed drug, it is down to individual clinicians to decide whether to prescribe it for an individual patient. The clinician makes these decisions after discussions with patients about the potential risks and taking into account their medical history.

The clinician's decision does, however, need to be supported by the primary care trust which will be responsible for paying for the drug.

Independent Service Providers

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the NHS budget was paid to independent providers of *(a)* care and *(b)* support services in each of the last three financial years; and what percentage of its budget the NHS expects to pay to independent providers of each kind of service in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2009. [85282]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available centrally.

Annual financial returns of national health service bodies provide the Department with total expenditure on services provided by all non-NHS bodies, including local authorities, other statutory bodies, the independent sector and overseas, and cannot be disaggregated.

Independent Treatment Centres

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS hospitals will have hosted independent treatment centres by December 2006; [90804]

(2) what the average cost to an NHS Trust of hosting one independent treatment centre was in the last period for which figures are available. [90806]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are currently 14 open independent sector treatment centre facilities sited on national health service property with a further three facilities planned before December 2006. In addition one facility sited on NHS property has completed its contract.

Arrangements are agreed locally but no 'hosting' costs should be incurred by the NHS body. The provider may pay the NHS rent for the use of the land or facility or for the provision of any services such as maintenance, cleaning, security etc.

Infant Health Services

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of whether Enfield primary care trust's decision to end routine developmental assessments of babies is consistent with the Every Child Matters national agenda. [90796]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS London has confirmed that Enfield primary care trust is not stopping developmental checks. The two year check has been suspended for six months while NHS London puts in place changes to children's services. These changes will include merging teams of health professionals. Parents can continue to visit local baby clinics and contact their health visiting team to seek advice.

Influenza Pandemic

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her letter to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire dated 27 July 2006, reference PO00000120687, whether she plans to procure centrally the disposable respirator EN149:2001 FFP3 and stockpile it for use by healthcare workers in the event of an influenza pandemic; and what research she expects to conduct with the 3.5 million doses of A/H5N1 vaccine. [90629]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We recommend that those healthcare workers performing procedures that have the potential to generate aerosols should wear FFP3 respirators. We are currently considering whether we should centrally procure and stockpile FFP3 respirators and a decision will be reached as soon as possible.

The H5N1 vaccine has also been offered free-of-charge to any research group which has been funded by the medical research council to study H5N1 vaccine, and we keep under review what further research may be necessary with this vaccine.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have held with the United Kingdom Vaccines Industry Group since 1 July 2006 regarding the production capacity of manufacturers for this year's winter influenza season following their switch to the X-161B strain; what the content of these discussions was; and if she will make a statement. [90632]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The United Kingdom Vaccine Industry Group has notified the Department that the new reassortant strain for production of the H3N2 strain recommended by the EU regulatory authorities has demonstrated an improvement in vaccine yield. This has resulted in over 15 million doses of flu vaccine becoming available for distribution in the UK.

Irlen Syndrome

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many school children are estimated to suffer from Irlen Syndrome; and what progress is being made in encouraging its early diagnosis. [90957]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect the requested data.

If a parent or child experiences symptoms associated with descriptions of Mears Irlen Syndrome they should discuss the problem with the child's school and consult an optometrist to ensure that the possibility of refractive error or eye disease is not overlooked. If after a sight test (and glasses if necessary) a child is still experiencing difficulties, then a wider assessment is called for. This is something that local education and health authorities should take forward in view of their responsibilities for services in their areas.

Kerr/Haslam Inquiry

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 672W, on William Kerr/Michael Haslam, when she expects to publish the recommendations from the Kerr/Haslam Inquiry which are not directly affected by the consultation on the review of medical and non-medical regulation; and which of those recommendations are being implemented. [90658]

Andy Burnham: As I said in the earlier reply on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 672W, there are close similarities between the issues raised by the Kerr/Haslam Inquiry, the Ayling and Neale Inquiries, and the fifth report of the Shipman Inquiry. We therefore think it would be more helpful to the national health service, and would better serve to protect patients, to publish a joint response to all four reports with a single integrated programme of action to take forward the measures needed. We will not be publishing a separate formal response to the individual inquiries or to individual recommendations from them. Preparatory work is under way on many of the individual recommendations and will be reflected in due course in the formal response.

Local Area Agreements

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress she has made towards encouraging primary care trusts and local authorities to consider the potential for local area agreements to facilitate joint public engagement on health and social care; and how she expects these local area agreements to work. [90848]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The role of primary care trusts (PCTs) to work with the local authority and other local partners to develop and deliver the local area agreement (LAA) for their area has been set out in successive government guidance on national health service local delivery plans and LAAs and in correspondence to strategic health authorities. LAAs have great potential to deliver improvements in health and social care outcomes, as set out in the "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" White Paper. Both health and social care outcomes are well represented within the 87 LAAs so far agreed by the Government.

The recent first annual reviews of the pilot LAAs showed strong performance across a number of health and social care priorities.

LAAs have proved an important catalyst for improved partnership working. Many of the pilot areas reported a step change in effective partnership and cross-agency planning and working, particularly between the PCT and the local authority in the way services are commissioned—this has contributed to strong performance in outcomes for older people.

LAAs have also encouraged creativity and innovation by focussing on outcomes, increasing capacity through partnership and joint accountability.

Local Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further consideration she has given to the options for a community call for action and the use of petitions as a lever for improvements in local services, as set out in the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say". [90845]

Ms Rosie Winterton: "Health Reform in England: Update and Commissioning Framework" was published in July 2006, and a copy is available in the Library.

In the annex to this document, the commissioning framework, there are further proposals concerning the use of petitions by members of the community to call for action by primary care trusts. These proposals are subject to a consultation process which is due to close on 6 October 2006. Plans will be finalised, and further guidance will be issued, following the conclusion of this consultation.

Maternity Units

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultant led and *(b)* midwife led maternity units are being considered for closure. [90627]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally. Decisions on local health care provision, including maternity services, is a matter for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities in consultation with the local population.

Medical Research

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ensure that patients and guardians are given a right of access to research protocols for medical research in which they are involved. [90733]

Andy Burnham: Potential research participants have to make a considered choice whether to consent to participate in research. They should receive the information they need in order to weigh up the risks and benefits. Research ethics committees review carefully whether the information is adequate. It is normally presented as an information sheet summarizing the research project, with details of how potential participants can request further information if they wish. They may ask for the research protocol.

Research protocols held by public authorities would normally be disclosed on request. Some parts of research protocols may be confidential.

Medical/Dental Staff

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* GPs and *(b)* dentists there are in (i) absolute terms and (ii) per 1,000 population in (A) rural areas and (B) non-rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [84624]

Andy Burnham: The following table sets out the number of general practitioners and dentists in absolute terms and per 1,000 of the population, in England, by primary care trust type according to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs classification.

PCT type[5]	All general medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] as at 30 September 2005		General dental services and personal dental services dentists[2,3,4] as at 31 March 2006	
	Number	Number per 1,000 of the population[6]	Number	Number per 1,000 of the population[6]
Major urban	11,278	0.65	9,332	0.54
Large urban	4,782	0.65	3,695	0.50
Other urban	3,986	0.63	3,400	0.54
Significant rural	4,165	0.63	3,182	0.49
Rural-50	5,770	0.68	3,881	0.46
Rural-80	2,757	0.69	1,779	0.45
Total for England	32,738	0.65	21,111	0.42

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted GPs, general medical services others and personal medical services others.
[2] The data has been summed from PCT results to obtain the split for each classification group. Some dentists may have an open GDS or PDS contract in more than one PCT and will therefore have been counted more than once. The total number of dentists given for England does not include duplication.
[3] The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to PCTs.
[4] A dentist with a GDS or PDS contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the PCT. Information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists is not centrally available.
[5] This uses the Defra classification of PCTs developed by the Rural Evidence Research Centre at Birkbeck College. GP and dentist figures have been assigned at PCT level. The Birkbeck College classifications are as follows:
Major urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in urban areas with a population of more than 750,000.
Large urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000.
Other urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
Significant rural: districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent. but less than 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns.
[6] Based on ONS mid-year 2004 population figures. Data for 2005 is not yet available and these figures are therefore subject to change.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care; NHS Business Services Authority; Office for National Statistics; DEFRA.

As at September 2005, there were 32,738 GPs (excluding retainers and registrars). This is an increase of 4,692 or 17 per cent, since 1997.

Medical/Dental Students

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medical and *(b)* dental students enrolled in each admitting institution in each year since 1997; how many staff were employed expressed (i) as a number of posts and (ii) as full-time equivalents; and what the staff to student ratio was in each year. [86401]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The available figures are given in the tables. The figures include enrolments and staff at those English higher education institutions which offer medicine and dentistry courses. The Department does not calculate student staff ratios for individual higher education institutions or subjects. The available data do not allow us to identify, and exclude from the calculation, the amount of time staff spend teaching further education (as opposed to higher education) courses, and the number of students who are taught at other institutions under franchising arrangements. These factors have to be excluded from the calculation in order to produce an SSR purely for higher education provision in higher education institutions. We are therefore unable to produce individual HEI SSRs which are accurate and comparable across all institutions. An SSR for all HE institutions in England as a whole, which excludes time spent on FE teaching and students taught via franchising, is published annually by the Department. In 2004-05, the staff student ratio for English institutions as a whole (excluding the Open University) was 18.2.

Enrolments to 'Medicine' and 'Dentistry' at English HE Institutions with Medical Schools. 1997-98 to 2004-05

Institution	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
							Change in methodology	
Total Medicine and Dentistry	29,635	30,300	30,460	31,875	33,305	35,035	37,820	40,100
Total of which Medicine:	25,650	25,855	25,915	26,795	27,930	30,390	33,045	35,035
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	2,215	2,295	1,855	1,690	1,585	2,885	2,955	3,040
Kings College London[1]	1,070	2,940	2,835	3,095	2,955	2,915	3,055	3,135
Queen Mary and Westfield College	1,500	1,510	1,635	1,595	1,710	1,730	1,825	1,975
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine[2]	730	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. George's Hospital Medical School	1,090	1,090	1,000	1,120	1,175	1,245	1,305	1,390
United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's[1]	1,715	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University College London[2]	2,090	2,700	2,625	2,630	2,835	2,770	2,755	2,725
University of Birmingham	1,225	1,230	1,295	1,380	1,550	1,605	1,880	2,060

Enrolments to 'Medicine' and 'Dentistry' at English HE Institutions with Medical Schools, 1997-98 to 2004-05

						Change in methodology		
Institution	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
University of Brighton/University of Sussex	15	20	25	25	100	110	310	525
University of Bristol	945	905	855	935	1,030	1,080	1,175	1,270
University of Cambridge	1,355	1,415	1,415	1,455	1,525	1,560	1,615	1,665
University of East Anglia	0	0	0	0	0	110	215	345
University of Exeter/University of Plymouth	30	50	50	45	55	195	365	490
University of Hull/University of York	15	20	20	25	20	35	170	340
University of Leeds	1,515	1,635	1,620	1,610	1,670	1,730	1,855	1,630
University of Leicester/University of Warwick	1,000	1,060	1,105	1,210	1,345	1,500	1,720	1,850
University of Liverpool	1,505	1,625	1,850	1,920	1,820	1,625	1,695	1,810
University of Manchester/University of Keele	1,965	2,015	2,015	2,140	2,275	2,550	2,755	3,005
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne/University of Durham	1,265	1,320	1,365	1,390	1,535	1,695	1,910	2,045
University of Nottingham	1,350	1,380	1,400	1,505	1,590	1,665	1,735	1,880
University of Oxford	865	850	695	720	785	1,980	1,190	1,285
University of Sheffield	1,325	1,370	1,340	1,315	1,345	1,305	1,335	1,320
University of Southampton	870	415	910	990	1,025	1,100	1,225	1,250
Total of which Dentistry:	3,990	3,965	3,955	4,200	4,190	4,480	4,675	4,790
Kings College London	340	900	900	895	915	855	860	875
Queen Mary and Westfield College	345	335	350	355	390	375	395	420
United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's	575	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University College London	225	255	275	340	410	420	430	320
The University of Birmingham	350	355	355	350	385	390	395	410
The University of Bristol	300	305	300	295	290	545	635	670
University of Leeds	330	325	330	320	340	355	375	395
The University of Liverpool	325	345	330	305	335	340	345	385
University of Manchester/University of Keele	460	405	395	420	385	415	455	485
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne/University of Durham	395	395	390	390	410	430	425	435
The University of Sheffield	340	345	335	330	335	355	360	395
Total of which Others within Medicine and Dentistry (2002-03 onwards):	?	?	?	?	?	165	100	270
Queen Mary and Westfield College	?	?	?	?	?	15	15	15
University of Birmingham	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	25
University of Leeds	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	65
University of Liverpool	?	?	?	?	?	110	45	?
University of Manchester/University of Keele	?	?	?	?	?	40	35	50
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne/University of Durham	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	110
University of Southampton	?	?	?	?	?	0	5	5
Total of which Combinations within Medicine and Dentistry	0	480	595	875	1,185	0	0	0
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	0	0	595	875	1,185	0	0	0
University of Southampton	0	480	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's merged with Kings College London in 1998-99.
[2] Royal Free Hospital Medical School merged with University College London in 1998-99.
[3] Number greater than zero but less than 3.

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December (excluding those writing up, on sabbatical and dormant).
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
In 2002-03, a new method of recording subject of study was introduced. As such, figures for 2002-03 onwards are not directly comparable to figures for 2001-02.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Staff within the cost centres of 'Clinical Medicine' and 'Clinical Dentistry' at English HE Institutions with Medical Schools. 1997-98 to 2004-05. Staff whose employment function is 'Teaching only' or 'Teaching and Research'

	Headcount							
							Change in methodology	
HE institution	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Clinical medicine								
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	620	575	640	615	495	495	470	465
Kings College London[1,2]	355	610	560	530	515	490	440	410
Queen Mary and Westfield College	375	355	335	330	310	300	235	230
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine[3]	115	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. George's Hospital Medical School	255	235	245	195	270	350	155	190
United Medical and Dental Schools Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital[3]	305	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University College London[3]	510	635	705	725	710	655	605	660
University of Birmingham	300	235	235	240	235	235	215	225
University of Brighton/University of Sussex	0	0	0	0	?	5	15	40
University of Bristol	190	210	200	210	210	210	205	165
University of Cambridge	150	160	150	155	160	170	170	170
University of East Anglia	0	0	0	5	10	25	15	55
University of Exeter/University of Plymouth	20	75	85	100	110	130	135	135
University of Hull/University of York	40	40	40	45	60	65	70	60
University of Leeds	205	195	195	190	190	185	165	160
University of Leicester/University of Warwick	175	180	180	180	190	200	200	185
University of Liverpool	200	205	210	200	200	210	190	195
University of Manchester/University of Keele	500	445	405	415	400	425	390	365
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	365	270	270	290	260	265	270	260
University of Nottingham	230	215	215	215	200	210	265	270
University of Oxford	135	140	135	145	145	150	125	120
University of Sheffield	205	220	235	245	240	245	230	225
University of Southampton	125	130	125	130	135	135	125	120
Total	5,380	5,110	5,170	5,160	5,050	5,160	4,700	4,715
Clinical dentistry								
Kings College London[1,2]	60	150	145	140	130	120	215	210
Queen Mary and Westfield College	80	70	70	75	60	60	75	75
United Medical and Dental Schools Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital[3]	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University College London[3]	60	95	75	70	65	65	60	60
University of Birmingham	35	40	45	45	40	40	70	75
University of Bristol	35	35	40	40	40	40	50	40
University of Leeds	50	50	45	50	50	50	40	45
University of Liverpool	40	40	40	45	45	40	65	60
University of Manchester/University of Keele	80	65	60	60	55	55	65	65
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	40	40	40	40	45	45	35	35
University of Sheffield	40	40	40	40	45	40	40	40
Total	605	625	605	605	575	560	725	705

	Full time equivalent							
							Change in methodology	
HE institution	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Clinical medicine								
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	560	515	535	505	440	435	445	440
Kings College London[1,2]	310	545	505	485	430	420	410	375
Queen Mary and Westfield College	240	280	255	240	255	235	205	200
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine[3]	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St George's Hospital Medical School	195	185	190	155	185	225	130	165
United Medical and Dental Schools Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital[1]	275	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University College London[3]	420	545	590	615	535	575	565	615
University of Birmingham	245	205	205	200	205	200	200	205
University of Brighton/University of Sussex	0	0	0	0	[*]	5	15	20
University of Bristol	170	180	175	175	185	185	185	145
University of Cambridge	135	145	140	145	145	155	160	165
University of East Anglia	0	0	0	[*]	10	15	15	45
University of Exeter/University of Plymouth	15	40	55	60	70	80	85	90
University of Hull/University of York	25	30	35	40	50	55	60	55
University of Leeds	175	165	170	160	160	160	155	150
University of Leicester/University of Warwick	150	165	160	155	155	160	180	170
University of Liverpool	170	170	175	165	170	180	175	180
University of Manchester/University of Keele	340	320	310	305	310	335	345	340
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	305	205	210	205	200	205	245	240
University of Nottingham	195	185	180	185	175	185	200	200
University of Oxford	115	115	125	125	125	130	130	130
University of Sheffield	185	195	215	230	225	230	215	215
University of Southampton	105	105	105	115	120	120	120	110
Total	4,450	4,295	4,335	4,270	4,150	4,285	4,245	4,250
Clinical dentistry								
Kings College London[1,2]	50	130	120	125	105	95	120	115
Queen Mary and Westfield College	45	55	50	45	45	45	50	50
United Medical and Dental Schools Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital[1]	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
University College London[3]	50	75	55	50	50	45	50	50
University of Birmingham	30	35	35	35	35	35	40	40
University of Bristol	30	30	35	35	35	30	35	30
University of Leeds	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
University of Liverpool	35	35	35	35	35	35	40	40
University of Manchester/University of Keele	50	45	45	45	40	45	50	50
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	40	35	35	40	40	40	40	35

	Full time equivalent							
							Change in methodology	
HE institution	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
University of Sheffield	35	35	35	35	40	35	40	40
Total	485	515	485	490	465	445	495	485

[1] United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St. Thomas's merged with Kings College London in 1998-99.
[2] The apparent large jump in figures for Dentistry staff at Kings College London in 2003-04 is accounted for by the inclusion of around 100 staff on less that 25+ FTE (which would not have been collected on the previous records).
[3] Royal Free Hospital Medical School merged with University College London in 1998-99.
[4] Number greater than zero but less than 3.

Note:
Figures for 2002-03 and earlier are based upon individual academic appointments (of at least 25 per cent. of a full-time equivalent member of staff) active during the academic year whose primary employment function is teaching only, teaching and research. For 2003-04 onwards, staff with a full time equivalent of less than 25 per cent. are included and as such the two sets of figures are not comparable.
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) staff record

Mental Health

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the results of the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust consultation on the future of *(a)* mental health services and *(b)* The Fraser Day hospital will be published. [90732]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

The National Health Service South Central Strategic Health Authority has advised that the results of the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust consultation on the future of mental health services and the Fraser Day hospital will be published and discussed at the primary care trust's board meeting on the 21 September 2006.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors were taken into account in deciding that the measures outlined in the White Paper, "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", should not apply to mental health services. [90754]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to his previous question on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1532W. This explained that the Department had written to strategic health authority chief executives and performance managers on 16 February 2006, reminding them of the obligations upon primary care trusts when deciding the future of community hospitals, as outlined in the White Paper "Our health, Our Care, Our Say: a new direction for community services".

The 16 February letter relates only to consultations about the future of community hospitals, not to mental health trusts. Where applicable, these have carried out separate consultations, and the Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust began a five week consultation on the future of mental health services in its area in June.

The White Paper outlines our intention to provide more care in local, convenient settings such as new community hospitals. In many ways, this move is in line with what has been happening in mental health services since the national service framework was published in 1999. The White Paper mentions our plans for mental health services, which are featured prominently throughout. For example, we made a manifesto commitment to improve access to evidence-based psychological therapies, and reinforced this in the White Paper, which includes the following commitments:

"Enabling health, independence and well-being better support for mental health and emotional well-being: promoting good practice; demonstration sites for people of working age, as part of our action to help people with health conditions and disabilities to remain in, or return to, work; access to computerised cognitive behaviour therapy (Page 24, chapter two, Health, independence and well-being)."

Copies of the White Paper are available in the Library and it is available on the Department's website at dh.gov.uk/asstRoot/04/12/74/59/04127459.pdf.

Midwives

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the balance between recently qualified midwives and job opportunities in midwifery; and what steps are being taken to help new midwives into employment within the NHS. [91037]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service will continue to need new midwives to replace those who retire or take career breaks. However, there is now a much closer match between the demand and supply of healthcare workers and there is more competition for posts. It is a joint responsibility between higher education institutions and local NHS organisations to see that midwifery and other healthcare graduates are supported to find employment. Vacancies for graduates continue to be posted on "NHS Jobs" and the "NHS Careers" information service can direct graduates to appropriate sources of information and advice. Graduates are encouraged to be flexible when applying for posts.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals *(a)* she and *(b)* each of her Ministers has visited since 13 June. [90630]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State for Health and each of her Ministers have visited the following national health service hospitals since 13 June 2006.

	Hospital	*Visited by*
2006		
16 June 2006	Selly Oak Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
26 June	Norwich Community Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
26 June	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
26 June	Cambridge Mental Health Trust	Secretary of State for Health
27 June	Prospect Park Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
14 July	Mill View Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
14 July	Royal Sussex University Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
25 July	Cirencester Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
25 July	Royal Bath University Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
7 September	James Cook University Hospital	Secretary of State for Health
20 June	St. Bartholomews Hospital	Lord Warner Minister of State
4 July	Edgware Community Hospital	Lord Warner Minister of State
26 July	St. Georges Hospital, Stafford	Lord Warner Minister of State
28 June	Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich	Andy Burnham Minister of State
3 July	Tameside General Hospital	Andy Burnham Minister of State
11 July	Luton and Dunstable Hospital	Andy Burnham Minister of State
21 July	Merrick House Mental Health Trust	Andy Burnham Minister of State
24 July	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital	Andy Burnham Minister of State
26 July	Taunton and Somerset Hospital	Andy Burnham Minister of State
27 July	Peterborough District Hospital	Andy Burnham Minister of State
18 August	Salford Royal Foundation Trust	Andy Burnham Minister of State
14 June	Medway Hospital Trust	Caroline Flint Minister of State

Mount Vernon Hospital

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to make a final announcement about the future of Mount Vernon hospital. [90953]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The future of Mount Vernon hospital is a matter for the local national health service, who are best placed to decide how to provide services to their local communities.

I understand that Hillingdon hospital NHS trust is committed to developing services for local people at the Mount Vernon hospital site. Current plans include the construction of a £13 million treatment centre which will offer patients more choice about where they are treated for pre-booked surgery and procedures. The treatment centre should open in 2008.

New Mothers

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the health implications of factors affecting the access to skimmed milk of women who have recently given birth. [91035]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No specific assessment has been made of the health implications of factors affecting access to skimmed milk of women who have recently given birth. The Department recommends all adults and children over five years consume lower fat varieties of milk to reduce the intake of saturated fats in the diet. The welfare food scheme, to become the healthy start scheme later in 2006, provides pregnant women and women with young children on qualifying benefits with vouchers for whole, semi-skimmed or skimmed milk.

NHS Bank

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each strategic health authority *(a)* contributed to and *(b)* received from the NHS Bank in each year since 2002. [62383]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Bank is funded from a central allocation from the Department of Health. The contributions received by SHAs in each year since 2002 are set out as follows.

NHS Bank: special assistance funding provided

Allocation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Million 2005-06*
AGW	45	70	40	20
Surrey and Sussex	30	40	20	—
Beds and Herts	25	—	—	—

NHS Bank: special assistance funding provided

Allocation	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Million 2005-06*
Thames Valley	—	25	10	—
Kent and Medway	—	17	—	—
Total	100	152	70	20

In addition to the distribution of special assistance funding, the NHS Bank also managed the brokerage of cash and capital resources between SHAs. Any cash and capital resources contributed from, or received by, an SHA under these arrangements was returnable in full in the following financial year.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which strategic health authorities have made contributions to the NHS Bank in each year since 2002; and how much contribution each made. [73297]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Bank has made special assistance funding allocations, and certain central budget allocations, on behalf of the Department. Any such allocations are funded from a central departmental allocation.

The NHS Bank also managed the brokerage of cash and capital resources between strategic health authorities (SHAs). Any cash and capital resources contributed from, or received by, an SHA under these arrangements was returnable in full in the following financial year.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS trusts are repaying loans to the NHS Bank. [73298]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Bank provides funding to strategic health authorities (SHA) only. The Bank does not provide repayable loans to primary care trusts and national health service trusts. The distribution of funding to individual organisations is the responsibility of the relevant SHA.

The NHS Bank managed the brokerage of cash and capital resources between SHAs. Any cash and capital resources contributed from, or received by, an SHA under these arrangements was returnable in full in the following financial year.

NHS Beds

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds for terminally ill and palliative care are available in *(a)* Sunderland Royal hospital, *(b)* Hartlepool university hospital and *(c)* Durham university hospital. [84224]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is only available at trust level.

NHS Dentistry

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentist surgeries there are in the East Yorkshire Primary Care Trust area; and how many of these are not accepting new NHS patients. [90867]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 11 September 2006]*: As at 31 March 2006, there were 29 NHS dental practices in the general dental services (GDS), or personal dental services (PDS) within East Yorkshire Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Data on dentists accepting or not accepting new NHS patients is not centrally available.

Information on the number of dentists or dental practices who have signed the new contract and the number who have not signed is not available centrally.

We do however have some provisional information that covers contracts. A contract may be for more than one dentist so cannot be broken down further to individual dentist level. Provisional management estimates show that in East Yorkshire PCT:

	Number/percentage
Contracts signed	
A: Number	21
B: Approximate UDA value	177,107
Contracts still in discussion	
C: Number	0
D: Approximate UDA value	0
Contracts rejected	
E: Number	15
F: Approximate UDA value	29,325
Percentage UDAs	14.2
Contracts signed	
G: Number signed without dispute	18
H: Number signed in dispute	3
Percentage disputes	14.3

Notes:
1. Data include all notifications of dentists joining or leaving the GDS or PDS, received by the NHS Business Services Authority, up to 23 March 2006. Figures for the numbers of dentists at specified dates may vary depending upon the notification period, e.g. data with a later notification period will include more recent notifications of dentists joining or leaving the GDS or PDS.
2. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts have been excluded.
3. The postcode of the Dental Practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas. Constituency areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics All Fields Postcode Directory.
4. Data on the number of dentists working only in private practice are not held centrally.

Primary care trusts are working with dentists to resolve as many disputes as possible locally.

NHS Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which of the acute hospital trusts which experienced a budget deficit in 2005-06 have plans *(a)*

to recover the whole of the deficit, *(b)* to recover more than 50 per cent. of the deficit, *(c)* to recover less than 50 per cent. of the deficit and *(d)* to recover little or none of the deficit but achieve a balanced budget within the 2006-07 financial year; and what the amount of deficit incurred in 2005-06 was in each case; [88271]

(2) what sanctions are available to her Department to ensure that trusts which have a substantial deficit outturn for 2005-06 are required to take action to recover balance within an agreed timetable; and which trusts have not yet satisfied her Department that they have plans in place to achieve balance. [88274]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The aim is for the national health service as a whole to achieve financial balance by the end of 2006-07.

It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities (SHAs) to deliver overall financial balance by developing and implementing a service and financial strategy for managing the financial position within their locality. All NHS organisations that overspend are required to develop recovery plans to return to financial balance. Recovery plans are agreed and managed by SHAs, not the Department. There is a degree of flexibility, however, in how this is managed at a local level. SHAs can agree a recovery plan which phases the recovery of deficits over a number of years. NHS trusts have a three-year period to recover their deficit. This period can be extended to five years in exceptional circumstances.

SHAs are accountable to the Department for the financial performance of the organisations within their own health economy. The Department will work with the SHAs, through enhanced performance management procedures, to ensure that overall net financial balance is returned to the NHS, and improvements are made to the financial position of all individual organisations in deficit.

The 2005-06 provisional outturn financial figures of all NHS organisations were announced on 7 June 2006 and are available in the Library.

NHS Logistics Authority

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what system of redress will be put in place for NHS trusts, hospitals and clinicians in the event of a fall in the standards of service maintained by the NHS Logistics Authority after its functions are outsourced to DHL; and what financial penalties will be available; [90841]

(2) how she will ensure that the current level of quality controls are maintained in the contract between the Department of Health and DHL in relation to the functions of the NHS Logistics Authority. [90843]

Andy Burnham: The contract with DHL is to be managed by the NHS Business Services Authority. DHL will be penalised if service standards fall below current levels. The details of the financial penalties are confidential for commercial reasons.

As there is no mandate for the national health service to use DHL's services, DHL has to prove to the NHS that it is providing good value for money in terms of best product range and best prices underpinned by good service. If DHL does not demonstrate this to the NHS, the NHS is free to purchase elsewhere.

Ultimately in the clinical arena the end users, the clinicians, are responsible for choosing the products they need for patient care. DHL will work with clinicians through the clinical councils to ensure the right products are purchased for the NHS.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to ensure that the contract between the Department of Health and DHL in relation to the functions of the NHS Logistics Authority will ensure that hospitals and clinicians using the service are offered a choice of products. [90842]

Andy Burnham: DHL will establish clinical councils to ensure that there is clinical input into the choice of products included in the catalogue range. DHL will work closely with the new collaborative procurement hubs to make sure that each region is getting the range its clinicians need and, at competitive prices.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what market testing exercise was used as the basis for the decision to outsource the functions of the NHS Logistics Authority to the independent sector; and if she will make a statement. [90844]

Andy Burnham: The contract has been signed at the end of a three year process to determine whether partnering with the private sector was the best option. After carrying out a feasibility study in 2003 a notice was published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union in August 2004. An invitation to submit outline proposals was sent to six pre-qualified organisations in November 2004. After a rigorous evaluation process of the responses, in July 2005 the Department sent three selected bidders an invitation to negotiate. After a further rigorous evaluation two bidders were taken forward and a preferred bidder was selected in February 2006. Final negotiations and a final decision to outsource was taken in September 2006.

The overall basis for the decision to outsource was better value for money for the national health services. The outsourcing offers three times more savings to the NHS than keeping the operations in-house.

Non-medical Professional Regulation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has received a copy of the draft report by the chief medical officer into medical regulation; and when she expects the final report to be published. [85785]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1117W.

Nursing Education

Mr. Osten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice has been given to education authorities on the level of grants they should provide to private sector providers of nursing education; and if she will make a statement. [90559]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Neither the Department or the Department for Education and Skills directly commission or grant fund private sector providers of nursing education via education authorities. Therefore, neither Department provides formal advice on this issue to them.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of nursing schools is *(a)* state-funded, *(b)* voluntary and *(c)* private; and if she will make a statement. [90560]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department provides funding to strategic health authorities to commission nursing education places, usually from universities. The state funding of universities is a matter for Higher Education Funding Council for England. The Department and the Department for Education and Skills do not collect information on voluntary and private funding which is a matter for each university.

Paediatric Units

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paediatric units in England are *(a)* being downgraded and *(b)* having in-patient facilities reduced. [90628]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally. Decisions on local health care provision, including paediatric services, are a matter for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities in consultation with the local population.

Patient Advocacy

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* membership, *(b)* terms of reference and *(c)* timetable are of the working group of voluntary sector representatives established to scope the issues relating to a national voice for patients; and what progress has been made to date in the work of this group. [90846]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The work on national voices is being developed by a group of voluntary sector organisations under the chairmanship of Baroness Morgan. The Department is supporting this work by providing a part-time project manager who is based within the sector. The Department is not responsible for either the membership of the group or its terms of reference. The Department is keen that the proposals developed are independent and the responsibility of the voluntary sector organisations involved. We await with interest the projects findings which should report in December 2006.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable there is for strengthening the involvement of the public in the work of the health overview and scrutiny committees in local authorities. [90847]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As set out in "A Stronger Local Voice", we plan to establish new local involvement networks (LINks) to provide flexible ways for communities to engage with health and social care organisations in ways that best suit the communities and the people in them.

There will be one LINk for each local authority area with social services responsibilities and, as such, they will be able to develop a close relationship with the overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) with which they will be coterminous, informing the OSC on the public needs and experiences, enabling the OSCs to pursue critical issues based of the evidence of users' experience. LINks will also have the power to refer matters to OSCs and receive an appropriate response.

These plans will be introduced when parliamentary time allows.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how local involvement networks will be held to account for their use of public funds as set out in her Department's paper "A Stronger Local Voice". [90849]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently considering the ways in which local involvement networks will be held to account for their use of public funds.

Physiotherapists

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of those who qualified in physiotherapy in 2006 have found employment in the NHS; and what the figures were in each of the last five years. [90958]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Plastic Water Bottles

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 155W, on plastic water bottles, if she will ensure that information is disseminated to the public on possible contamination of drinking water in plastic bottles from cleaning materials stored nearby. [91029]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has published advice on this matter. They have advised consumers not to store food or drink, including plastic bottles of water, next to chemicals. Their advice is available on the FSA website at:

www.eatwell.gov.uk/asksam/keepingfoodsafe/asksamstoring preparing/#A306011

Project 2000

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of Project 2000; and if she will make a statement. [90979]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A major review of Project 2000 was commissioned by the Department and its findings published in 1991. Entitled "fitness to practice", it resulted in adaptations to the pre-registration programme. In addition to this large-scale evaluation, we have funded studies on various aspects of nurse education and continue to do so.

Public Involvement Forums

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the proposals in the Government's publication "A Stronger Local Voice", when detailed proposals for the powers of *(a)* hospital and *(b)* ambulance patient and public involvement forums are expected to be available. [90954]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are currently analysing the many responses to "A Stronger Local Voice", and once this process has been finalised, further details will be made available.

Secure Special Hospitals

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to extend the provision of secure special hospital beds. [88938]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no plans to extend the provision of secure special (now high security psychiatric) hospital beds since the three existing high security psychiatric hospitals, Ashworth, Broadmoor and Rampton, have sufficient capacity to meet current and anticipated demand for high security psychiatric placements.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of a new secure special hospital. [88939]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No estimate has been made of the cost of building a new secure special (now high security psychiatric) hospital since there are no plans to build a new high security psychiatric hospital.

Sexual Health

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the progress towards implementing the plans outlined in the White Paper, Choosing Health, to treat sexual health services as a priority issue; [90785]

(2) what progress has been made towards implementing changes to the provision of sexual health services, as outlined in the White Paper, Choosing Health; and if she will make a statement. [90788]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Sexual health and improving access to genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics is one of the top six priorities for the national health service in 2006-07. The White Paper "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier" published in November 2004, a copy of which is available in the Library, made a number of commitments to improve sexual health including a target that everyone should be offered an appointment within 48 hours of contacting a GUM clinic by 2008. Strategic health authorities have submitted plans to meet this target.

Overall, the number of attendees at GUM clinics seen within 48 hours in England increased from 45 per cent. in May 2005 to 54 per cent. in May 2006 and a further 4 per cent. were offered an appointment but chose not to attend.

The "Choosing Health" White Paper also announced an accelerated timetable to achieve national roll out of the National Chlamydia screening programme. We have rolled out the screening programme successfully to over 25 per cent. of primary care trusts (PCTs) and many other PCTs will begin screening during 2006.

We have also taken forward the commitment that as well as the national programme we will take steps to introduce and evaluate the effectiveness of Chlamydia screening in retail pharmacies starting in London. We have contracted Boots the Chemists to evaluate the potential of retail pharmacies as Chlamydia screening venues. Screening started on 14 November 2005. This two year pilot will be independently evaluated by TNS Healthcare.

We have also undertaken the audit of contraceptive provision. PCTs were recently asked to complete a national baseline questionnaire of contraceptive services. The results will inform the publication of best practice guidance by the Department of Health and will help PCTs determine how best to meet gaps in local services. We have also recently reduced the value added tax rate on condoms and other contraceptives, making the costs of these items more affordable and are working with the industry to increase the supply of free condoms to high risk groups.

Later this year we will be launching a new sexual health campaign. The campaign will target 16 to 34-year-old young adults, highlighting the risks of unprotected sex and the benefits of condom use to avoid sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy.

This increased priority for sexual health and the implementation of "Our health, Our Care, Our Say: a new direction for community services", a copy of which is available in the Library, should significantly strengthen the incentive for local investment and service modernisation.

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the use by *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts of money allocated for sexual health services; and if she will make a statement. [90786]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities will receive funding for implementing the targets in the White Paper "Choosing Health: making healthy choices easier" in their mainstream allocations and we will be monitoring the outcomes from this investment through local delivery plans. PCT revenue allocations separately identify funding to support the implementation of choosing health. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations. A copy of the White Paper is available in the Library.

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions her Department has had with strategic health authorities on spending on sexual health services; and if she will make a statement. [90789]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Officials in the Department regularly meet with officials from strategic health authorities to discuss a number of issues. These

discussions are focused on the delivery of key targets for sexual health rather than funding issues which are a local matter for primary care trusts.

Speech and Language Therapists

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken by her Department to increase the number of speech and language therapists in England; and if she will make a statement. [90683]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Workplace planning is a matter for local determination. It is for individual primary care trusts to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission speech and language services to meet the health care needs of their local populations.

The number of qualified speech and language therapists employed in the national health service has increased by 1,888 (39 per cent.) since September 1997 and the number of students entering training to become a qualified speech and language therapist has increased by 75 per cent. since 1998-99.

Thrombosis

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Chief Medical Officer regarding the forthcoming publication of the recommendations of the expert working group on serious thromboembolism. [81889]

Caroline Flint: The Government response to the House of Commons Health Committee's report on the prevention of venous thromboembolism in hospitalised patients was presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Health in July 2005. The response included a reference to a letter that the Chief Medical Officer had written to all doctors on this topic, and a commitment to set up an independent expert working group which would make its recommendations by summer 2006. The report and recommendations were submitted to the Chief Medical Officer on 17 July 2006. The Chief Medical Officer is now considering its findings and the next steps for implementation of any of the recommendations.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she expects the recommendation of the expert working group on serious thromboembolism to the published in July. [81890]

Andy Burnham: The independent expert working group on the prevention of venous thromboembolism in hospitalised patients was asked to submit its report and recommendations to the Chief Medical Officer by July 2006. The report was completed and submitted on 17 July 2006. The Chief Medical Officer is now considering its findings and the next steps for implementation of any of the recommendations.

Water Act

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the delay in implementing outstanding sections of the Water Act 2003 on the work of strategic health authorities in undertaking formal consultations on water fluoridation; [90477]

(2) which sections of the Water Act 2003 are not yet in force; [90478]

(3) when she plans to bring outstanding sections of the Water Act 2003 into force. [90479]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We commenced sections 58(5), (6) and (8) of the Water Act 2003 in February 2005 to enable regulations to be made on the consultations that strategic health authorities (SHAs) will have to undertake before requiring a water undertaker to fluoridate their water and the indemnities available to water undertakers who fluoridate a water supply. We are in contact with SHAs so that we may commence the remaining provisions within section 58 when required.

Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely impact on *(a)* waiting lists, *(b)* bed availability and *(c)* out-patient care of the financial (i) position and (ii) action announced by Winchester and Eastleigh healthcare NHS trust. [91091]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services.

Worthing Hospital

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who instructed Tribal MGB of Chislehurst to carry out a valuation of the Worthing hospital site. [90775]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is a local matter. The NHS South East Coast has advised that neither it nor national health service organisations in West Sussex have commissioned a valuation in respect of this property.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from *(a)* within the NHS and *(b)* the public about the future of Worthing Hospital and its services. [90829]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has received approximately 52 letters from members of the public on the future of Worthing Hospital and its services. It is not possible to determine how many of these letters might have been from national health service employees.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information has been sent by her Department to the Prime Minister's Office on the future of Worthing's hospital. [90968]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The future of Worthing hospital is an issue for the local national health service.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Algeria

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether under the Memorandum of Understanding she reached with the Algerian Government on the use of torture those deported from the UK to Algeria will be treated as if the UN Convention on Torture applied to them in Algeria. [91074]

Dr. Howells: There is no Memorandum of Understanding with the Algerian Government nor are we seeking one. A framework for deportations to Algeria was concluded during President Bouteflika's visit to London on 11 July 2006. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President signed an Exchange of Letters on deportation—the letters have been placed in the Library of the House. This exchange will be supplemented by individual assurances in each case.

The Government are satisfied that these arrangements and the changing circumstances in Algeria allow the UK to deport individuals in a manner consistent with its domestic and international human rights obligations. The Special Immigration Appeals Commission recently dismissed an appeal against deportation by terrorist suspect 'Y', ruling that he would not face a real risk of inhuman or degrading treatment if he were returned to Algeria.

Algeria is a signatory to the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

Arms Trade

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what enquiries have been made into the way in which British export restrictions were evaded in the case of British made night sight equipment found in the hands of Hezbollah forces in South Lebanon; and what findings have resulted. [91045]

Dr. Howells: We have been in close touch with the Israeli Defence Force who have confirmed that British made night vision goggles were not found in Lebanon, as media reports have suggested. There were however two pieces of British equipment found. One was a commercially available remote video camera for which no export licence was required. The other was a thermal imaging system that was exported under licence in 1999. Proper procedures were followed at the time, including making a careful risk assessment. This concluded there was no reason to suspect that the equipment would be used for anything other than its described purpose.

All applications are assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria and other prevailing circumstances at the time of application. If there is any risk that the equipment will be diverted from its stated end use, a licence will not be issued. If information comes to light about possible diversion of equipment after export, this will be taken into account when assessing future applications.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the Chinese Government's request for the lifting of the EU-China arms embargo; and if she will make a statement. [91070]

Mr. McCartney: The EU has a common approach on this issue. The European Council announced a review of the EU arms embargo in December 2003, which is ongoing. As set out in the December 2004 European Council Conclusions, the result of any decision on the embargo should not be an increase in arms exports from EU member states to China, either in quantitative or qualitative terms. EU leaders also recalled the importance of the criteria of the Code of Conduct on arms exports, in particular criteria regarding human rights, stability and security in the region and the national security of friendly and allied countries. The Government continue fully to implement the arms embargo.

British Nationals (Foreign Prisons)

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for which British nationals in foreign prisons the Government has asked for clemency or for release in the past 15 years; and what the reasons were in each case. [90830]

Mr. McCartney: We do not ask for clemency or release for British nationals in foreign prisons but will support a plea for clemency made by a prisoner in certain circumstances. Our clemency policy is outlined in an answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Blackpool, North and Fleetwood (Mrs. Humble) by the then Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister of State (Brian Wilson) on 2 May 2001, *Official Report*, column 629W. Specific details on cases for which we have supported pleas for clemency are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Additionally, for data protection reasons, we cannot give out names of individuals for whom we have supported clemency pleas.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking towards being carbon neutral. [91022]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 490-91W, to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne). The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to achieving carbon neutrality on our estate by 2012.

Child Protection

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many new cases were handled by the Child Abduction Unit in each of the last five years; and what its operating budget was in each year. [90889]

Mr. McCartney: The Child Abduction Section at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) records statistics on cases of international parental child abduction or retention brought to its attention and where it has offered consular assistance to British nationals, rather than recording the total number of abductions from the United Kingdom. The FCO usually provides assistance in abduction and retention

cases in countries which are not party to the 1980 Hague Convention on International Child Abduction. The Child Abduction Section was established in 2003 so statistics are not available before then.

	Cases recorded
2003	240
2004	295
2005	208

The operating budget for the section was as follows:

Financial year	*Total budget (£)*
2003-04	46,253
2004-05	181,167
2005-06	237,598
2006-07	250,659
Total	715,677

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of protocols and the aspects of the Hague Treaty regarding reciprocal recognition by foreign courts of custody and residence and contact orders made by UK courts. [90890]

Mr. McCartney: Since the UK-Pakistan Protocol was signed in 2003, the Child Abduction Section in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recorded 72 cases of child abduction to Pakistan. Although we do not have statistics on cases prior to that time, we believe that the protocol has proven instrumental in concluding many child abduction cases and broader policy issues between the two countries that may otherwise have not been resolved. As far as Hague Convention signatory countries are concerned, the Hague Convention Special Commission in November will provide an opportunity for further assessment to be made on how the convention is working in practice.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international police liaison and intelligence arrangements are in place to assist efforts to ensure the location and legally mandated return from overseas of children or minors removed from, or encouraged or facilitated to leave, the jurisdiction of the UK courts in contravention of valid awards of custody or residence; and which countries are engaged in dialogue with the Department on securing improved co-operation and recognition of reciprocal agreements. [90891]

Mr. McCartney: When minors are removed from the UK in contravention of existing UK court orders, the UK police will work through Interpol to determine their location overseas. If the minor has been taken to a country that is a signatory to the Hague Convention, the normal procedures will be taken under the Hague Convention through the relevant central authority. When a non-Hague Convention country is involved, the matter has to be resolved through the courts in the respective countries. We encourage those countries not already signed up to the Hague Convention to consider becoming signatories. We are in regular dialogue with a number of non-Hague Convention countries on international child abduction, including Pakistan with which we have a bilateral judicial protocol in place which serves to return children to their country of habitual residence for matters of custody to be resolved there.

Cyprus

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings she has had with the Government of Turkey to discuss that country's occupation of part of Cyprus. [90962]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last met the Turkish Foreign Minister on 18 July 2006, when she discussed Turkey's continued support for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus. During my visit to Turkey on 11 September 2006, I also discussed prospects for progress towards a Cyprus settlement. We continue fully to support the efforts of the UN.

Darfur

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in establishing a multilateral force to take over from the African Union in Darfur; what recent assessment she has made of the situation in Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [90753]

Mr. McCartney: UN Security Council Resolution 1706, which the UK sponsored, was passed on 31 August and calls for a UN force to take over from the African Union (AU) in Darfur. This resolution demonstrates our continued commitment to practical and viable steps to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. The security situation in Darfur is deteriorating and there is an increase in violent attacks. We condemn the Government of Sudan's attempts to resolve the situation through military action, which is completely at odds with the Darfur Peace Agreement. The Sudanese Government must now move to co-operate with the UN and enable a UN force to succeed the AU force in Darfur.

Delwar Hossain Sayeedi

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she received advice from Mockbul Ali in respect of the admission to the United Kingdom of Delwar Hossain Sayeedi. [90638]

Mr. McCartney: It is not Foreign and Commonwealth Office policy to comment publicly on named civil servants, nor to comment on individual entry clearance applications.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she made a decision on issuing a visa for the recent visit of Delwar Hossain Sayeedi to the UK. [90669]

Mr. McCartney: I cannot comment on individual cases. However, all applicants must meet the entry clearance criteria immigration controls, as set out on the UKvisas website at www.ukvisas.gov.uk.

EU (Accession)

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's policy is on the suspension of any part of negotiations for Turkish accession to the EU in response to Turkey's refusal to open its ports and airports to Cypriot vessels and aircraft. [90768]

Mr. Hoon: The UK wholeheartedly supports Turkey's EU accession and was delighted that the EU opened negotiations with Turkey under the UK's presidency. The hon. Gentleman rightly raises the important issue of Turkey's implementation of the Ankara Agreement Protocol, and we continue to convey to the Turkish government the need to implement this obligation. We continue to support the EU's declaration of 21 September 2005, which inter alia said that

"the EU would evaluate full implementation in 2006".

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the state of readiness of *(a)* Bulgaria and *(b)* Romania to join the EU in January 2007. [90769]

Mr. Hoon: Bulgaria and Romania have made considerable progress in their preparations for EU membership. The European Commission report of 16 May 2006 showed in detail where both countries had met EU standards and where they needed to make further progress.

We agree with the Commission's assessment. Particular concerns were raised for both countries regarding corruption, organised crime and agriculture. We hope to see a positive assessment of progress in these areas in the Commission's next report on 26 September and a recommendation that both countries accede to the EU on 1 January 2007.

Iran

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is her policy that the recent Iranian report regarding that country's nuclear programme should be made available to all EU foreign Ministers. [90767]

Dr. Howells: EU High Representative Javier Solana presented Iran with a set of far-reaching proposals on behalf of the 'E3+3' (France, Germany, UK + China, Russia, US) on 6 June 2006. The proposals would give Iran everything it needs to develop a modern civil nuclear power generation industry, and other benefits, while meeting international concerns about Iran's nuclear programme. On 22 August 2006, the Secretary General of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Larijani, met E3+3 representatives in Tehran. Disappointingly, he did not say that Iran would take the steps required for negotiations to begin, including a full suspension of all uranium enrichment related and reprocessing activities as required by the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors and the UN Security Council. We have briefed our EU partners in detail on Dr. Larijani's comments. EU Foreign Ministers discussed next steps when they met on 1-2 September 2006, and will do so again on 15 September 2006. We continue to urge Iran to take the positive path on offer.

Iraq

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action her Department is taking to assist the Assyrian community in Iraq. [90823]

Mr. McCartney: The Government continue to promote the rights and freedoms of minorities in Iraq through their regular contacts with the Government of Iraq, political and religious leaders, including Assyrians, and civil society. We welcome provisions in Iraq's constitution, which guarantee democratic principles and rights and freedoms of all individuals, including the freedom of worship. We continue to encourage the Iraqi Government to ensure these rights are protected and enforced, and we raise with them any issues of concern that come to our attention.

Israel

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when officials from her Department last discussed the amount of military aid provided to the Israeli Government by the United States since 1979 with their counterparts in the United States Administration; and if she will make a statement. [90945]

Dr. Howells: We frequently discuss Middle East issues with the US Government. The amount of US military assistance to Israel is a bilateral matter between the two Governments.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hours each week are spent by UK officials in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem monitoring the use of UK exported military equipment; how many officials are involved in this work; and what steps are taken to ensure all equipment is used in conformity with international law. [91008]

Dr. Howells: In common with all of our diplomatic posts, our embassy and consulate officials in Israel and the occupied territories monitor local developments closely, and note any information which comes to light that military equipment supplied by the UK has been used in a manner inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria. The Government will take this into consideration when assessing any future export licence applications. The Government may also revoke relevant licence(s) and ask the authorities in the country concerned to investigate.

Given the case by case nature of the monitoring work it is not possible to provide accurate figures for the amount of hours and the number of officials involved.

All export licence applications from the UK are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria, taking full account of the prevailing circumstances at the time of application.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with Israeli officials regarding the use of *(a)* M483A1 Dual Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions and *(b)* other cluster munitions. [91009]

Dr. Howells: All countries must ensure their usage of cluster munitions is consistent with International Humanitarian Law. Our embassy in Tel Aviv has recently sought clarification from the Israeli Government about their current policy on the use of these munitions.

Krishna Maharaj

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions in the past two years Krishna Maharaj has had a consular visit; and at which correctional institution in each case. [90831]

Mr. McCartney: A Consular official from our vice-consulate in Orlando last visited Mr. Maharaj at the Columbia Correctional Institute on 8 November 2005. Prior to this he was visited at the Union Correctional Institute on 19 May 2004. We continue to monitor Mr. Maharaj's case closely.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make representations to the authorities at state and at federal level for steps leading to the ending of the period in prison of Krishna Maharaj in the USA. [90965]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has already lodged three "amicus curiae" briefs on a point of international law in Mr. Maharaj's case. We understand that Mr. Maharaj still has appeals pending in both state and federal courts. Other than this, we have no remit to interfere in the due judicial process of the United States, either at state or federal level.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how long Krishna Maharaj has been incarcerated in the USA. [91040]

Dr. Howells: Krishna Maharaj was arrested on 16 October 1986. On 16 October 2006, he will have been incarcerated for 20 years.

Middle East

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civilian British nationals were evacuated from Lebanon during the recent conflict; and how many chose to remain. [90554]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) conducted a phased evacuation of some 4,600 people, of which 2,230 were British passport holders, from Beirut to Cyprus. The remainder were family members of British passport holders and nationals of EU, Commonwealth and other countries. Of the total number, we transported 2,250 from Cyprus to the UK. Many others left Lebanon independently.

Despite a major communication effort through the media, the FCO website and the Know Before You Go Campaign to encourage British nationals to register with our embassy in Beirut, many British nationals in Lebanon chose not to tell the embassy of their presence in the country. We can therefore only estimate that a maximum of 2,000 British nationals remained in Lebanon after our evacuation ended.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civilian British nationals have *(a)* died and *(b)* been injured in the recent Middle East conflict in Israel and Lebanon. [90555]

Mr. McCartney: No deaths or injuries that were directly attributable to the conflict have been reported to our embassy in Beirut. One British national died of natural causes in a hospital in Tyre sometime after it was bombed.

Our embassy in Tel Aviv has reported that a dual British-Israeli citizen was killed serving with the Israeli Defence Forces in Lebanon.

Neither embassy has received reports of injuries to British nationals.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many businesses owned by British citizens were damaged in the recent Middle East conflict in Israel and Lebanon. [90556]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not received any reports of British owned businesses that have been damaged.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice and assistance is being given by the British Government to British citizens who have suffered personal or business losses in the recent middle east conflict in Israel and Lebanon. [90557]

Mr. McCartney: We advise British nationals to seek private professional advice to ascertain whether there is any compensation available for their losses and how best to pursue the award of any such compensation.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her oral answer of 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 720, to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs. Ellman), on the middle east, what definition she uses of Islamic nation. [90578]

Mr. McCartney: Islamic countries or nations can be defined as those where a majority of the population are Muslims—or a nation that regards itself as Islamic. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference Membership list presents a useful reference point towards defining Islamic nations, since many of those countries regard themselves as such.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plan to carry out a review of Israel's compliance with Criterion 2 of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria following the conflict in Israel and Lebanon. [90820]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Licence applications are assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria taking into account prevailing circumstances. Therefore there is in effect a review of compliance each time an application is considered. Where there are concerns about any of the Consolidated Criteria, a licence will not be issued. Should any information come to light that military equipment supplied by the UK has been used in a manner inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria, the Government will take this into consideration when assessing any future export licence applications. The Government may also revoke relevant licence(s) and ask the authorities in the country concerned to investigate.

Pakistan

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current position is with regard to Mr. Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, imprisoned in Pakistan; what involvement the Department has had in this case; and if she will make a statement. [90880]

Mr. McCartney: Omar Sheikh is a British-Pakistani national convicted and sentenced to death for involvement in the murder of the journalist Daniel Pearl. We continue to request consular access to Mr. Sheikh, most recently on 4 August 2006. In response to this latest request, the Sindh Home Minister told the British deputy high commissioner in Karachi to seek the permission of the court to visit Mr. Sheikh. The deputy high commissioner has since written to Mr. Sheikh's lawyers asking for their assistance in requesting the permission of the court.

Palestine

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received on the arrest of Abdel Aziz Dweik; what representations she has made about his arrest; and if she will make a statement. [90595]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to have concerns about the detention of members of the Palestinian Government and Legislature including Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Abdel Aziz Dweik. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and EU Foreign Ministers have called for their immediate release. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv has raised the detentions with the Israeli Government.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received about the arrest of Palestinian parliamentarians; what representations she has made about the arrests; and if she will make a statement. [90596]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to have concerns about the detention of members of the Palestinian Government and Legislature. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and EU Foreign Ministers have called for their immediate release. Our embassy in Tel Aviv has raised the detentions with the Israeli Government.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's policy is on *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* the European Union entering into dialogue with Hamas. [90766]

Mr. McCartney: The UK suspended contacts with Hamas in June 2005. At the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 10 April 2006, EU foreign Ministers agreed that there should be no contacts at a political level with the new Hamas led Palestinian Authority Government.

Hamas know what they have to do for the international community to engage with them: renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap. Hamas need to start implementing these principles and make clear the path they intend to take.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Israeli Government on the release of the Palestinian Members of Parliament taken prisoner by the Israeli military. [90838]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to have concerns about the detention of members of the Palestinian Government and Legislature. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and EU Foreign Ministers have called for their immediate release. Our embassy in Tel Aviv has raised the detentions with the Israeli Government.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Palestinian Government with respect to its needs in ensuring safety and prosperity for its people. [91075]

Dr. Howells: The UK suspended contacts with Hamas in June 2005. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has therefore had no discussions with the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority (PA) Government.

We have continued to stay in regular contact with the President of the PA, Mahmoud Abbas. Most recently my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met with President Abbas on 10 September during his visit to the Middle East when of course the safety and prosperity of the Palestinian people was a central theme to their discussions.

We have been working for some time with the PA to improve the security apparatus in the West Bank and Gaza, through technical assistance and provision of equipment. We co-ordinate our work with US Security Co-ordinator General William Ward's team to assist the PA in consolidating and expanding their efforts on security. We are also working closely with EU partners on a significant assistance project for Palestinian civil policing.

The Government are committed to continue helping the Palestinian people. With a range of partners, we have worked hard to establish the "Temporary International Mechanism" which has been drawn up to provide needs-based assistance directly to the Palestinian people, without the need to channel funds through the Hamas-led Palestinian Government. The UK will contribute up to £12 million to the mechanism. Additionally, the Government announced on 25 April 2006 a UK contribution of £15 million to support the work of the United Nations Works and Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Middle East, which supports Palestinian refugees throughout the region, including in Israel and Lebanon. The UK has a strong record of support for the Palestinian people. Since 2001, we have provided £147 million, in addition to our contributions through the EU, which is the biggest donation to the Palestinian people.

Pascua Lama Mine Project

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* Chile and *(b)* Argentina on the Pascua Lama open-cast mine project. [90621]

Mr. Hoon: We have not had any specific discussions with the Chilean or Argentine Governments on the Pascua Lama open-cast mine project. We do, however, have a strong and continuing dialogue with both Governments on environmental issues, which includes regular contact with local mining authorities.

Qualified Majority Voting

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the Government's policy to support the extension of qualified majority voting in the EU in the field of police and home affairs. [90765]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are giving careful consideration to the proposals contained in the Commission's Communication "Implementing the Hague Programme: the Way Forward". We welcome efforts to take forward EU work in the Justice and Home Affairs field. In that context, the Finnish presidency have proposed discussion on the use of the Article 42 'passerelle', one consequence of which could be the application of qualified majority voting to some parts of EU police and judicial co-operation. We will need to be satisfied that any proposals would genuinely improve the decision making process, and that such a move would be in the UK's national interest.

Saudi Arabia

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assurances she has sought from the Saudi Arabian Government that the use of Eurofighter jets due to be exported to Saudi Arabia will be in compliance with international law. [90818]

Mr. McCartney: Any export of military equipment to Saudi Arabia will require an export licence. All export licence applications are assessed on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria including Criteria 6—the behaviour of the buyer country, including respect for international law. A licence will not be issued if to do so would be inconsistent with the criteria.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken since 25 July to encourage positive dialogue between warring parties in Sri Lanka. [90566]

Mr. McCartney: Throughout the serious deterioration in the security situation over recent months we have made clear in meetings at the highest levels with the Government of Sri Lanka and also to political representatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, our serious concern at the escalation in violence. We have urged all parties to show restraint. We participated in an EU démarche in August to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister about the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation. Foreign and Commonwealth officials also met the leader of the Sri Lankan opposition (United National Party) and stressed the importance of political consensus in working towards a solution that satisfies the concerns and legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankans. We are in close contact with the Government of Norway and continue to underline to both sides our full support for their efforts as peace process facilitators.

President Rajapakse, Foreign Minister Samaraweera and senior Sri Lankan officials met my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister at Chequers on 31 August. The talks focused on the internal security situation in Sri Lanka and the state of the peace process.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK Government are taking to assist the Government and people of Sri Lanka *(a)* to achieve a lasting internal peace agreement and *(b)* to promote civil and political rights for all citizens. [91099]

Dr. Howells: Throughout the escalation in violence over recent months we have made our concerns clear in meetings at the highest levels, with the Government of Sri Lanka and also with political representatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. President Rajapakse, Foreign Minister Samaraweera, and senior Sri Lankan officials met my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister at Chequers on 31 August 2006. The talks focused on the internal security situation in Sri Lanka and the state of the peace process. We are also in close contact with the Government of Norway as the peace process facilitators and we make clear to both sides our full support of their efforts.

We have been deeply concerned following the reports of the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission, the International Commission of Jurists, about the deteriorating human rights situation in the North and East. Any abuse is to be deplored. We welcome President Rajapakse's proposal to,

"invite an international independent commission to probe abductions, disappearances and extra-judicial killings in all areas of the country".

We agree with the statement of the United Nations Special Rapporteur, on extra-Judicial killings, Philip Alston that the commission must be independent, credible and effective and that the advice of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights would facilitate the establishment of such a commission.

Visas

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications for visitors' visas from *(a)* Australia, *(b)* Canada and *(c)* South Africa were refused between (i) January and June 2004, (ii) January and June 2005 and (iii) January and June 2006. [91043]

Dr. Howells: The information requested by the hon. Member is provided in the following tables:

Visitor applications for Australia, Canada and South Africa with the refusals

	Visitor (including family visits)					
	Australia		*Canada*		*South Africa*	
	Received	*Refused*	*Received*	*Refused*	*Received*	*Refused*
April 2004—March 2005[1]	2,282	30	13,650	155	4,834	2,077
January 2005—June 2005	1,238	13	5,430	31	1,889	816
January 2006—June 2006	1,234	30	4,744	135	2,103	835

	Visitor (excluding family visits)					
	Australia		*Canada*		*South Africa*	
	Received	*Refused*	*Received*	*Refused*	*Received*	*Refused*
April 2004—March 2005[1]	2,065	29	10,358	115	3,515	1,543
January 2005—June 2005	1,089	13	2,795	23	1,351	557
January 2006—June 06	1,074	28	2,287	85	1,525	554

Note:
These figures have not been published and should only be used for information. Please note that during 2004-05, only family visits were recorded by month, not visits. Therefore the annual figures published for financial year 2004-05 has been stated.
Sources:
[1] April 2004—March 2005 = Published Entry Clearance Statistics
January—June 2005 = Monthly Statistical Returns—7 September 2006
January—June 2006 = Monthly Statistical Returns—7 September 2006

Zimbabwe

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will investigate claims that women deported from the UK to Zimbabwe have been attacked and sexually abused after returning to Zimbabwe. [90681]

Mr. McCartney: We take allegations of abuse in Zimbabwe extremely seriously. We have therefore put in place enhanced monitoring procedures, including an agreement with the International Organisation for Migration, to monitor the treatment of immigration offenders who have returned from the UK to Zimbabwe. In their 2 August determination, the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal found that returnees are not at real risk of mistreatment on return to Zimbabwe by virtue of being returned from the UK. If the hon. Gentleman has any new evidence of such attacks or abuse, we would be grateful if he could pass it to us.

We are concerned about the broader human rights situation in Zimbabwe and take this up with the Government of Zimbabwe, directly and together with our international partners.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arms Trade

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what initiatives he is pursuing for improved control of *(a)* licensed production and *(b)* brokerage of arms for export; and if he will make a statement. [90938]

Margaret Hodge: The Government believe that the legislation implemented under the Export Control Act 2004, in respect of trafficking and brokering and licensed production, is efficient and effective. However, I am planning next year to review the export controls introduced in 2004. This will enable the Government to gauge their continuing effectiveness including in relation to licensed production and trafficking and brokering.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what export licences to Israel were refused on the ground of *(a)* aggressive use, *(b)* contribution to regional conflict, *(c)* human rights abuses and *(d)* internal repression in each of the last 10 years; and if he will publish the information held by his Department on the use of UK military equipment by Israel in the occupied territories in that period. [91012]

Margaret Hodge: The Government publish details of refused export licence applications by destination, and the main reasons for their decisions, in their annual and quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls. The Government's annual reports are available from the Library of the House, and the quarterly reports from the DTI Export Control Organisation website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/europeantrade/strategic-export-control/index.html.

The Department does not hold information on the use of UK military equipment abroad.

Auditing

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what plans the Government have to introduce more competition and choice into the UK audit market; [90647]

(2) what assessment the Government have made of the Joint Audit System of Company Auditing. [90648]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answers 11 September 2006]:* The Financial Reporting Council are leading a public debate on competition and choice in the provision of audit services following the publication in April of a report analysing this market. This report was jointly sponsored by the Council and the Department and the Government are following the current debate closely. That debate will inform future discussions about what actions or changes might be desirable in order to promote competition and choice in the market. The Financial Reporting Council have just published a summary of the debate so far.

It is possible under UK law to appoint joint auditors, and it is for companies to make that decision should they want to do so in the light of their needs and circumstances. I understand that the joint auditing approach has also been raised, in the responses received by the Financial Reporting Council, as one possible route to greater competition and choice in the audit market.

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward proposals to fund Citizens Advice Bureaux directly. [90862]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The Department does not fund Citizens Advice Bureaux and will not consider doing so in the future.

However, the Government recognise that the advice sector plays an import role, particularly in disadvantaged communities. All potential advice providers can bid for a share of any special time-limited grants for which DTI is responsible. For example some Citizens Advice Bureaux are included in the partnerships that gained grants awarded by my Department from the financial inclusion fund, over a two-year period, for providing face-to-face debt advice.

Cluster Munitions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the UK plans to evaluate the operational failure rates of cluster munitions used by Israel that the UK also holds in stock. [90816]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

No decision has been taken on this yet. We need reliable statistics on Israel's use of cluster munitions in Lebanon before we can make an informed assessment of operational failure rates.

Companies Bill

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which organisations the Government have contacted in its latest consultation on the Companies Bill. [90646]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The Department invites comment from organisations and individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed on matters relating to the Companies Bill, and also publishes material on its website (www.dti.gov.uk). Recently, this has included a paper on the application of the Bill to existing companies. DTI officials contacted over 170 organisations and over 120 private individuals to invite representations in writing and will be meeting with a wide range of organisations. A list of the organisations that were contacted has been placed in the Library of the House.

Company Directors

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Government plan to publish a non-statutory set of guidelines on the duties and responsibilities of company directors. [90649]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The Government recognise that it is important that the law in relation to the duties and responsibilities of company directors is accessible and widely understood. They therefore intend to publish plain language guidance on the duties and responsibilities of directors as part of their implementation of the Companies Bill, including the general duties under part 10 of the Bill.

Consumer Protection

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive; and what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of the directive on the powers available to consumer protection agencies. [90926]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI has held two public consultations on the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. The most recent, in December 2005, received 69 formal responses including responses from: consumer bodies, business and business organisations, trading standards departments, regulators, professional institutions and academics. A summary of these is on the Department's website. The DTI also held a number of workshops before and during the consultation process with consumer groups, enforcers and business representatives. It has also held numerous public presentations. In addition, the Department recently received eight letters from Members of Parliament and another from a local government central body that advises and supports local authority regulatory services.

Implementation of the directive is overseen by a project board that includes representatives from the enforcement community. It is also informed by a

stakeholder board consisting of representatives from business and consumer groups and enforcement authorities.

In light of comments received, the Government are still considering how best to implement the directive. Yet implementation offers an opportunity to enhance the powers available to enforcement authorities. Options include: retaining existing criminal offences and investigative powers; and extending these to the new protections contained in the directive. Such powers might also, for the first time, be made available to a national consumer protection body, the Office of Fair Trading. The Government will clarify their intentions when they publish the response to the consultation paper.

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will provide a corrected reply to the letter of 12 July 2006 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North regarding a constituent, ref AE/587654. [90636]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* A corrected reply was sent on 22 August. I am sorry the wrong response was sent previously.

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps are being taken towards making the operation of the Department carbon neutral. [90616]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The DTI is committed to energy efficiency targets and reduction in carbon emissions as set out in the "Framework for Sustainable Development in Government".

Over the past two years the Department has reduced its London HQ estate by over 30 per cent. with a corresponding reduction in all the associated environmental impacts. More efficient use has been made of existing accommodation and the Department has adopted flexible desking on the basis of eight workstations for every 10 staff.

Other carbon reduction initiatives include purchasing nearly a third of our electricity from renewable sources between 1999-2000 and 2004-05. We want to purchase more "green" electricity and are considering other renewable sources.

Eurofighter

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what resources in *(a)* time and *(b)* personnel were devoted to (i) assessing and (ii) facilitating the recent licence application for Eurofighter jets to be exported to Saudi Arabia. [90819]

Margaret Hodge: Export Licence applications are made to the Government in confidence and the information they contain is exempt from disclosure. For this reason the Government can neither confirm nor deny whether any such export licences have been received.

Given the complexity of the application assessment process, and the number of Departments involved, it would not in anyway be possible to calculate the staff time spent on any individual application. However, by way of general background, the Export Control Organisation currently has 73 staff responsible for processing export licence applications. In addition, staff in a number of other Government Departments, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and, where appropriate, the Department for International Development, are involved in the assessment process. The Government processed 9062 applications in 2005.

Export Control Act

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his answer on 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1751W, on the Export Control Act, when he plans to produce and publish the terms of reference for the planned review; how many members of staff within the Export Control Organisation will be involved; which independent parties will be consulted; and what the planned *(a)* start and *(b)* end date is for the review. [90817]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* As indicated in my response to the hon. Gentleman's question of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1751W, it is my intention to start the review of the regulations introduced under the Export Control Act after they have been in force for three years i.e. from May 2007. I have yet to decide the details of the review. There will be a public consultation. The review will involve a range of staff from across the Export Control Organisation and its advisory departments, but it is not possible to say precisely how many.

Import Licences

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what import licences have been issued since 2003 for small arms and light weapons from *(a)* Serbia and Montenegro, *(b)* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, *(c)* Romania, *(d)* Ukraine, *(e)* Albania, *(f)* Bulgaria, *(g)* Croatia and *(h)* Kosovo to the UK; and what quantity of goods was allowed by each licence. [90780]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Details of import licences issued from 1 January 2005 that would allow the import from (a) Serbia and Montenegro (SM), *(b)* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK), *(c)* Romania (RO), *(d)* Ukraine (UA), *(e)* Albania (AL), *(f)* Bulgaria (BG), *(g)* Croatia (HR) and *(h)* Kosovo (XK) of small arms and light weapons (as defined by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) are listed. Similar lists for 2003 and 2004 could be drawn up in the time available only at disproportionate costs.

The list is divided into those licences for which the applicant has provided a specific country of consignment and those licences where the applicant has simply stated that the goods are consigned from any country except a member state of the European Union. The code for the latter licences is "AY".

	Import licences issued from 1 January 2005 to date
AY	4 x DLASK Arms M4 5.56 calibre
AY	60 x Pistols
AY	50 x Handguns / machine pistols / silencers
AY	45 x Shotguns / 5 x silencers
AY	45 x Assorted prohibited weapons
AY	500 x Assorted prohibited firearms and component parts
AY	6,380 x Assorted prohibited firearms
AY	358,725 x Assorted prohibited weapons
AY	500 x Weapons and ammunition—Sections 5(1)(c) and 5(1A)(b) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended
AY	5,000 x Automatic weapons of all types
AY	1,000 x Semi-automatic rifles and carbines
AY	200 x Short-barrelled shotguns
AY	50 x Rocket launchers, grenade launchers or mortars
AY	2,000 x Handguns
AY	12 x Weapons under Section 5(1)(a) / 12 x Section 5(1)(ab) / 12 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba)
AY	100,000 x Weapons under Section 5(1)(a) / 50,000 x weapons under 5(1)(ab)
AY	500 x Assorted prohibited firearms and component parts
AY	47,800 x Assorted prohibited firearms and component parts
AY	40 x Handguns / 5 x machine pistols / 5 x silencers
AY	45 x Shotguns / 5 x silencers
AY	No more than 45 in total x submachine guns, light machine guns, medium machine guns, heavy machine guns, automatic cannons, assault rifles/carbines, self-loading rifles, self-loading rifles/carbines, automatic rifles/carbines, pump action rifles/carbines
AY	Unlimited assorted prohibited firearms
AY	6,470 x Assorted prohibited firearms
AY	100 x Handguns
AY	358,725 x Assorted prohibited weapons
AY	500 x Automatic weapons of all types
AY	1,000 x Semi-automatic rifles and carbines
AY	200 x Short-barrelled shotguns
AY	50 x Rocket launchers, grenade launchers or mortars
AY	2,000 x Handguns
AY	36 x Assorted prohibited weapons
AY	20,450 x Assorted prohibited weapons
AY	47,800 x Assorted prohibited firearms and component parts
AY	1,000 x Assorted prohibited firearms and component parts
AY	No more than 13,000 in total x weapons under Sections 5(1)(a), 5(1)(ab), (ac) and (ae) / 1,300 x weapons under Section 5(1)(b) / 500 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba) / 25,000 x weapons under Sections 5(1)(c), 5(1A)(d) and 5(1A)(e)

	Import licences issued from 1 January 2005 to date
AY	10 x .223 semi-automatic rifles/carbines
AY	110 x Lightweight multiple launchers / 10 x vehicle missile launchers / 75 x automatic, semi-automatic rifles, Carbines / 25 machine guns / 15 grenade launchers / 2 x drill anti-tank weapons / 500 x shoulder launch aiming units
AY	No more than 500 in total x prohibited weapons and prohibited ammunition
AY	5,000 x Automatic weapons of all types
AY	1,000 x Semi-automatic (self-loading) rifles and carbines of all types
AY	200 x Short-barrelled shotguns fed by slide, pump or lever action or by self-loading mechanism
AY	50 x Rocket Launchers, grenade launchers or mortars of all types
AY	2,000 x large and small calibre pistols and revolvers (handguns) of all types
AY	100 x pistols under Section 5(1)(aba)
AY	No more than 10,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(a) / 600 x 5(1)(ab) / 6000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba) / 100 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ac) / 3,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ae)
AY	No more than 10,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(a) / 600 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ab) / 6,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba) / 100 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ac) / 3,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ae)
AY	No more than 75 x medium machine guns, submachine guns, light machine guns, heavy machine guns, automatic cannon, cannon, assault rifles/carbines, self-loading rifles/carbines, automatic rifles/carbines, pump action rifles/carbines
AY	60 x Handguns (Cal. 2mm-27mm/.172-1")
AY	45 x Shotguns (pump, revolver, semi-automatic, automatic)
AY	No more than 45 shotguns in total of the following types: pump, revolver, semi-automatic, automatic
AY	No more than 75 x medium machine guns, submachine guns, light machine guns, heavy machine guns, automatic cannon, cannon, assault rifles/carbines, self-loading rifles/carbines, automatic rifles/carbines, pump action rifles/carbines
AY	10 x Derringer, 30 x handguns, 5 x machine pistols
AY	12 x Weapons under Section 5(1)(a) / 12 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ab) / 12 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba)
AY	No more than 200 x weapons under Section 5(1)(a), 5(1)(ab), 5(1)(ac), 5(1)(ad), 5(1)(ae) and 5(1A)(c) / No more than 150 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba)
AY	No more than 10,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(a) / 600 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ab) / 6,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba) / 100 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ac) / 3,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ae) / 750 x anti-riot guns / 600,000 component parts for weapons under Section 5(1)(a) and 5(1)(aba) / 700,000 rounds of ammunition under Section 5(1A)(e)
AY	No more than 10,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(a) / 600 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ab) / 6,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(aba) / 100 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ac) / 3,000 x weapons under Section 5(1)(ae) / 750 x anti-riot guns / 600,000 component parts for weapons under Section 5(1)(a) and 5(1)(aba) / 700,000 rounds of ammunition under Section 5(1A)(e)
AY	6,300 x 9mm pistols / 90,000 x rounds of 12.7mm ammunition
AY	90 x 12.7mm machine guns / 85 x 7.62mm machine guns / 12 x 7.62mm sniper rifles
AY	Unlimited grenade launchers, anti-tank weapons, helicopter mounted missile launchers, air-to-air missiles, surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles, shoulder launch aiming units and practice missiles

Import licences issued from 1 January 2005 to date

AY	2 x Anti-tank weapons, 5 x close air defence missiles, 2,000 x anti-tank missiles, 500 x shoulder launch aiming units, 200 x surface-to-air missiles, 200 x practice missiles, 88 x helicopter mounted missile launchers, 100 x air-to-air missiles, 110 lightweight multiple launchers, 500 x shoulder launch anti-armour missiles, 40 x vehicle missile launchers, 2,600 x close air defence missile, 220 air-to-ground anti-armour missiles, 20 x disarmed sectioned missiles, 75 x automatic/semi-automatic rifles, 25 x machine guns, 15 x grenade launchers
BG	200 x Shoulder launcher rockets
BG	136 x Rocket propelled grenades / 3 x launchers
BG	1 x Machine gun / 1 x submachine gun
BG	200 x Shoulder launcher rockets
BG	500 x Shoulder launched rockets
BG	500 x Shoulder launched rockets
BG	10 x 5.56x45mm "Arsenal" assault rifles
HR	1,500 x Machine guns, assault rifles and submachine guns
HR	5,000 x Component parts for Section 5(1)(a)
HR	500 x Rocket launchers / 3,000 mortars
HR	10,000 x Various machine guns / 2,500 various submachine guns
HR	40,000 x Assault rifles
HR	100 x Anti-aircraft systems
HR	100 x Rocket launchers
HR	20,000 x AK47 assault rifles
RO	2 x M16 A2 assault rifles / 4 x M16MA4 assault rifles / 2 x Berettas / 1 x sniper rifle / 1 x Minimi machine gun
RO	1 x Pump action shotgun / 2 x handguns
RO	5 x Handguns / 1 x automatic rifle / 6 x bolt action single shot rifles
RO	2 x H&K submachine guns / 5 x semi-automatic pistols / 1 x pump action shotgun
RO	2 x MP5 submachine guns / 2 x UZI 9mm pistols / 1 Beretta 9mm submachine gun
RO	1 x Walther PPK 1 x Glock 17 pistol / 2 x Colt 1911 pistols / 2 x H&K MPSKs
RO	25 x RPG-7 rocket launchers / 25 x RPG-7 rocket launchers (paratrooper) / 25 x SVD 7.62x54 rifles
RO	30 x AKM rifles / 50 x Dragunov 7.62x54 rifles / 6 x PKM machine guns / 15 x RPG-7 rocket launchers / 110 x RPG-7 rocket launchers Commander 5 / 1 x 60mm mortar / 1 x 81mm mortar / 1 x 120mm mortar
SM	200 x Signal pistols / 50 machine guns
SM	1 x Zastava M21 automatic rifle
SM	600 Machine guns
SM	1 x PKT machine gun / 2 x AKM assault rifles
SM	5 x German MG42 light machine guns 7.92mm and 20 x spare barrels for same / 3 x German MG34 light machine guns 7.92mm and 20 x spare barrels for same
SM	8 x Czech VZ27 7.65mm pistols / 9 x Belgian 1910/22 7.65mm pistols / 1 x German 7.65mm Mauser pistol / 1 x Polish Radom P-35 9mm pistol / 2 x German P-38 9mm pistols
SM	50 x .50 CAL Browning M2HB / 200 x PPSH41 7.62 submachine guns / 100 x MG42 7.92 light machine guns / 20 x DP26 7.92 light machine guns
UA	100 x Pistols / 580 x carbines
UA	1,000 x Submachine guns
UA	820 x Handguns / 400 x SVT 40 rifle
UA	400 x 7.62mm SVT-40 rifles / 160 x 7.92mm Mausers K-98 / 84 x 7.92mm MG34 / 32 x 7.92mm MG42 / 400 x 11.43mm Thompson submachine guns
UA	1,000 x 7.92mm Mauser K-98 / 500 x 7.62mm TT Pistol / 400 x 11.43mm Thompson submachine guns / 130 x 7.26mm Maxim machine gun
UA	1,000 x 7.92mm MG34 / 1,000 x 9mm Walther P-38 / 1,000 x 11.43mm Thompson submachine guns
XK	4 x laser emitting training weapons

Korea

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Department spent in each of the last five years building links between the UK and Korea with a focus on *(a)* engineering, *(b)* science and technology and *(c)* innovation. [79328]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The majority of the Department's expenditure on these subjects is allocated from the Science Budget to the UK Research Councils. In turn, the UK Research Councils allocate the majority of their funds in a "bottom-up" mode responding to the demand of the science community and making funding decisions on quality rather than international geographic focus. It is therefore not possible to provide exact figures on spending which relates to collaboration with Korea. However, there is active collaboration, supported by the Research Councils, in wide range of areas—including genome work, nano and bio-nanotechnology, sustainable development and energy technologies, ICT and mobile technologies and space science.

The Office of Science and Innovation does have specific schemes to support links between UK and Korea in these areas which are administered by the Royal Society and which cost £400,000 from 2001-02 to 2005-06.

National Consumer Council

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) when the budget of the National Consumer Council for 2006-07 will be finalised; and if he will make a statement; [91095]

(2) what the National Consumer Council's budget will be for 2006-07. [91096]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Due to the tight budgetary position this year it has taken longer than usual for the Department to set definitive budgets in all areas. The Department has now completed the exercise for prioritising our budget across objectives, and is working out 2006-07 final budgets for the individual recipients.

In the case of the National Consumer Council, their budget includes funds from other sources as well as the Department. We will not settle the exact expenditure limit that we will apply to the Council until later this month.

Pressure Reduction Installation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the safety of the proposed pressure reduction installation at Corse, Gloucestershire which is part of the Milford Haven to Tirley gas pipeline. [90579]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* None. The application for the pressure reduction installation at Corse falls on the local planning authority to determine under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Scientific Publication System

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what response he has made to the European Commission Study addressing Europe's scientific publication system; and if he will make a statement. [90746]

Margaret Hodge: The Department hosted a presentation by the authors of the study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publications markets in Europe. The presentation was attended by key stakeholders and representatives of the UK research publications community, and provided an opportunity for them to express views on the recommendations.

I am considering the recommendations of the Study and intend to send a response to the European Commission in due course.

Service Sector

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with trade union representatives on the impact of globalisation on service sector jobs in the UK. [90587]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and his officials regularly meet union representatives to discuss a number of issues including the effects of globalisation.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment the Department has made of the impact of globalisation on service sector jobs in the UK. [90588]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* In December 2003 the Department published a consultation document "Services & Offshoring: the Impact of International Competition in Services" which set out some of the possible impacts of offshoring on the UK services sector. This was followed by the 2004 DTI White Paper "Making Globalisation a Force for Good" and the accompanying DTI Economics paper "Liberalisation and Globalisation: Maximising the Benefits of International Trade and Investment". The conclusion was that globalisation should be positive for the UK economy in the long run, while acknowledging possible job losses in the short term.

The DTI has also commissioned and published studies of the impact of globalisation on UK contact centres and the UK software and IT services sector. These are available on the DTI website.

UN Conference on Trade and Development

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of *(a)* the UN Conference on Trade and Development annual report and *(b)* its assessment of the Japanese and German trade surpluses. [90899]

Margaret Hodge: We welcome UNCTAD's annual report, which is broadly consistent with the UK's position on trade and development set out in the 2004 Trade and Investment White Paper "Making Globalisation a Force for Good".

We share the concern that global imbalances may present a risk to world growth. However Germany and Japan's surpluses have been a long-standing feature of a growing and evolving world economy.

TREASURY

Arms Exports Controls

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 426W, on arms exports controls, what estimate he has made of the number of unreported breaches of arms export controls. [90915]

John Healey: HMRC does not make systematic assessments of unreported breaches of arms export controls. However, HMRC does undertake risk-testing exercises that support our assessment that there is not widespread abuse of export controls and that UK exporters are broadly compliant.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 426W, on arms exports controls, what assessment he has made of the reason for the decline in the number of reported breaches of strategic export controls since 2000. [90916]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs consider there to be a number of factors contributing to the decline in the number of reported breaches of strategic export controls since 2000. Firstly, at that time a large number of breaches related to trade sanctions on Angola and Iraq—these sanctions no longer apply. Secondly, controls on the export of off-road vehicles to the former Yugoslavia were discontinued in 2002. HMRC also assess that there is increased exporter compliance. Since 2000 the DTI, supported by HMRC and other Government Departments, have been very active in running national and regional seminars to increase exporter awareness of the controls. Additionally, DTI and HMRC supported a series of regional seminars run by the Defence Manufacturers Association prior to the introduction of the new Orders under the Export Control Act 2002.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 426W, on arms exports controls, what offence was committed in respect of each prosecution for breaches of strategic export controls since 2000 where proceedings are complete; and what punishment was imposed in each case. [90917]

John Healey: The details are provided in the following table:

	Offence committed	*Punishment imposed*
2001-02	Knowingly breaching the prohibition on the export of aluminium and other WMD related items to Pakistan	12 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years
2003-04	Exporting aluminium to Pakistan without a licence	Fined £1,000
2004-05	Knowingly breaching the prohibition on the export of aircraft parts to Iran without a licence	18 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years; banned from being company director for 10 years; and asset forfeiture order for £69,980
2005-06	Exporting body armour to Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia without a licence	Fined £10,000 plus £500 costs
2006-07	Exporting 3 consignments of body armour and helmets to Kuwait and Iraq during 2004 without a licence	Fined £10,000 plus £1600 costs
	Exporting 10 consignments of military helmets and flak jackets to Kuwait for exporting to Iraq without a licence	Fined £8,000 plus £500 costs

Breast Feeding

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with *(a)* the Department of Health and *(b)* the Department for Work and Pensions the construction of fiscal incentives to promote breast feeding in the first six months of a baby's life. [90761]

Ed Balls: The Government recognises breastfeeding as the best form of nutrition for infants. Departments will continue to keep under review policies to promote healthy outcomes for infants.

The new Healthy Start scheme, that replaces the Welfare Food Scheme, provides for the first time equal benefits for both breastfeeding and bottlefeeding mothers.

Infant formula is the sole source of nutrition for those infants who are not breastfed and it is therefore vital that this product is available at an affordable price. The Government recognise that women have a choice in how they feed their infant and seek to maximise nutritional outcomes for all infants.

While the Government keeps all taxes under review, it is important to remember that there are other factors unrelated to price that will determine whether a mother chooses to breastfeed.

Cash Machines

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of Citizens' Advice's evidence to his Department on fee-charging cash machines. [90854]

Ed Balls: The Government take very seriously the issue of free access to cash, especially for those on low incomes. In July this year, the Citizens Advice Bureau published survey evidence on cash machine charging, titled "Out of Pocket". The working group on ATMs, chaired by my right hon. Friend the Member for Dunbartonshire, is looking at evidence from a range of stakeholders on the location and growth of free and surcharging ATMs, in order to reach a shared analysis on this issue. The Government look forward to seeing the recommendations of the ATM working group later in the year.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will work with the banking industry to raise the proportion of cash machines not charging a fee. [90859]

Ed Balls: The Government take seriously the issue of free access to cash, especially for those on low incomes. According to the latest figures from LINK, there are now more than 33,000 free ATMs in the UK, accounting for 96 per cent. of withdrawals made at ATMs. In the first quarter of 2006, there was a net increase of over 100 free ATMs.

The working group on ATMs, chaired by my right hon. Friend the Member for Dunbartonshire , is expected to look at the evidence on the location and growth of free and surcharging ATMs, in order to reach a shared analysis on this issue. The Government look forward to seeing the recommendations of this group later in the year.

CHIEF Computer System

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the impact on private sector service providers of HM Revenue and Customs service helping importers and exporters to supply information to the CHIEF computer system. [90641]

John Healey: The CHIEF system has been HM Revenue and Customs' primary system for processing customs declarations on imports and exports since 1994. HM Revenue and Customs provide a variety of electronic communications channels to enable importers and exporters to make customs declarations to the CHIEF service.

HMRC have an extensive and ongoing consultation process with stakeholders including importers, exporters, software suppliers, community service providers, logistics operators and freight carriers to help understand the full impact of all potential changes relating to the provision of information to the CHIEF service. Where appropriate, full regulatory impact assessments are carried out on proposed changes to the system.

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 3 August 2006, regarding a constituent, reference 5/01238/2006. [90964]

Ed Balls: I have replied to my hon. Friend.

Departmental Capability Review

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the departmental capability review for HM Treasury will be published. [90597]

Ed Balls: Any announcement on the Treasury's participation in the departmental capability review will be made in due course.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value is of his Department's contracts with *(a)* ER Consultants and *(b)* Praesta in each of the last three years; and which Ministers have made use of the services in each case. [90783]

John Healey: No contracts have been awarded by the Treasury to ER Consultants during the last three financial years. Payments of £29,326 excluding VAT were made to Praesta Partners in 2005-06 in connection with the training of departmental officials.

Our records show that Treasury Ministers have not made use of the services of either company.

Energy Efficiency (Information & Support to Business)

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of meetings held by the group examining the provision of information and support on energy efficiency to business chaired by the Financial Secretary and Mr. Richard Ellis. [90912]

John Healey: Budget 2006 announced that Richard Ellis and I would co-chair a group to examine how best to provide information and support to business on energy efficiency. The meetings of this group represent part of the ongoing process of policy development, the outcome of which will be reflected in any future policy announcements on this area. As such, it would not be appropriate to place copies of the minutes of these meetings in the Library.

Export Controls

Susan Kramer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 426W, what percentage of breaches of export control legislation involved goods that would have been granted an export licence had the exporter applied for one in each of the last five years. [90914]

John Healey: Estimates of the percentage of breaches of export control legislation involving goods that would have been granted an export licence, had the exporter applied for one, in each of the last five years are set out in the following table:

	Percentage
2000-01	80
2001-02	88
2002-03	92
2003-04	84
2004-05	83

Fuel Duties

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of fuel duty is per litre for *(a)* petrol and *(b)* diesel; and what the level would be if the fuel duty escalator had been retained. [90905]

John Healey: The current level of duty for ultra low sulphur petrol and diesel is 47.1p per litre.

The fuel duty escalator was introduced in 1993 and removed in 1999.

If the fuel duty escalator had been retained and (1) fuel duty had increased the escalator by 6 per cent. in real terms at every Budget and (2) there had been no reduction in fuel duty of 3p per litre in 2000 for the introduction of ultra low sulphur petrol and diesel, then fuel duty for ULSP and ULSD would currently be 83.91p per litre.

Further information on current and historical duty rates for petrol and diesel can be found in table 4 of the HM Revenue and Customs "Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin", which can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullhydro

Gross Domestic Product

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of gross domestic product he expects net taxes and national insurance contributions, less North sea revenues, to be in 2007-08; and what the equivalent percentage was in each of the last 30 years. [90911]

Ed Balls: Data on net taxes and national insurance contributions and North sea revenues as a percentage of GDP back to 1973-74 and Budget 2006 projections for 2007-08 can be found in table C1 of the Public Finances Databank (available on the web at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and tools/finance_spending_statistics/pubsec_finance/psf_statistics.cfm).

HM Revenue and Customs (Tribunals)

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance is issued by his Department to individuals and businesses who were successful in tribunal cases against HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and where HMRC is appealing that decision to the High Court. [90976]

John Healey: None. It is the responsibility of the Tribunal to provide guidance in these circumstances.

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of appeal cases made by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to the High Court against Tribunal decisions of General Commissioners was in each of the last five years; and what revenue was obtained as a result of decisions made in favour of HMRC. [90998]

John Healey: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of appeal against Tribunal decisions of General Commissioners were made by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to the High Court in each of the last five years; how many of these cases were heard; and in how many such cases the decision was made in favour of HMRC. [90999]

John Healey: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Home Working

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on encouraging working from home through tax incentives to employers and employees to reduce carbon dioxide emissions associated with journeys to and from work. [90650]

Ed Balls: The Government believe that flexible working is good for both business and families. Business may draw on a wider pool of skills and talents, improve recruitment and retention rates and increase staff morale and productivity. Employees may find working hours to match their family caring responsibilities and spend more time with their children.

The Government introduced a new right to request flexible working for parents of children under six and disabled children in 2003 and will extend this to carers of adults from next April. There is no tax charge where an employee works regularly at home under agreed flexible working arrangements and his or her employer reimburses their additional costs of working at home.

Immigrant Workers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the estimate is of the number of immigrant workers from Eastern European accession countries who are claiming tax credit in the UK; what the cost of such payments to public funds was in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [90547]

(2) how many people claimed tax credits for their children living outside the United Kingdom in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and what the cost was to the Exchequer in each year. [90763]

Dawn Primarolo: A quarterly report, last produced on 22 August 2006 by the Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and Department for Communities and Local Government is published on the Home Office immigration and nationality directorate's website, http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report, and provides detailed information including the number of workers from the new member states of the EU who are claiming tax credits.

The other information is not available.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether migrant workers from Bulgaria and Romania will be eligible for tax credits if they were permitted to enter the UK to work after those countries joined the EU; and if he will make a statement. [90548]

Dawn Primarolo: No date has been set for the accession of Romania and Bulgaria. Once that decision is made, member states will decide on what access to labour markets they will give to Romania and Bulgaria.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the decision was taken to allow migrant workers coming to the UK to claim tax credits for family members living abroad; what criteria govern such payments; and if he will make a statement. [90764]

Dawn Primarolo: Benefits including the child tax credit for workers' families is governed by European Community (EC) law, which have been in place since the UK joined the European Economic Community in 1973.

Income Inequality

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what levels of income inequality were in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [91100]

John Healey: There is no single measure or source of data on household income inequality.

However, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the DWP publication "Households Below Average Income" and the ONS publication "The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, 2004-05".

International Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether countries other than the UK and France have committed themselves to the IFF, as distinct from the IFFIm; what commitment to date extends only to a working group charged with considering feasibility; and on what dates that working group has met. [90907]

Ed Balls: France and the UK agreed at the Paris conference on innovative financing in March jointly to establish a working group to consider the implementation of an IFF going to health and education and funded by an air ticket levy as well as by other revenues from the Landau report. Discussions with the French and other countries have continued including on broader innovative financing mechanisms and on initiatives such as UNITAID and AMCs.

Kettering Borough Council

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conclusions were drawn by Treasury officials from their recent visit to Kettering borough council about the local implementation of the sustainable communities programme. [90615]

Ed Balls: As part of its evidence gathering and analysis phase, officials from the Supporting Housing Growth Review team, along with officials from DCLG and other key infrastructure departments, have conducted a series of case study workshops with officials from local authorities across the country. The visit to North Northamptonshire was one of these visits. The review will report to Treasury Ministers as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Land Use Planning

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which representatives of *(a)* business, *(b)* community groups and *(c)* non-government organisations the Barker Review Team (i) met and (ii) received representations from during the compilation of its interim report on land use planning. [90773]

Ed Balls: The full list of representatives can be found on page 181 in annex A of the Barker Review of Land Use Planning interim report. This can be found on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent reviews/barker_review_land_use_planning/barkerreview_land_use_planning_index.cfm

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements he has made for consultation on the interim Barker Report on land use planning; and whether Cabinet Office guidance on consultation will apply to these arrangements. [90774]

Ed Balls: Her Majesty's Treasury have not arranged any consultation on Ms Barker's interim report on land use planning. A formal consultation was carried out as part of Kate Barker's independent Review of Land Use Planning during January-March 2006. The interim report published on 4 July sets out Ms Barker's analysis to date and is not a consultation document. However, it is understood that Ms Barker is still welcoming views and has proposed a deadline for those views of 19 September 2006.

North Sea Revenues

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the latest forecasts are for North sea revenue for each year to 2010-11 *(a)* as a percentage of gross domestic product, *(b)* in cash terms and *(c)* in real terms on 2006 prices; and if he will make a statement. [90564]

Ed Balls: Projections for North sea revenues can be found in Tables C8 and C9 of Budget 2006.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead regarding the tax credits of his constituent Mr. Delaney. [90644]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend wrote to me on 22 June 2005 and HM Revenue and Customs responded on my behalf on 18 August 2005.

There has been no further correspondence between myself and my right hon. Friend regarding his constituent.

Public Sector Pensions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to paragraph 36 of the Note by the Government Actuary's Department and HM Treasury, Unfunded Public Service Pension Schemes: 2005 Cash Flow Projections Assumptions and Data, June 2006, what estimate he has made of the cash inflows that will arise from member contributions, expressed as a percentage of GDP. [90913]

John Healey: Full estimates of the size of cash inflows that will arise from member contributions are in the process of being developed, and are not yet available.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the deficit in public sector pension funds; what the estimate was 12 months before; and which five funds have the largest estimated deficits. [90967]

John Healey: The latest available estimate of the total liabilities of unfunded public service occupational pension schemes was set out in the note from HM Treasury, "Total liability of unfunded public service occupational pension schemes as at March 2005", a copy of which was placed in the House of Commons Library on 2 March 2006.

Public Service Agreements

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how many spending review (SR) 2002 public service agreement (PSA) targets his Department received summary assessments in the latest autumn performance reports, expressed as a proportion of the total number of SR 2002 PSA targets. [90906]

Ed Balls: Due to data lags and the fact that some targets have an end date in the future, a full tally is not yet possible.

Red Diesel

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress is being made in the negotiations to extend the derogation from the EU for the use of red diesel for marine uses. [91003]

John Healey: In line with the timetable set out by the European Commission, the UK will be submitting in October a formal application for renewal of the

derogation enabling pleasure boats to use red diesel. This application will be informed by the case that the Government set out in the partial RIA published at the Budget and is continuing to build with the cooperation of the boating industry.

Standard Life

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority undertook monitoring of the recent demutualisation ballot conducted by Standard Life. [91004]

Ed Balls: The process of demutualisation in any organisation will be based on their specific rules, articles of memorandum as well as the legislative framework under which they operate.

These requirements will be binding on all members who will normally have the opportunity to vote on the proposals.

The Standard Life demutualisation ballot was conducted in accordance with their existing regulations and guidance on voting was given in the Proposal for members and policyholders.

The Treasury is not responsible for or involved in the conduct of such votes; however the FSA in its role as regulator reviewed the Proposal for regulatory compliance. The fairness of the Proposal was checked by an independent expert appointed to report to the court.

Tax Credits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total amount of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit erroneously paid to prisoners due to (i) fraud, (ii) customer error and (iii) official error in each year where figures are available. [91062]

John Healey: The information requested is not available.

Tax Relief

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax relief was claimed by employers who have seconded employees to schools in each year since 1997. [90797]

Ed Balls: There is no centrally available information on which to base an estimate of the total value of this relief.

Treasury Spending Teams

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to paragraph 5.6 of the Departmental Report, what the Treasury spending teams are; and how many people were employed in each of them at the end of *(a)* the 2004-05 and *(b)* the 2005-06 financial years. [90892]

John Healey: The Treasury Spending Teams monitor departmental spending along with service delivery and provide advice to Treasury Ministers on any matters arising. The number of people employed in spending teams in 2004-05 was 143 and in 2005-06 148.

Further details on Treasury Spending Teams can be found on its organisational chart, which can be accessed online at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk .

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken to ensure that UK troops in Helmand Province are fully equipped for operating effectively in the winter. [90581]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* As I announced to the House on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1133WS, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines will replace 16 Air Assault Brigade as the Helmand taskforce this winter. The Brigade is the UK's only specialist mountain and cold weather brigade. It is fully trained and equipped for this role and has considerable personal and collective experience of winter and mountain operations.

In addition to the normal temperate and desert issue equipment, brigade personnel have been issued with a winter supplement, based on those specialist items that would normally be used during winter training in Norway. The key items are cold weather boots and socks, inner and outer winter gloves and a winter sleeping bag. Should the nature of the operations require additional specialist winter equipment in order to support particular operational requirements, these can be drawn on by the in-theatre HQ.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the loss of the RAF Nimrod in Afghanistan. [90827]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The loss of an RAF Nimrod MR2 in Afghanistan on 2 September, and the tragic loss of life of the 14 military personnel on board, is currently being investigated. The factors leading to the loss of the aircraft cannot be confirmed until the investigation is concluded, but all the indications are that it was not the result of hostile action. The incident serves to remind us of the risks that our military personnel are facing on behalf of us all, and the debt that we owe them.

Correspondence

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed's letters of 1 December 2005 and 28 February 2006 concerning replacement documents for a constituent's late husband's war service (MoD Ref: 05651/2005). [90668]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* My hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson), wrote to the right hon. Gentleman on 24 August. This regrettable delay was because it took much longer than expected to trace the necessary documents.

Departmental Expenditure

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what has been the annual expenditure on vehicles for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body, (ii) executive agency and (iii) other public body for which he is responsible in (A) Scotland, (B) Wales, (C) each of the English regions and (D) Northern Ireland in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2005-06. [39970]

Derek Twigg: Expenditure on the purchase or hire of vehicles for the movement of personnel and freight for administrative purposes in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has been as follows:

£ million

	England, Scotland and Wales	Northern Ireland	Total
2003-04	85.4	4.2	89.6
2004-05	85.2	5.5	90.7
2005-06	89.2	4.2	93.4

These figures reflect activity by the Defence Logistics Organisation, who account for the majority of MOD vehicle expenditure, and Headquarters Northern Ireland. Some other expenditure is incurred locally, but could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Most vehicles are operated under lease or short-term hire arrangements.

For details of expenditure on ministerial vehicles provided to the MOD by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the letter of 20 December 2005 from the chief executive of the Government Car and Despatch Agency to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker). Copies of the letter are available in the Library.

Data for 2002-03 and a further breakdown by agency or public body and region are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Emergency Fire Cover

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fire appliances the armed forces own, broken down by age; and how many could be used to provide emergency fire cover for the general population in the event of a strike by firefighters. [88723]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence owns a total number of 216 fire appliances. Of these 79 are Major Foam Airfield Crash Vehicles (MFV) and 82 are Rapid Intervention Airfield Crash Vehicles (RTV). There are also 55 Domestic Vehicles which are used to tackle fires in buildings and other parts of the Defence Estate and are similar to those operated by local authority fire and rescue services.

The ages of the vehicles are as follows:

	Age by years														
Vehicle type	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	13	14	16	20	22	Total
MFV	0	0	0	2	18	15	14	26	4	0	0	0	0	0	79
RIV	0	0	3	17	23	19	15	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	82
Domestic	1	19	0	8	0	2	7	0	0	5	5	5	1	2	55

All fire appliances owned by the Ministry of Defence are there to support armed forces operational activity and could not be assigned to provide emergency cover in the event of a strike by firefighters whether on a national or local basis.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* C130K and *(b)* C130J Hercules aircraft are based at RAF Lyneham; how many Hercules are fit for purpose; how many Hercules are deployed (i) in Iraq, (ii) in Afghanistan, (iii) to Cyprus and Lebanon and (iv) elsewhere; and if he will make a statement. [90677]

Mr. Ingram: There are a total of 24 C130Ks and 25 C130J Hercules aircraft based at RAF Lyneham of which a number are deployed to operational theatres. I am withholding information about how many Hercules aircraft are deployed to which operational theatre, as this might prejudice the operational security of our armed forces.

The average year to date fit for purpose figures as at August 2006 are 11 for the C130K aircraft and 16 for the C130J Hercules aircraft.

Aircraft are deemed fit for purpose if they are capable of undertaking the required task on a given day. Aircraft are not available for tasking if they are undergoing scheduled maintenance, modification programmes or any unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day-to-day basis. The figures do not reflect the fact that an aircraft assessed as not fit for purpose may be returned to the front line at very short notice to meet the operational need.

Infantry Soldiers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of infantry soldiers come from *(a)* Muslim and *(b)* ethnic minority backgrounds. [83676]

Derek Twigg: As at 1 June 2006, the percentage of UK Regular Army Infantry Soldiers that have recorded Muslim as their religion is 0.2 per cent.

As at 1 April 2006, the percentage of UK Regular Army Infantry Soldiers that come from an ethnic minority background is 8.5 per cent.

UK Regular Army excludes Full Time Reserve Service Personnel, Gurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on UK troops remaining in Iraq after all provinces controlled by the UK are handed over to the Iraqi Government; what information has been issued to the media on the UK's plans; and if he will make a statement. [90873]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* As we have consistently made clear, coalition troops will remain in Iraq until the conditions for drawdown are right. The transfer of provincial security responsibility to the Iraqi Security Forces—while an important step—will not necessarily result in the complete withdrawal of UK troops. Coalition troops will need to remain in Iraq for some period after provincial transfer to continue training and mentoring of the Iraqi Security Forces, and to assist with the provision of security until we, the Iraqi Government, and our coalition partners are confident that the Iraqi Security Forces can operate without our support.

MOD regularly provides the media with briefing about the Department's role in Iraq.

Operation Herrick

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which parent unit the members of the composite company of the Royal Rifle Volunteers shortly to be deployed on Operation Herrick are from, broken down by *(a)* rank and *(b)* company. [90731]

Mr. Ingram: The composite company of the Royal Rifle Volunteers deploying on Operation Herrick broken down by parent unit, company and rank is shown in the following table:

Parent unit/company	*Maj*	*Lt*	*2Lt*	*WO2*	*SSgt*	*Sgt*	*Cpl*	*LCpl*	*Pte*
4 YORKS	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
RGBW[1] A Coy	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	3	8
R WxY[2] B Sqn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
R WxY C Sqn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
R WxY D Sqn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
R WxY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Somerset LI B Coy	1	1	1	1	—	—	4	5	9
D and D[3] C Coy	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6
D and D E Coy	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cornwall LI D Coy	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	2	11
RGJ[4] E Coy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
RGJ G Coy	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	6
HAC[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
RRV[6]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Rifle Vols	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	4	5
HLDRS[7]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

[1] Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire
[2] Royal Wessex Yeomanry
[3] Devon and Dorset
[4] Royal Green Jackets
[5] Honourable Artillery Company
[6] Royal Rifle Volunteers
[7] Highlanders. This individual is a Regular Reservist

Peacekeeping (UN and NATO)

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* UN peacekeeping troops and *(b)* NATO operationally deployed troops come from the British armed forces. [87269]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The UN publishes details of troop contributions to UN missions on its website at www.un.org/depts/dpko/dpko/contributors. I am placing a copy in the Library of the House.

On 10 August 2006 the deployment of UK service personnel on NATO operations was:

Country	*All services*
ISAF (Afghanistan)	4,360
Balkans	180
Iraq	20

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent disclosure of sensitive information.
2. Figures include mobilised reservists.
3. ISAF (International Security Assistance Force).
4. Figures for the total NATO strength are not held centrally and it is therefore not possible to show these figures as a proportion of the total force.

Information on the deployment of the British armed forces can also be found in the MOD annual report and accounts 2005-06, copies of which are held in the House of Commons Library.

Royal Irish Regiment Home Service Battalions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the roles are of the Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service) battalions; which roles will be taken up by other regiments or battalions on disbandment; and which roles will no longer be carried out. [90580]

Mr. Ingram: The Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service) battalions, like their predecessors, the Ulster Defence Regiment, were raised specifically for operations in support of the police in Northern Ireland known as Operation Banner.

Over the years they have played a crucial role in creating the environment which led to the announcement on 1 August 2005 of the start of the process of normalisation which will see the end of Operation Banner on 31 July 2007. With the police no longer needing routine military support, the three Home Service battalions will have successfully completed the tasks for which they were raised and will disband.

The revised Security Annex to the Joint Declaration makes it clear that, assuming the maintenance of an enabling environment, Army support to the police after 31 July 2007, will reduce to a residual level, e.g. in providing specialised ordnance disposal and support for public order as described in Patten recommendations 59 and 66, should this be needed.

UN Missions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops have been involved in UN missions in each year since 1995. [75399]

Mr. Ingram: The UN publishes details of troop contributions to UN missions on its website at www.un.org/depts/dpko/dpko/contributors. I am placing a copy in the Library of the House. Data prior to 2000 are not currently available on the website. Nor are they it held centrally by the Ministry of Defence, and are they could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

W Company, 45 Commando

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of W Company, 45 Commando, shortly to be deployed to Afghanistan were serving in the company on an established Line Serial Number two months before deployment. [90626]

Mr. Ingram: The established Line Serial Number for W Company 45 Commando Royal Marines is 78 personnel for their conventional role. But 45 Commando are not deploying to Afghanistan as a Battle Group: they have a number of individual roles for which they have been specifically reorganised. W Coy restructured in early July 2006 and now comprises 100 individuals. The majority of the Coy have been training for an operational deployment since Easter 2006; and all personnel undertake legally mandated pre-deployment training including the five members who joined the company two months before the deployment. They will conduct individual replacement training next week.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of W Company, 45 Commando or currently attached to W Company for the duration of the deployment shortly to be deployed to Afghanistan are members of the Royal Navy, not including Royal Marines. [90729]

Mr. Ingram: There are currently no Royal Navy personnel serving with or attached to W Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines. W Company, who are deploying to Afghanistan, comprise Royal Marine personnel, one Army Captain and one RAF Regiment Troop Sergeant.

WALES

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88754]

Mr. Hain: Under the machinery of government change, in June 2003 the Wales Office became a separate entity within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA); and IT equipment is provided through the DCA contract in line with the government private finance initiative. Through this contract we have been supplied with four laptop computers since March 2005, three of which were supplied in November 2005 and one in August 2006. The Wales Office has purchased one memory stick in July 2006, and all other equipment is covered by the DCA IT contract.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88970]

Mr. Hain: The National Assembly of Wales provided information technology support service functions to the Wales Office until 31 March 2004. Under the machinery of government changes, the Wales Office became a separate entity within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA); and has adopted their contract set-up, Liberate UK, who provide all office requirements in line with the government private finance initiative. The Wales Office has therefore not awarded any IT contracts during this period.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88971]

Mr. Hain: The National Assembly of Wales provided information technology support service functions to the Wales Office until 31 March 2004. Under the machinery of government changes in 2003, the Wales

Office became a separate entity within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA), and has adopted their contract set-up, Liberate UK, who provide all office requirements in line with the government private finance initiative. The Wales Office has neither awarded nor abandoned any IT contracts.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department by year since February 2004. [88561]

Mr. Hain: No security passes have been reported lost or stolen in that time.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Drink-driving Offences

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps he is taking to ensure that the Crown Prosecution Service effectively prosecute individuals accused of drink driving offences. [90604]

The Solicitor-General: Crown prosecutors carefully consider all the evidence and rigorously apply the Code for Crown Prosecutors. In reaching a charging decision they ensure that the statutory obligations of disclosure are met and that proceedings are expedited. Drink driving cases can raise challenging questions of law and procedure. Frontline prosecutors are provided with detailed and up to date guidance. The DPP has recently reminded CPS prosecutors to exercise particular care in ensuring that those who drive dangerously are charged with driving dangerously, rather than the lesser charge of careless driving. This is particularly important in cases where a victim has died.

Information taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform shows that for England and Wales in 2004 (latest available) there were 107,091 proceedings for offences of driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, of which there were 96,240 findings of guilt, a conviction rate of 90 per cent.

Law Students

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) what discussions he and his officials have had with the Department for Education and Skills about support the Department offers to mature law students to assist them in finding a training contract; [90611]

(2) what recent discussions he and his officials have had with the Law Society regarding funding and assistance for mature law students to enable them to complete a legal practice course. [90612]

The Solicitor-General: None.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Chartered Psychologists

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what use the Department makes of chartered psychologists for training; and what the value is of her Department's contracts with *(a)* ER Consultants and *(b)* Praesta in each of the last three years. [90781]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office co-ordinates development coaching for all Cabinet Office Senior Civil Servants. It also co-ordinates a Civil Service-wide High Potential Development Scheme for all Senior Civil Servants. In both cases, chartered psychologists are used as coaches and at team development events.

The following table shows the value of the Department's contracts with ER Consultants and Praesta in each of the last three years.

£

	ER Consultants	*Praesta*
2003-04[1]	0	0
2004-05[1]	0	0
2005-06[1]	264.36	50,348.75

[1] Dates refer to financial year rather than calendar years.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was paid to the Cabinet Office from the Access to Work Scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget she plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of Access to Work funding for central Government Departments; and if she will make a statement. [89017]

Hilary Armstrong: In the last year Cabinet Office has used the Access to Work Scheme twice. This includes use of the Fares to Work provision for which there is an ongoing annual cost. Costs for the Access to Work provisions are met by the management units employing those disabled staff but those costs are not monitored or held centrally.

Future costs for reasonable adjustments after the withdrawal of Access to Work will continue to be met by management units and, where necessary, centrally.

The Cabinet Office is committed to making reasonable adjustments for staff and this will be an explicit point within the Department's Disability Equality Scheme which my officials are currently preparing and which will be published by December 2006.

Public Sector Information

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how she plans to maximise the re-use for commercial purposes of public sector information by third parties. [90688]

Edward Miliband: The regulations on the re-use of public sector information provide a legal framework that encourages the re-use of public sector information. Furthermore, the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) has developed a number of initiatives to ensure that the regulations do not create any barriers to the re-use of public sector information.

For example it has introduced the Click-Use Licence which is an online licence that allows the re-use of a wide range of public sector information with the minimum of administration.

OPSI has also introduced the Information Fair Trader Scheme which sets and assesses standards for public sector organisations. It requires them to encourage the re-use of information and reach a standard of fairness and transparency.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many prosecutions have been launched in respect of non-compliance with the thermal efficiency requirements of the building regulations in each of the last 10 years; and how many convictions were secured. [90939]

Angela E. Smith: Prosecutions relating to non-compliance with the Building Regulations are pursued by local government and there is no central register of prosecutions.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has *(a)* made and *(b)* evaluated of the proportion of homes constructed in the last 10 years which did not comply with building regulations in respect of their thermal efficiency; and if she will make a statement; [90940]

(2) what assessment she has made of the potential for improved training, monitoring and enforcement within the construction industry to raise levels of compliance with Part L of the building regulations; and if she will make a statement. [90943]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government commissioned surveys of the implementation of the energy efficiency amendments that came into effect in 1995 and 2002. The results of tests carried out on 154 dwellings built to the 2002 standards were taken into account in developing the amendment that came into effect in April 2006.

In line with the commitment made in the 2003 Energy White Paper to find ways of improving compliance the Department began in July 2005 the largest programme of dissemination and training ever undertaken. This work will continue with further initiatives to improve knowledge and understanding and engagement with building control bodies and other stakeholders on how best to measure impact.

Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford transferred to her Department by the Department for Work and Pensions on 19 July regarding his constituents Mr. Forrester, Mrs. Dixty and Mr. Seal. [90665]

Yvette Cooper: A reply was sent to the hon. Gentleman on 3 August 2006.

East of England Regional Assembly

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the total expenses paid to the representatives serving on the East of England Regional Assembly were in each of the past three financial years; [90850]

(2) what the individual salaries are of *(a)* the chief executive and *(b)* senior management personnel of the East of England Regional Assembly. [90851]

Yvette Cooper: The requested information is not held centrally. Details of individual salaries and expenses are matters for the regional assembly which is a voluntary body.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the projected administrative budget is for the East of England Regional Assembly for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [90852]

(2) what the total administrative costs were of the East of England Regional Assembly in each of the past three financial years. [90853]

Yvette Cooper: Details of the East of England Regional Assembly's administration budget are not held centrally. Following is a table detailing DCLG grant to the East of England Regional Assembly for the period requested. The assembly receives funding from other sources.

East of England Regional Assembly

	Total ODPM/DCLG funding (£)
2003-04	1,874,000
2004-05	2,112,000
2005-06	2,112,000
2006-07	2,353,000
2007-08	[1]

[1] Allocations are not yet decided for 2007-08

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to extend the requirement for buildings undergoing major renovation to upgrade their energy efficiency to include buildings under 1,000 square metres. [90620]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The amendment to Building Regulations in April 2006 includes a requirement to improve the energy performance of existing buildings over 1,000m^2 as a consequence of undertaking certain types of building

work. Last September Government announced that this requirement to make 'consequential improvements' in buildings below 1,000m^2 would not be included in the 2006 amendments to Part L of the building regulations. Instead we announced a review to consider all possible measures to increase the sustainability of existing buildings. This review is under way and will conclude later this year.

English Partnerships

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what English Partnerships' planned programme expenditure is in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside, *(d)* the East Midlands, *(e)* the West Midlands, *(f)* the East of England, *(g)* London, *(h)* the South East and *(i)* the South West in 2006-07. [90811]

Yvette Cooper: English Partnerships' gross expenditure by Government office region for 2006-07 is estimated as set out in the following table.

	2006-07	
	Budget (£ million)	*Percentage*
East Midlands	47	8
East of England	37	6
London	53	9
North East	34	6
North West	85	15
South East	107	19
South West	36	6
West Midlands	22	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	36	6
National	116	20
EP Total	573	100

Note:
The "national" line shows EP's expenditure on the two national programmes involving former hospital sites and the first time buyers initiative. The precise spread of investment is yet to be finalised and therefore cannot be included in the regional figures.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her plans are for the percentage of the programme expenditure of English Partnerships to be spent in the South of England over the next five years; and if she will make a statement; [90812]

(2) what English Partnerships' planned programme of expenditure is in *(a)* the north and *(b)* the south of England in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [90814]

Yvette Cooper: English Partnerships (EP) is a national agency in England and the operational distribution of its programme expenditure is decided by its board according to national delivery priorities in their annual corporate plan as approved by Ministers. EP's future national programme and priorities are currently under consideration as part of the current corporate planning round for the financial years 2006-07 to 2010-11. Funding for EP's programmes for 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be decided after the Spending Review 2007 settlement.

EP's gross expenditure for 2006-07 including the spread of expenditure across the North and the South of England is estimated as set out in the following table.

	2006-07	
	Budget (£ million)	*Percentage*
North including Midlands	224	39
South	233	41
Other National	116	20
EP Total	573	100

Notes:
1. For the purposes of this answer the South of England includes South East, East, South West of England and London, with other regions taken to mean the North of England.
2. The "national" line shows EP's expenditure on the two national programmes involving former hospital sites and the first time buyers initiative. The precise spread of investment is not yet finalised and therefore cannot be included in the regional figures.

Housing

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further measures her Department is considering to improve the sustainability of existing homes; and whether she plans to introduce new planning guidance to promote micro-generation. [90989]

Angela E. Smith: DCLG is leading a review of the sustainability of existing buildings, involving other Government Departments and key stakeholders. This review is considering a wide range of regulatory and non-regulatory options, including the use of incentives, to reduce water use and energy consumption, and to promote the installation of micro-generation.

In addition, we are also working on proposals that would aim to promote further take-up of micro-generation by removing the need to apply for planning permission for certain types of installation.

Planning authorities are already expected to include policies in their development plans that require a percentage of the energy in new developments to come from on-site renewables. Later this year we will consult on the draft of a new Planning Policy Statement on climate change.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the financial impact on local authorities of providing transport and facilitating placements for individuals with autistic spectrum disorders and their families; and if she will make a statement. [90551]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally. Financial information regularly collected from local authorities is not broken down into such detail to be able to estimate these costs.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will amend the criteria for determining central Government grant to local authorities to take account of the costs associated with supporting individuals with autistic spectrum disorders and their families; and if she will make a statement. [90552]

Mr. Woolas: Formula grant is largely based on relative needs formulae, together with the number of band-D equivalent properties in its area. We then ensure that every authority receives at least a minimum percentage increase (the 'floor') year-on-year on a like-for-like basis i.e. after adjusting for changes in funding and function. In order to pay for this we scale back the increases above the floor.

Relative needs formulae take into account the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of authorities. One of these formulae is for children's social care. The formula is based on extensive research and has a solid evidence base. It draws on evidence from the 2003 Children in Need census. This is the largest source of information on children's social service activity in England. It contains information from almost every council who provide children's social care. Therefore children with autistic spectrum disorders included in the 2003 Children in Need census are included in the evidence base used to derive the existing formula.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will increase the limit for capitalisation of local government spending from that announced at the Capital Programme Working Party on 26 May. [90734]

Mr. Woolas: We have no plans to increase the limit for capitalisation of local government spending from that announced at the Capital Programmes Working Party. Local authority capitalisation presents a significant risk to the prudent management of national fiscal rules and needs to be managed closely.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of introducing a system of business rates linked to profitability; and if she will make a statement. [90860]

Mr. Woolas: Any reforms to business rates fall with the remit of Sir Michael Lyons independent inquiry into the role and funding of local government. The Government will not take any decisions on changes to local government finance until they have had the chance to consider and reflect on Sir Michael's report and recommendations.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many companies *(a)* failed and *(b)* reduced operations in the UK in each of the last five years because of problems paying business rates. [90861]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local Government Officers (Political Activity)

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the outcome was of consultation on the removal of bans on political activity by local government officers; and if she will make a statement. [90703]

Mr. Woolas: Our discussion paper, "Standards of Conduct in English Local Government", published on 15 December 2005, reported the outcome of our consultation about the regulatory framework governing the political activities of local government employees, and made proposals for the future which we are committed to take forward. A copy of the discussion paper is available in the Library of the House. It can also be viewed on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162582.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of barriers for members of political parties to participate in local and community governance. [90704]

Mr. Woolas: We are committed to increasing opportunities for people everywhere to participate in local and community governance. The Local Government White Paper, which we intend to publish shortly after the recess, will discuss issues of empowerment and governance and make proposals for the future.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Office of Public Sector Information concerning Ordnance Survey. [90687]

Angela E. Smith: As a Trading Fund, Ordnance Survey is accredited to the Information Fair Trader Scheme (IFTS) managed by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). OPSI has published two reports concerning Ordnance Survey in the past six months—one confirming Ordnance Survey's accreditation to the IFTS and one reporting on an investigation into a specific complaint against Ordnance Survey.

OPSI and Ordnance Survey officials are in regular dialogue in respect of a wide range of issues relating to Ordnance Survey's delegated authority to administer Crown copyright in respect of mapping and geographic information. These meetings have covered matters arising from the two recent reports. Ordnance Survey continues to take steps to widen the use of its maps and data in both public and private sectors.

Regional Control Centre

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what costs have been incurred in connection with the Regional Control Centre at Fareham in each year since 2001; and how much is estimated to be spent in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [90959]

Angela E. Smith: Figures for costs incurred since 2001 in connection with the Regional Control Centre at Fareham are not available, as the business case and accounts for the FiReControl project are maintained at a national level.

The department gives grants to individual Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) under new burdens to reimburse the costs associated with implementing FiReControl. Fire and Rescue Service Circulars 59-2004 and 63-2005

explain this process and detail the figures for FRAs in the South East for financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. These documents can be found on the department's website under fire circulars: www.communities.gov.uk/firecirculars. The figures for 2008-09 are currently being considered and an FRS Circular detailing them will be published in due course.

Social Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what spending there was on social housing in the borough of Colchester in each year since 1979. [90682]

Yvette Cooper: £77.32 million was spent on social housing in Colchester between 1999 and 2005. Information for the period 1979 to 1998 is not readily available.

Sustainable Communities (Northamptonshire)

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what conclusions have been reached by the Department's Growth Areas Directorate following its recent discussions with Northamptonshire county council and other local agencies on the infrastructure investment required in Northamptonshire up to 2021 to deliver the Department's sustainable communities plan. [90614]

Yvette Cooper: As part of their evidence gathering and analysis phase, officials from the Supporting Housing Growth Review team, along with officials from DCLG and other key infrastructure departments, have conducted a series of case study workshops with officials from local authorities across the country. The visit to North Northamptonshire held on 25 July was one of those visits. The review will report to Treasury Ministers as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Angola

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* level of UK public investment and *(b)* plans for support his Department has in respect of the future reconstruction of Angola. [91082]

Hilary Benn: DFID has a modest bilateral aid programme in Angola, presently at £5 million for 2006-07. The UK also provides other sources of bilateral funding, including demining (at around £750,000 per year), the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (at just over £1 million in 2006-07), the British Embassy's Post Bilateral Fund (£110,000 per year), and the Global Opportunities Fund for Climate Change and Energy (representing around £100,000 in 2006-07). In addition, the UK supports multilateral organisations, including the World Bank's Angola Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (US$25 million over five years), the European Commission's European Development Fund, which allocated €146 million to Angola for 2002-07 (of which the UK's share was around 17.5 per cent.), and UNICEF's £18 million programme Southern Africa programme (which includes Angola) to which DFID contributes £3.5 million.

After 41 years of conflict, Angola has immense reconstruction challenges. In 2005, Angola ranked 160 out of 175 of the UNDP Human Development Index, with under five, infant and maternal mortality the second highest in the world. With the global rise in oil prices, the Government of Angola have substantially increased revenue to help it tackle these challenges. DFID's priorities in Angola are to support the consolidation of peace, greater civic engagement in state policy and practice, the transparent use of Government resources in a way that prioritises poverty reduction, and assistance for social sectors where Angola is off-track on the Millennium Development Goals.

Colombia

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided for eradication of the drug trade in Colombia in each of the last five years. [90902]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have a bilateral programme in Colombia and has not supported projects specifically on the eradication of the drugs trade over the last five years.

The ongoing conflict in Colombia has allowed the drugs trade to spiral. The drugs trade in turn is fuelling the conflict. DFID works together with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence to support initiatives on security and conflict reduction in Latin America through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP). In Colombia, the GCPP is currently funding two projects (each up to one year in duration) to strengthen the rule of law; a Community Policing Programme (£27,500) and a programme to increase the capacity of the military and the police to apply the law (£37,500). Projects are also supported on managing the border between Colombia and its neighbours Venezuela (£25,000) and Ecuador (£25,895). Although not specifically on the drugs trade, these GCPP supported projects are assisting the Government of Colombia to tackle organised drug related crime.

DFID works in Latin America through a regional programme primarily aimed at improving the effectiveness of the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. In Colombia, DFID has been working with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Colombia to develop a comprehensive Poverty and Inequality Strategy. This work includes studies on the determinants of rural poverty. DFID is also funding Christian Aid, CAFOD and Oxfam in Colombia to carry out work on human rights, conflict prevention and humanitarian activities.

Ethiopia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has made available to those affected by the flood in Ethiopia; and if he will make statement. [91005]

Hilary Benn: DFID has provided an additional £1 million to the Humanitarian Response Fund for Ethiopia, in response to needs which have arisen as a result of the widespread flooding in South Omo, Dire Dawa and other lowland areas of Ethiopia. The Fund is managed by the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator, with support from the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). This is a rapid and flexible source of funds which will respond to needs as they arise and in the event of further flooding.

This contribution was made ahead of the international emergency appeal launched by the UN OCHA and the Government of Ethiopia on 25 August. DFID will continue to monitor the situation and will consider responding to any further appeal.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of accounting procedures for aid provided to Iraq from *(a)* non-Iraqi sources and *(b)* Iraq's own resources; what the latest estimate is of the amount of (i) missing money, (ii) misused money and (iii) money which has not been used for its intended purpose; what assessment he has made of whether pledged assistance has delivered the intended outcomes; what assessment he has made of the extent of corruption with regard to aid, including by non-Iraqi sources; and if he will make a statement. [90871]

Hilary Benn: The aid that donors provide to Iraq is subject to standard accounting procedures and rigorous auditing. All of DFID's funds are subject to rigorous internal controls. The National Audit Office audits DFID's accounts on an annual basis. Our 2005-06 audited resource accounts are available at http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/resource-accounts.asp.

As to the latest estimates of missing or misused donor funds, the US Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction produces a quarterly report for Congress. Its report in January 2006 found that $8.8 billion under management by the Coalition Provisional Authority between May 2003 and June 2004 had less than adequate financial controls. This audit did not assert that this money could not be accounted for, but rather concluded that financial controls did not meet required standards. Further reports are available at www.sigir.mil. There are regular audits of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) run by the UN and World Bank (further details available at www.irffi.org).

Regarding estimates of UK aid missing or misused in Iraq, as set out in our 2005-06 resource accounts, DFID has evidence that £254,000 was misused by recipients. In addition, primarily due to the poor security situation, we have been unable to account properly for a further £296,000. This is out of a total of £356 million disbursed by DFID in Iraq since 2003.

Despite difficult security, donor assistance to Iraq has delivered tangible outcomes. For example, DFID has improved electricity transmission lines in southern Iraq which has secured power supplies for more than 1.5 million people. We have also helped to improve water supplies. And have provided strategic economic advice to the Ministry of Finance which helped Iraq secure an IMF Standby Arrangement in December 2005.

Regarding Iraqi sources of aid, the Government of Iraq's accounting system is old and does not accurately reflect public expenditure. Budget outturns for 2005, for example, are estimates and not full audited accounts. A new computerised system should be in place in 2007.

There are currently no reliable estimates of how much of Iraq's public money is misused or missing. There is smuggling, theft, and corruption in many sectors, especially oil. The UK, alongside the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other donors, continues to work with the Iraqi Government as they seek to improve accountability and transparency in Iraq's public finances.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of prices for consumer goods on poor people in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [90872]

Hilary Benn: DFID has assessed the level of consumer price inflation in Iraq, and to the extent possible, its impact on the poor. The main causes of inflation are as follows:

- the end of the sanctions regime represented a major boost to purchasing power for ordinary Iraqis, it brought down the prices for many imported goods but also caused inflation and big changes in relative prices of other goods, particularly non-traded goods;
- concurrently, the major increase in world oil prices has greatly increased the nominal GDP of Iraq since 2003, which has been a stimulus to demand and has contributed to inflation in the prices of non-traded goods;
- the Central Bank of Iraq has been roughly pegging the new Iraqi Dinar to the dollar, which is also quite inflationary given the expansion in dollar income; and
- the Iraqi Government's welcome attempts to address some of the highly distorted and subsidised prices in the Iraqi economy has, inevitably, highly inflationary effects in the short term, for example in the domestic fuel market.

There are regular surveys of prices, but the way these are compounded into an overall price level is made problematic by the absence of good survey data on what Iraqis consume. This makes it very difficult to make a good assessment of how the poor are being impacted by inflation. Our rough estimation is that very poor Iraqis are probably impacted less by inflation in Iraq than are average or richer Iraqis. Richer Iraqis consume a lot of fuel—the poor remain somewhat protected by the continued existence of the food rationing system. However, it is also likely that very poor Iraqis have seen less of the boost to incomes experienced by Iraqis as a whole.

Lebanon

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the outcome of the Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery held in Stockholm on 31 August 2006; what the timeframe is for the allocation of pledged money; how it is to be spent; and what other assistance will be provided. [90794]

Hilary Benn: The Stockholm conference hoped to generate a target figure of $540 million (£284 million) in pledges from the international donor community in support of the Government of Lebanon's Early Recovery Plan. The final figure pledged was $930 million (£489 million). DFID's total funding commitment to Lebanon to date, including multilateral contributions, is £22.3 million. The UK is the fifth largest bilateral contributor to the humanitarian effort in Lebanon, and we stand ready to do more as needed.

There are four priorities for the distribution of UK funds:

providing assistance for displaced people along routes of return;

securing sustained access for humanitarian convoys;

reducing the risk to those returning and aid workers from unexploded munitions;

repairing basic infrastructure such as water pumps and ensuring enough fuel reaches communities to run such essential infrastructure.

We urge those donors that have pledged funds to ensure that the full benefits of their commitment reach those most in need as soon as possible.

Nepal

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether there has been Maoist intimidation of *(a)* UK aid workers and *(b)* his Department's staff in Nepal. [90903]

Mr. Thomas: Throughout the Nepal conflict there has been intimidation of DFID and other aid agency workers by both Maoists and Nepal Government Security Forces. Since the mutually agreed ceasefire in May 2006, intimidation of aid workers has decreased significantly but the situation varies across the country.

In some areas, the Maoists continue to intimidate aid workers in order to gain funds or to force formal written recognition for parallel government systems. Although the Maoist central leadership have publicly stated that development should continue unhindered and that forced collection of "taxes" by their cadres is forbidden, this directive is not uniformly followed by all regional or district Maoist representatives.

For DFID, staff safety and security is the first priority. The DFID Nepal Risk Management Office works closely with the UN and other donor agencies to manage and minimise the risks associated with acts of intimidation. Where there have been direct threats to staff safety, DFID has suspended activities in those districts where threats have been made until assurances have been received and threats withdrawn.

DFID took the lead role in producing a set of Basic Operating Guidelines which lay out the basic principles of engagement for development workers in Nepal. The guidelines have been signed by representatives of ten bilateral partners in Nepal and, in 2005, both the Maoists and the Government of Nepal committed themselves to following the principles set out in the guidelines.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make an assessment of the conditions in the internally displaced people's camps in Darfur; and what assessment he has made of the extent of migration back to their homelands by those who have been living in the camps. [91006]

Hilary Benn: Conditions in the Internally Displaced People's (IDPs) camps in Darfur stabilised during 2005, bringing mortality and malnutrition indicators in the majority of camps below the emergency threshold. The camps are still very basic, however, and many of the IDPs are now in their second or third year in camps originally designed to last for six months. Since the recent upsurge in violence, there have been a further 250,000 people displaced. This year there have also been outbreaks of cholera, and security has deteriorated in many of the camps. This insecurity has begun to hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance and comes at a time of seasonal food shortages.

The number of returns made by IDPs to their homes is currently negligible. While there is some movement back to villages (generally connected to the agricultural cycle), these are largely just day trips; the pervasive insecurity preventing longer stays. The UK is actively supporting the African Union, the UN and the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement in order to re-establish security and the rule of law and, ultimately, create an environment in which IDPs can safely return to their homes. For this to happen a transition to a UN mission is essential.

Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help with the control and treatment of *(a)* tuberculosis, *(b)* multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and *(c)* extreme drug resistant tuberculosis in the developing world; and if he will make a statement. [91079]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is very concerned with the spread of the new, highly resistant form of tuberculosis, referred to as extreme drug resistant TB (or XDR-TB). This is virtually untreatable and is made worse by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, because HIV makes people more susceptible to TB.

Resistance to anti-TB drugs occurs because of poorly managed TB care. The best way of preventing the development of drug resistance is to ensure all TB patients complete treatment with effective drugs.

DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course) remains at the heart of the Stop TB Strategy for effective diagnosis and treatment of TB. The World Health Organisation and partner agencies have developed the DOTS-Plus approach for the management of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) which includes rational use of second line drugs.

In 2004, DOTS strategy was extended to cover 183 countries, and there were 4.4 million new and relapse TB cases notified, of which 2.1 million were new cases.

The UK supports TB control through a variety of channels, including bilateral country programmes and through support to international organisations and partnerships such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), the World Bank, the European Commission, WHO and the Stop TB Partnership.

DFID is a founder member of UNITAID (the International Drug Purchase Facility) which will be launched this month at the United Nations General Assembly, and will provide additional funding to help the scale-up of services to improve access to treatment for AIDS, TB and malaria.

The UK has already pledged to provide £100 million to GFATM in both 2006 and 2007, (subject to performance). We will also provide £5 million to support the work of the Stop TB Partnership and its Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015. In January this year, the Chancellor also announced new UK support to combat TB in India, where DFID will provide £41.7 million over five yeas.

The development of new drugs will be crucial to the treatment and management of multi-drug resistant (MDR) and XDR-TB. DFID has a long history of supporting research on TB and we currently support research programme consortia on communicable disease at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Nuffield Centre for International Health at Leeds University. Both programmes will receive £5 million each over the next five years.

DFID is also supporting the research and development of TB drugs and diagnostics via WHO's programme on Tropical Disease Research (TDR) and the Global Alliance for TB Drugs. The Global Alliance will receive £6.5 million from 2005-08 for the development of new TB drugs.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources have been allocated by his Department to Zimbabwe in each of the last five years; and what steps he is taking to ensure that aid reaches those for whom it is intended. [90900]

Hilary Benn: Over the last five years, DFID has spent some £143 million on programmes in Zimbabwe, broken down as follows:

Financial year	*Commitment*
2001-02	15,234,000
2002-03	29,926,000
2003-04	34,167,000
2004-05	25,584,000
2005-06	37,335,893

Most of this funding was directed to tackling HIV/AIDS and food insecurity. Since the breakdown of Zimbabwe's relations with international donors in 2002, all funding has been channelled through United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations. We provide no funding to the Government of Zimbabwe. Our implementing partners have clear and effective procedures and monitoring systems in place to ensure that the assistance reaches the most poor and vulnerable people whom our assistance is intended to benefit. We also undertake our own monitoring and evaluation which confirms that assistance provided by the UK reaches those most in need. Along with the UN, EC and other donors, we continue to make it clear to the Zimbabwe Government that we will not tolerate political interference in the distribution of our aid.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of Access to Work to central Government Departments was in each of the last three financial years. [90718]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available broken down by employer and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Carer's Allowance

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of those in receipt of carer's allowance have an income below 60 per cent. of median household income before housing costs. [90599]

Mrs. McGuire: Analysis of the 2004-05 Family Resources Survey and Households Below Average Incomes datasets indicates that about 13 per cent. of those receiving carer's allowance live in a household with income below 60 per cent. of median household income (before housing costs).

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 23 May, sent to HM Treasury and referred to his Department on 5 July, regarding a constituent. [87164]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 14 August 2006.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will arrange for a further reply to the letter dated 2 June from the hon. Member for Walsall, North to the Child Support Agency regarding a constituent; reference 320975475681/1030275572. [90633]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds, dated 13 September 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he would arrange for a further reply to the letter dated 2nd June from the hon. Member for Walsall North to the Child Support Agency regarding a constituent; reference 320975475681/ 1030275572.

I apologise for the delay in replying to your letter of 31 May. As details about individual cases are confidential I am sending my reply to the above letter to you privately.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will arrange for a reply to the letter dated 24 July to the Child Support Agency from the hon. Member for Walsall, North, reference 1020793538. [90834]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive, he will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds, dated 13 September 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is currently on leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will arrange for a reply to the letter dated 24 July to the Child Support Agency from the hon. Member for Walsall North, reference 1020793538.

I apologise for the delay in replying to your letter dated 24 July. As details about individual cases are confidential I am sending my reply to the above letter to you privately.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons were for the time taken to transfer a letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford concerning his constituents, Mr. Forrester, Mrs. Dixty and Mr. Seal to the Department for Communities and Local Government; and if he will make a statement. [90666]

Mr. Plaskitt: The correspondence that the hon. Gentleman refers to raised a number of complex policy issues and officials in this Department had a number of discussions with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government on how best to respond him. After seeking ministerial advice it was decided that the Department for Communities and Local Government would respond.

I apologise for the delay in arranging the transfer of the hon. Gentleman's letter to the Department for Communities and Local Government and acknowledge that the service provided in this case did not meet the standard that this Department aspires to and which hon. Members require. The Department is reviewing its procedures on transfers of correspondence to ensure that similar delays are avoided in future.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters have been dealt with by the Work and Pensions parliamentary correspondence teams relating to complaints about delays in receiving benefits and service delivery problems over the last three years. [90670]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Disability Equality

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the disability equality scheme for his Department; and in what formats he plans to publish the scheme. [90984]

Mrs. McGuire: We intend to publish our Disability Equality Scheme by 4 December 2006.

We will be publishing it in English, Welsh, Easy Read, Braille and Audio (download). It will also be available on both our internal and external websites.

The scheme will be published in font size 14 which meets the requirements for a large print version.

Disability Living Allowance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations his Department has received from groups and individuals in support of an increase in disability living allowance; and what plans his Department has to increase disability living allowance. [90717]

Mrs. McGuire: Over the last six months, the Department has received no representations from groups in support of an increase of the rates at which disability living allowance is paid, but we have received such representations from 12 individuals. These include the letter the hon. Gentleman sent on behalf of his constituent to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 13 July, and to which I replied on 20 July. In my letter, I advised that disability living allowance is increased every April by the rate of inflation as measured by the movement in the retail prices index. We have no plans to change these arrangements which have seen expenditure on the benefit increase by about 45 per cent. in real terms (at 2006-07 prices) from £6.1 billion in 1997-98 to an estimated £8.8 billion in 2005-06.

Health and Safety Executive

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action is taken by the Health and Safety Executive to supplement its own regular inspection of major hazard sites *(a)* by unannounced check inspections and *(b)* by separate inspections by outside verification agencies. [90720]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The majority of inspections to major hazard sites are pre-arranged, primarily to ensure that the appropriate technical staff are available to evaluate the effectiveness of the health and safety management systems including the technical measures in place for preventing and controlling major accident hazards. Unannounced visits are occasionally made where the spontaneity of such an approach is a key element of the purpose of the visit.

There is a range of requirements for independent verification in the various major hazard regulatory regimes. HSE inspectors take account of the findings of such verification inspections in their overall assessment/inspection process.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken by the Health and Safety Executive inspectors in evaluating safety at major hazard sites to supplement audit of process and fitting operator safety systems by testing of these systems in the course of such inspections. [90721]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* It is the responsibility of the site operator to ensure that its safety systems are operated, maintained and tested as described in its safety report (where one is appropriate) and as intended.

HSE's regulation of such sites require a balance between observing workplace standards and working practices, verifying risk control measures (both hardware and software), examining supporting documentation and interviewing personnel. Inspectors adopt a variety of approaches when verifying safety critical risk control or mitigation measures. Some testing of actual safety systems may be appropriate during a visit, for example, inspectors may ask to observe a test of a safety critical control system or a mitigation measure such as an emergency response plan.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the total amount of benefits paid erroneously to illegal immigrants in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [91059]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Illegal immigrants are not entitled to DWP administered benefits. Rigorous checking processes are built into the benefit application systems to ensure that the gateway to the benefits system is secure.

Incapacity Benefit

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are receiving incapacity benefit. [90607]

Mrs. McGuire: As at February 2006, there were 2,747,490 people in receipt of incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance in Great Britain.

Long-term In-patients

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many long-term hospital in-patients received an increase in their entitlement to *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit following the introduction of new rules in April 2006; and what the average weekly increase in income was for recipients of each affected benefit. [91092]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost

NI Numbers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to implement the recommendations relating to the issue of national insurance numbers contained in Lord Grabiner's 2000 report on the informal economy; and what discussions his Department has had with the Home Office in relation to implementing those recommendations. [75858]

Mr. Plaskitt: Lord Grabiner's recommendation was that the national insurance number (NINO) allocation approach performed by the Balham office in south west London be extended nationally. DWP has implemented this recommendation. Following the successful pilot at Balham office, new procedures for NINO allocation were introduced nationally at the end of March 2001. Specialist teams now carry out thorough and detailed interviews with applicants. Interviewing sites have access to sophisticated document examination tools. A secondary level of checks has been introduced in order fully to corroborate information provided by the applicant at the initial interview.

The Home Office was involved in the development of these new procedures. Furthermore, following Lord Grabiner's investigation into the informal economy, a steering group was set up in May 2000 to oversee the implementation of the recommendations contained in Lord Grabiner's report.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it has been the policy of his Department since 1997 to issue national insurance numbers to immigrants who have overstayed their permitted period in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [75819]

Mr. Plaskitt: All National Insurance Number (NINO) applications are subjected to rigorous identity checking process and where this raises questions over immigration status or authenticity of identity documents, such cases will be referred to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

The NINO interviewing process was primarily designed to guard against identity fraud with NINO allocation being dependent upon an individual providing sufficient evidence to prove their identity. However, on Monday 5 June 2006, we announced changes that took place from July 2006 and which introduced a "right to work" condition before a NINO can be allocated to employment-related applicants.

Overpayment Income Support

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will investigate the alleged overpayment of income support to a constituent of the hon. Member for St. Albans, Mr. Jules Vialva. [89138]

Mr. Plaskitt: I will write separately to the hon. Lady concerning her constituent.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer question 79985, on benefits expenditure, tabled on 20 June 2006 by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead. [85464]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1567-68W.

Pathways Areas

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average time has been taken to conduct the capability report in pathways areas; and what the average cost has been. [90740]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the time taken to conduct the capability report is not collected.

It is a requirement of the Medical Services contract that the Capability Report and Personal Capability Assessment are completed during a single examination. Information gathered by the doctor during this examination is used to complete both the Personal Capability Assessment Report and the Capability Report. We estimate that completion of the Capability Report in Pathways areas adds an average six minutes to a standard Personal Capability Assessment.

Cost information is confidential and cannot be disclosed as to do so may prejudice the commercial interests of the Department and/or its suppliers.

Prisoners

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the total amount of *(a)* Social Fund payments, *(b)* winter fuel payments, *(c)* attendance allowance, *(d)* disability living allowance, *(e)* carer's allowance, *(f)* retirement pension, *(g)* bereavement benefits, *(h)* maternity allowance, *(i)* reduced earnings allowance, *(j)* retirement allowance, *(k)* income support, *(l)* jobseeker's allowance, *(m)* pension credit and *(n)* statutory sick pay erroneously paid to prisoners due to (i) fraud, (ii) customer error and (iii) official error in each year since 1997. [91060]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available for benefits other than income support, jobseeker's allowance, and pension credit. For the available information on these three benefits I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer I gave him on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 872W.

Return to Work

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what research he has conducted into the impact that reasonable travel and lunch reimbursements have on supporting individuals re-entry into the labour market in a paid or voluntary capacity; and if he will make a statement; [82612]

(2) whether reasonable lunch and travel reimbursements will continue to be excluded from counting as earnings or income for people performing voluntary work; and if he will make a statement. [82613]

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cost to benefit claimants who are volunteering of *(a)* lunching at home and *(b)* buying lunch at or near a work place; what assumptions are made of the cost of lunches in benefit calculations; and what assessment he has made of the effect on the availability of claimants to volunteer of the decision to treat expenses paid for lunches as income for benefit purposes. [86387]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The Department for Work and Pensions has not carried out or commissioned specific research into the impact of reimbursing expenses to volunteers.

The Department for Work and Pensions has not undertaken any specific cost comparison of the cost of lunching at home, the work place or elsewhere; there are no plans to do so. However, we have received a number of representations from voluntary or charitable groups who have produced some evidence to suggest that many people on benefits may be discouraged from undertaking voluntary activity, or stop volunteering, if they are not able to claim the consequent additional costs of meals as an expense.

Volunteering plays an important role in helping people move off benefits and back into work. It gives people confidence, the chance to develop skills and to gain invaluable experience after a period out of work.

We do not want to create a situation whereby individuals are put off volunteering or are penalised from helping themselves and others because they cannot afford to buy something to eat.

We have therefore simplified the rules. Meals can now be treated as a reasonable expense which volunteers can claim back so that they are no longer expected to meet the cost of their lunch from their benefit.

State Pension

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Pensions Service accuracy rate has been for dealing with state retirement pension in the last five years; and what the related costs of official error have been. [90672]

James Purnell: The available information is in the following tables. Figures are only available since the Pension Service came into existence in April 2002.

State pension accuracy

	Accuracy rate achieved	*Percentage Standard*
2002-03	97	98
2003-04	98.6	98
2004-05	97.6	98

The 2005-06 year to date summary is 96.97 per cent. against standard of 98 per cent.

Estimates of state pension overpayments through official error

In each year the amount overpaid as a result of official error represents around 0.1 per cent. or less as a proportion of state pension expenditure.

	Estimated official error overpayment amount (£ million)
2002-03	10
2003-04	20
2004-05	30
2005-06	30

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the process is for the audit of state retirement pension claims; and when the next audit exercise is due to take place. [90673]

James Purnell: There are a number of measures used to audit state retirement pension claims.

Internal audit (part of the Department's risk assurance division) reviews the risks and controls that support the accurate and secure payment of state pension to our customers. The next audit is scheduled for the final quarter of this financial year.

Performance measurement unit (also part of the DWP risk assurance division) measures the degree of error and the quality of decision making for state pension claims. This process is subject to validation by internal audit.

The Department's external auditors, the National Audit Office, undertake a programme of work to confirm the accuracy of state pension benefit expenditure reported in the DWP accounts.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent estimate is of the cost of the Pensions Transformation Programme in the Pension Service. [90674]

James Purnell *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The information requested is in the following table.

Financial Year	*Pension transformation costs (£ million)*
2003-04	61.7
2004-05	102.6
2005-06	136.7
2006-07 (up to end of August 2006)	78.8
Total	379.8

Volunteers

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he will alter the guidance in his Department's booklet, "A guide to volunteering while on benefits" to allow volunteers in receipt of income support or jobseeker's allowance to claim lunch expenses as a legitimate expense. [87389]

Mr. Plaskitt: Volunteering plays an important role in helping people move off benefits and back into work. It gives people confidence and the chance to develop skills and to gain invaluable experience after a period out of work.

We do not want to create a situation whereby individuals are put off volunteering or are penalised from helping themselves and others because they cannot afford to buy something to eat.

We have therefore simplified the rules. Meals can now be treated as a reasonable expense which volunteers can claim back so that they are no longer expected to meet the cost of their lunch from their benefit.

The guidance contained in the Volunteers Handbook will be reviewed to reflect the simplified rules.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria were used in assessing reimbursement for lunch and other meals to volunteers as earnings rather than legitimate expenses; and what impact he expects this to have on those in receipt of benefits who choose to take up voluntary work. [79914]

Mr. Plaskitt: Volunteering plays an important role in helping people move off benefits and back into work. It gives people confidence and the chance to develop skills and to gain invaluable experience after a period out of work.

We do not want to create a situation whereby individuals are put off volunteering or are penalised from helping themselves and others because they cannot afford to buy something to eat.

We have therefore simplified the rules. Meals can now be treated as a reasonable expense which volunteers can claim back so that they are no longer expected to meet the cost of their lunch from their benefit.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what consultation was undertaken by his Department in advance of the change in guidance from his Department regarding lunch expenses for those on benefits who work as volunteers; and with whom such consultation took place; [86732]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of new guidance from his Department regarding lunch expenses for those on benefits who work as volunteers on the number of those on benefits who volunteer; [86733]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people on benefits who do voluntary work. [86734]

Mr. Plaskitt: Volunteering plays an important role in helping people move off benefits and back into work. It gives people confidence and the chance to develop skills and to gain invaluable experience after a period out of work.

We do not want to create a situation whereby individuals are put off volunteering or are penalised from helping themselves and others because they cannot afford to buy something to eat.

We have therefore simplified the rules. Meals can now be treated as a reasonable expense which volunteers can claim back so that they are no longer expected to meet the cost of their lunch from their benefit. We have been working closely with volunteering organisations to implement the simplification quickly and smoothly.

The number of benefit recipients who choose to volunteer is not known as we do not collect this information.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC Charter

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made in the context of Charter Renewal of the impact of the BBC's local television project on the development of local newspapers. [90952]

Mr. Woodward: None. The arrangements set out in the new Charter and Agreement require that a Public Value Test (PVT) be carried out on all proposed new services before they can be approved by the Trust. The Public Value Test includes an assessment by Ofcom of the proposed service's impact on relevant markets. The BBC has committed to carrying out a PVT before any local TV service is rolled out, whether or not the new Charter and Agreement have come into effect.

Casino (Manchester)

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations received by the Department in support of a regional casino in East Manchester came from individual Manchester residents. [90618]

Mr. Caborn: The Department has not received any representations from Manchester residents in support of a regional casino in East Manchester. All representations in support of a bid for one of the new casinos permitted under the Gambling Act 2005 have been made to the Casino Advisory Panel.

Details of the proposals made by local authorities to the panel are available on their website at www.culture.gov.uk/cap.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations and individuals have been consulted on the proposed scheme to help vulnerable and elderly people with digital switchover; what the budget for the scheme will be; and when she plans to announce the details of the scheme. [91018]

Mr. Woodward: We have consulted organisations representing older and disabled people through the Digital Television Consumer Expert Group who have produced two reports to Government on the equipment requirements of vulnerable consumers and support for them at and after digital switchover.

We intend to publish further details about the help scheme later this year.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans the Government have to engage the services of voluntary organisations to deliver *(a)* part and *(b)* all of their proposed scheme to help vulnerable and elderly people with digital switchover. [91019]

Mr. Woodward: We are in discussions with the Digital Television Consumer Expert Group, which includes organisations representing older and disabled people, about the role of voluntary organisations in the delivery of the Digital TV Help Scheme.

Football

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contribution her Department has made to the implementation of proposals contained in the *(a)* Burns Report and *(b)* European Sport Review which relate to the regulation of football in England; and if she will make a statement. [91063]

Mr. Caborn: I have held regular discussions with the FA and other football authorities since Lord Burns' report was published in August 2005. I continue to urge the FA to implement the recommendations contained in Lord Burns' report as quickly as possible to ensure it is a national governing body which is fit for purpose.

The Independent European Sport Review was published on 23 May with recommendations falling to member states, EU institutions, domestic Football Associations and UEFA to consider. The UK Government are currently considering their recommendations, in consultation with key stakeholders, and aim to respond to the Review's authors at the end of September.

London Olympics Building Programme

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of whether EU workers will be needed to fill skills gaps in the building of the London Olympics site. [90723]

Mr. Caborn: None. The Government believe that the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games present a huge employment opportunity for local communities in east London which suffer from low basic skills levels and high unemployment. The London Employment and Skills Task Force is developing an action plan which will help to effect a permanent reduction in the level of worklessness in London and the Lower Lea Valley, including proposals such as:

- Establishing the Olympic site as a National Skills Academy site;
- Doubling the current rate of apprentices to workers;
- The incorporation of all ODA and LOCOG contractors' vacancies into Jobcentre Plus processes; and
- Ensuring that 15 per cent. of 50,000 person-years of jobs are filled by residents of the five east London host boroughs.

This and other programmes of work by Olympic partners are designed to ensure that local people are equipped with the skills needed to enable them to benefit from the whole range of games-related opportunities.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the skills upgrade required for east London citizens to be employed on the 2012 London Olympics building programme; and what discussions the Government have had with the London Organising Committee on steps to develop the necessary skills locally. [90724]

Mr. Caborn: The Government and their Olympic partners recognise the importance of ensuring a skilled workforce to deliver the Olympic park and venues on time and budget. The games represent a huge opportunity for local communities in east London and partners are developing a range of programmes to ensure that local people are well-placed to benefit from these opportunities. For example, the Olympic Delivery Authority's draft procurement policy includes a commitment to working with its contractors to provide a legacy of trained and motivated people needed for their business, in association with relevant sector skills councils. ConstructionSkills, the sector skills council for the construction industry, has established a special team—Constructing London 2012—to deliver locally available construction skills. In addition, the London Development Agency is working closely with the five Olympic boroughs to set up a job brokerage service which will be based in the Lower Lea Valley and will act as a link with contractors on skills requirements, training provision and pre-employment training.

Racing (Horse Numbers)

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many horses she estimates have been involved in the racing industry in each of the last five years. [90709]

Mr. Caborn: The Government do not hold this information.

The British Horseracing Board, the governing body for the sport, states that the average number of horses in training in each of the last five years was as follows:

	Horses in training
2001	13,310
2002	12,986
2003	13,088
2004	13,914
2005	14,388

Sports Clubs

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number and percentage of five to 16-year-olds who were members of, or participated in, national governing body accredited sports clubs in each year since 2002. [90712]

Mr. Caborn: Data collected by Sport England in 2005-06 show that there were 1,082,419 five to 16-year-olds participating in the accredited clubs of the 22 National Governing Bodies clubs who contribute to the Club Links Workstrand of the National School Sport Strategy. Data are not available in the requested format for years preceding this.

Test Match Cricket (TV Coverage)

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which broadcasters have *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected the invitation sent by her Department on 16 May to discuss the television coverage of test match cricket. [90744]

Mr. Caborn: Arrangements for a meeting to discuss television coverage of test match cricket have yet to be finalised. However, of the broadcasters approached, BBC, Channel 4, FIVE and Sky have all indicated a willingness to attend a meeting. Only ITV, after giving due consideration to the request, have indicated that they can see no useful purpose in their attendance.

UK Film Council

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her policy is on the distribution of funding by the UK Film Council across projects in south east England. [90970]

Mr. Woodward: The DCMS has agreed with the UK Film Council the following policy directions with regard to the English regions including the south east:

the need to ensure that all parts of the country have access to funding

the desirability of working with other organisations, including other distributors, where this is an effective means of delivering elements of its strategy.

The UK Film Council delegates funding through the Regional Investment Fund For England (RIFE) to the nine Regional Screen Agencies in support of its regional objectives, in order that the agencies can deliver locally in line with local objectives.

Through RIFE, the UK Film Council disperses a combination of Lottery and Grant in Aid Funding to Screen South, the Regional Screen Agency responsible for delivering strategy in the south east. The objectives of the Regional Investment Fund for England mirror the UK Film Council's overarching aim to stimulate a successful, vibrant film industry and to promote the widest possible enjoyment and understanding of cinema throughout the UK. Each agency, including Screen South, is active across six key areas: archives, exhibition, life long learning, locations and inward investment, production and skills training. The relative emphasis on each of these areas is agreed within each agency in response to the identified needs of the region. Neither the Secretary of State nor the UK Film Council have any input on decisions made on a project by project level.

Violent Computer Games

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the outcome was of her Department's 2005 review of the possible link between playing violent computer games and real life violence. [90642]

Mr. Woodward: A copy of the report was published on the Department's website in February 2006. The researchers found that there was no conclusive evidence of a link between playing computer games that featured violence and violent behaviour in real life.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many computer games published in 2005 depicted gross violence and required a legal classification by the British Board of Film Classification; and how many of these were classified as suitable only for those over 18 years. [90643]

Mr. Woodward: A total of 1,085 computer games were released during 2005. Games can be referred to the BBFC for a number of reasons. Those which contain material that might be considered gross violence are classified at the '18' level. The BBFC considered 198 works of digital media, and 43 of these were classified '18'. The level of violence was the reason for the adult rating in 40 cases.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

A-levels

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many A-levels were awarded to pupils in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local education authority in 2006; and how many and what percentage were in (i) accounting, (ii) art and design, (iii) business studies, (iv) critical thinking, (v) communication studies, (vi) dance, (vii) design and technology, (viii) drama and theatre studies, (ix) film, media and television studies, (x) general studies, (xi) health and social care, (xii) home economics, (xiii) Information Communications Technology, (xiv) leisure studies, (xv) music technology, (xvi) performance studies, (xvii) performing arts, (xviii) physical education and sports studies and (xix) travel and tourism; [90622]

(2) how many A-levels were awarded in 2006 to pupils *(a)* in selective schools, *(b)* in non-selective schools, *(c)* in independent schools, *(d)* in sixth form colleges and *(e)* in further education and tertiary colleges; and how many and what percentage were in one of the subject areas identified by Cambridge University as less effective preparation for degree courses in each case. [90623]

Phil Hope: Figures showing students' A-level achievements in 2006 by institution type and local authority are not yet available. Provisional results, based on the information collected for the post-16 Achievement and Attainment Tables, will first be published as National Statistics in October 2006.

Apprenticeships

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of young people aged between 16 and 22 years who have made use of the Modern Apprenticeships and the Apprenticeship Ambassadors Network in each year since 2002. [90784]

Phil Hope: The Apprenticeship programme continues to go from strength to strength with record numbers of young people participating and completion rates continuing to improve. Numbers of young people (aged 16 to 24) who have taken up an apprenticeship in England since 2002/03 are as follows:

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*[1]2005-06*
Apprenticeship	24,336	43,110	45,125	47,531
Advanced Apprenticeship	18,618	9,174	8,912	18,979
Total	42,954	52,284	54,037	66,510

[1] September 2005 to May 2006.

Note:
Figures cannot be broken down into specific age groups but are for the whole of the Apprenticeship cohort, from age 16 to 24.

The new Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (AAN) was launched as a successor to the Apprenticeship Task Force in April this year. The AAN's key aim is to champion apprenticeships to employers of all sizes with the aim of increasing take-up, particularly in sectors with poor penetration.

Children and Young People's Plan

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local authorities did not publish a Children and Young People's Plan by 1 April. [90567]

Phil Hope: The Department for Education and Skills does not collect data on precisely when local authorities published their Children and Young People's Plan. Officials at the Department ran a compliance check during July and can now confirm that all local authorities that are required to do so have published a plan.

Committee on Treatment in Custody

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received from the Howard League on the proposals of the committee on treatment in custody chaired by Lord Carlile, QC; and what response he has given. [90655]

Phil Hope: The Youth Justice Board published its response to the recommendations of Lord Carlile's report in July 2006.

During 2006, DfES Ministers have held two meetings with representatives of the Howard League. The subject of these meetings was access to services for young people on release from custody.

Communication Aids Project

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many children received equipment under the Communication Aids Project up to March 2006; and if he will make a statement; [90562]

(2) what assessment has been made of the impact on users of ending the Communication Aids Project; what plans there are for further funding of the project; and if he will make a statement. [90563]

Phil Hope: The Communication Aids Project (CAP) went live in April 2002 and closed in March 2006. During the lifetime of the project, 4,193 children received equipment geared to their particular needs based on specialised assessments.

CAP was a time-limited DFES initiative intended to supplement, not replace, provision made by local agencies such as local authorities, schools and health authorities. No assessment has been made of the impact of closure on users and there are no plans at present to renew funding for the project.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81395]

Mr. Dhanda: All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases Certified Emissions Reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

Enterprise Summer School Pathfinders

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the standard curriculum for the enterprise summer school pathfinders; how many such schools were held in summer 2006; for how many days each school was held; between what hours of the day each school was held; what criteria are being assessed to measure the effectiveness of such schools; and pursuant to the Answer of 4 September 2006, Official Report, column 1981W, which of the businesses listed in the Answer subsequently confirmed their interest in participating in the schools. [90910]

Phil Hope: As yet, there is no standard curriculum for the Enterprise Summer School pathfinders. The evaluation that is being conducted by Oxford University assessed 23 approaches to five different models. The initial report is due in October and the final report in December. Together these will make recommendations on standard content based on the findings from the pathfinders.

23 pathfinder Enterprise Summer Schools were run in 2006, with at least one in each UK region. The duration was between five and 10 days depending on which model was being run. For non-residential models, normal school hours were maintained. For residential models, evening activities were also included.

Many more businesses took part than known in the previous answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Schools. The full list of participating businesses has been placed in the Libraries.

Family Court

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how long, on average, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service keeps the records of welfare cases heard in the Family Court in its archives. [90944]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive of CAFCASS, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas:

I am writing to you in response to the parliamentary question that you tabled recently: How long, on average does the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service keep the records of welfare cases heard in the Family Court in its archives?

Statutory guidance for care and related proceedings and for adoption cases is followed by CAFCASS. The retention schedules for records held by CAFCASS are as follows:

Care & related proceedings (Public law)	Until the youngest child reaches 21 years.
Adoption	Until the youngest child in proceedings reaches 75 years.
Private law cases	Between 5-7 years following the end of proceedings.

CAFCASS is currently developing new guidance, to ensure that a comprehensive national schedule is in place, which also takes account of recent policy developments in the field.

Funding

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding *(a)* in total and *(b)* per pupil has been allocated to Warrington Education Authority in each year since 1997. [91053]

Phil Hope: The following table sets out the total funding received by Warrington local education authority for its pupils for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06:

Warrington local education authority

	Total funding (£ million)	*Funding per pupil (£)*
1997-98	83.7	2,660
1998-99	88.1	2,710
1999-2000	91.4	2,810
2000-01	100.2	3,020
2001-02	105.2	3,150

Warrington local education authority

	Total funding (£ million)	*Funding per pupil (£)*
2002-03	108.0	3,240
2003-04	112.1	3,340
2004-05	114.9	3,460
2005-06	120.0	3,650
Change[1]	36.4	980

[1] Change since 1997-98.

Notes:

1. Price Base: real terms at 2004-05 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 23.12.05.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-19 and exclude education maintenance allowance (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £m to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC 3-year-old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4-year-olds funded through state supporting maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: total funding is rounded to the nearest £0.1 million. Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Figures may not total due to rounding.
6. Status: 2003-04 to 2005-06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.
7. 1997-98 figures for authorities subject to local government re-organisation in that year (such as Warrington) have been estimated, pro-rata to their post LGR figures.

The following figures are taken from the new dedicated schools grant. They are not comparable with those for the earlier years:

	Total DSG (£ million)	*Guaranteed unit of funding (£)*
2005-06 Baseline	100.108	3,205.76
2006-07 DSG	105.260	3,414.00

Notes:

1. The figures from 1997-98 to 2005-06 are based on education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. The DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the schools block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means there is a break from 2006-07 onwards in the funding series and the two sets of figures are not comparable. A new funding series is currently being developed by the Department.
3. There are other grants that support the schools budget. These are not included in the provided DSG figures as some of these grant figures are not yet available.
4. Figures are in cash terms and include the pensions transfer.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which schools in Warrington North have received funding for capital projects in each year since 1997; and how much was allocated and for what purpose in each case; [91054]

(2) how much capital funding has been allocated to Warrington Education Authority in each year since 1997. [91055]

Phil Hope: School capital allocations are made by the Department on a local authority basis. These, together with any other local resources, are prioritised between schools in accordance with local authority asset management plans. The Department does not keep records of allocations to individual schools.

Capital funding allocated to Warrington borough council and schools in its area in each year since 1998, the first year in which central records are available, is set out in the following table, in £ million.

	£ million
1998-99	3.7
1999-2000	4.7
2001-01	8.7
2001-02	9.0
2002-03	10.0
2003-04	8.8
2004-05	8.0
2005-06	9.8
2006-07	11.6

Further Education

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of the targeting of further education funding according to Priorities for Success on the level of provision of courses in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* England for (i) people with learning disabilities and (ii) other priority groups; and if he will make statement. [90924]

Phil Hope: Funding for provision for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities has increased significantly over recent years, and in 2004/05 the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) supported more than 641,000 learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities which accounted for nearly £1.5 billion. Continued investment in this provision remains a priority. This was stated in the Department's Grant Letter to the LSC for 2006-07, and was built upon by the LSC in their Annual Statement of Priorities for 2006/07.

The LSC's funding strategy set out in Priorities for Success, realigns funding to support the Government targets, apprenticeships, Train to Gain, and free first full level 2 while protecting support for disadvantaged adult learning and securing more resource for those with learning difficulties and disabilities. Priorities for Success makes clear that support for disadvantaged adults who lack basic and level 2 skills for employability and progression to Level 3 is a priority, with free tuition for learners studying basic skills, a first level 2, and for all those on income-related benefits

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what proportion of the total budget for further education was spent on adult students with learning disabilities in each *(a)* institution and *(b)* region in each of the last five years; [90985]

(2) how much funding was provided for further education for adult students with learning disabilities in each *(a)* institution and *(b)* region in each of the last five years. [90986]

Phil Hope: The Learning and Skills Council allocates specific budgets to institutions or regions for adult learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, therefore we do not hold the detail of institutional funding. Funding for provision for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities has increased significantly over recent years, and in 2004/05 the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) supported more than 641,000 learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, which accounted for nearly £1.5 billion.

Continuing investment in this provision remains a priority, which was confirmed in our 2006-07 Grant Letter to the LSC, and the LSC has in turn made clear in its strategic planning guidance the priority it attaches to this provision. Information on individual institutions can be found at the institution's website and performance information on Ofsted's website (www.ofsted.gov.uk)

Law Students

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what publicly-funded assistance is available to mature students to study law and subsequently train as lawyers. [90610]

Phil Hope: Mature students are generally able to receive support to study law degrees on the same basis as younger students and on the same basis as for other degree courses. For full-time students, new rates of student support in 2006/07 offer above—inflation increases in the amount of maintenance loan available to students (up to £6,170 in London). These maintenance loans are available to students under the age of 60. New fee loans of up to £3,000 ensure that no eligible student pays upfront fees. Student loans for maintenance and tuition fees incur no real rate of interest, are repaid only when graduate earnings are £15,000 or more and are written off after 25 years.

A means tested HE maintenance grant of up to £2,700 has been introduced for new students, who will also receive institutional bursaries of at least £300 if they pay fees of £3,000 at a publicly-funded institution. Students with dependants can claim additional grants including adult dependants grant (worth up to £2,455), parents learning allowance (worth up to £1,400) and a child care grant (worth up to £8,840). In addition, student parents are eligible to receive child tax credit from the Inland Revenue. Some students are also eligible for university access to learning funds and disabled students allowances. Mature law students who do not qualify for undergraduate support may be eligible for a career development loan which has an element of subsidy from public funds.

Part-time mature students receive the same support as other part-time students. In 2006/07 a fee grant of up to £1,125 is available, depending how intensive the course is, together with a course grant of up to £250.

Mature students can apply for the training contract grant scheme (TCGS) which is administered by the Legal Services Commission. The TCGS provides financial support to law students wishing to work in the legal aid sector.

The information given is in relation to England.

London Olympics (Building Skills)

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what courses are available for citizens in east London to upgrade their skills so that they can apply for employment on the London Olympics site. [90722]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 11 September]:* In preparation for the Olympics, Construction Skills—the Sector Skills Council, have set up a team "Constructing London 2012" to identify the skills needed to deliver the Games. They are working closely with the Learning and Skills Council to identify training requirements for the site and Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive, will write to you with further details. In addition, we are completing the national roll-out of the Train to Gain to service to help equip employees to upgrade their skills.

Letter from Mark Haysom:

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question in which you asked what courses are available for citizens in East London to upgrade their skills so that they can apply for employment on the London Olympics site. I am happy to provide the following information.

In preparation for the Olympics a range of actions are already being undertaken:

The London region LSC and LDA have published research that analyses previous Olympics and Paralympic Games helping to forecast the skills and employment opportunities that the Games will create.

Construction Skills—the Sector Skills Council, have set up a team "Constructing London 2012" to identify the specific skills needed to deliver the Games.

The London Employment and Skills Taskforce, as requested by Misc 26, have an action plan in the consultation phase which identifies specific projects and actions designed to help Londoners access the employment and learning opportunities driven by the Games.

A £15 Million European Social Fund has already been contracted to deliver underpinning activity to support learners and build capacity across 3 regions, East of England, South East of England and the London, managed in partnership by the regional LSCs and RDAs.

In addition, we are expanding Train to Gain in line with the recommendations of the Women and Work Commission to focus on training at level 3 for occupational areas where women are under-represented.

The London Region LSC will invest in excess of £1 billion per year in post-16 education throughout London in the years preceding the Games. East London already has in place a wide variety of learning available to it's citizens throughout all 6 boroughs including e-learning, Apprenticeships, Skills for Life, ESOL and National Vocational Qualifications delivered through a comprehensive provider base including Further Education Colleges, Work Based Learning Providers, Sixth Form Colleges and the Voluntary and Community sector.

As an example of current planning and investment, East London already has in place 4 major Further Education Centres of Vocational Excellence surrounding the Olympic site, specialising in Construction Skills at all levels, and working together as a One Stop Shop for construction learning and employment in conjunction with the local authorities and JobCentre Plus.

I trust this is helpful.

Post-graduate Debt

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to reduce the level of post-graduate debt. [88805]

Bill Rammell: Higher education is the best investment most people will make, with a substantial graduate premium compared with what a similar individual would have earned if they just had A-levels. There is now more money available to students from the student finance system and, where this is in the form of student loans, the debt incurred is quite unlike commercial debt. Students repay student loans after they have left university or college and only in real terms the same amount that they originally borrowed. Graduates do not pay back until they are in work and earning more than £15,000. Someone on the average graduate starting salary of £18,000 could be paying only £5.19 per week. If at any time their income drops below £15,000 the repayments will stop until they are earning more again. We have also provided that, if after 25 years students starting in 2006/07 or later have still not paid back all their student loan, the Government will pay it off for them.

There are also new grants which should benefit up to half of new entrants to full time courses. From 2006/07 lower income students are eligible for maintenance grants of up to £2,700 and minimum university bursaries of £300, typically £1,000, which gives them the option to reduce potential loan debt substantially.

Pupil Performance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the local education authorities in England in order of percentage of pupils achieving *(a)* A* to A, *(b)* A* to B and *(c)* A* to C in five or more subjects including English and Maths at GCSE in 2006, stating in each case whether the local authority is selective, partially selective or comprehensive. [91067]

Phil Hope: Figures showing GCSE attainment in 2006 by local authority are not yet available. It is also not possible at this stage to calculate numbers of pupils achieving GCSEs or how many GCSEs they achieved. Provisional results, based on the information collected for the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables, will first be published as National Statistics in October 2006.

School Meals

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that school meals contain popular, nutritionally balanced staple foods. [90659]

Phil Hope: To ensure that school meals contain nutritionally balanced staple foods we have introduced new standards for school lunches. In addition the School Food Trust has issued guidance 'Eat Better Do Better—a guide to introducing the Government's new food based standards for school lunches'. The guidance explains why the new school food standards need to be in place, offers serving suggestions and gives advice on good practice to school caterers.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the average *(a)* fat and *(b)* saturated fat content is of manufactured potato chips (i) deep fried and (ii) baked in ovens as their final cooking method in schools; [90660]

(2) whether manufactured chips which are *(a)* deep-fried and *(b)* baked in ovens as their final cooking method are classified in the same way under the new food-based standard for school meals in terms of the frequency with which they are allowed to be served; [90662]

(3) when he has met the School Food Trust to discuss the classification of deep-fried products; and what advice and recommendations he has received from the Trust on this subject. [90663]

Phil Hope: The following data on the fat and saturated fat content of fried and oven baked chips is taken from the UK food composition tables McCance and Widdowson's "The Composition of Foods, sixth edition (2002)".

	Fat g/100g	*Saturated Fat g/100g*
Oven chips, frozen, baked	4.2	1.8
Chips straight cut, frozen fried in blended oil	13.5	1.2

These figures are averages based on analysis of samples cooked according to normal domestic practice. They are not based on chips cooked in schools.

The regulations that set new school lunch standards place restrictions on the frequency that foods which are deep-fried in the cooking or manufacturing process can be served in schools. This means deep-fried chips and chips that are 'flash-fried' during the manufacturing process and baked in ovens as their final cooking method would be restricted by the regulations.

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills has not met with the School Food Trust (SFT); however the Minister responsible for School Food has quarterly meetings with the SFT. The meetings are an opportunity to discuss progress made against targets and policy issues, including school food standards. Deep-frying issues have been discussed in general terms although no specific advice or recommendations have been received.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which foods meet the relevant Food Standards Agency voluntary nutritional specifications for their category, but are excluded or restricted from school menus by the food-based standards. [90661]

Phil Hope: There will be a number of foods that meet the Food Standards Agency's voluntary Target Nutrient Specifications (TNS) for manufactured foods used in school meals but which are restricted by the new statutory school lunch nutritional standards in England. Of foods covered by the Food Standards Agency's TNS only savoury snacks and crisps are excluded by the new standards.

The purpose of the TNS is to assist school caterers across the UK to choose healthier products for use in school meals. The TNS will help schools to meet the wider nutrient-based school lunch standards that will be introduced in primary schools and secondary schools in England from September 2008 and September 2009 respectively.

Schoolchildren (Bristol)

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of children of school age living in Bristol local education authority area attend *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools which are located outside the local education authority boundaries; and what percentage of these schools are in the independent sector. [90586]

Phil Hope: We are unable to provide residency based figures for children educated in the Independent sector as the Department does not collect individual level information for pupils in the Independent sector.

The information for primary and secondary schools in the maintained sector has been provided in the following table:

	Number of pupils[2] residing within Bristol local authority	*Number of pupils[3] residing within Bristol local authority who attend schools outside of the local authority*	*Percentage of pupils[3] residing within Bristol local authority who attend schools outside of the local authority*
Primary[1]	29,807	1,208	4.1
Secondary[2]	20,162	4,272	21.2
Total	49,969	5,480	11.0

[1] Includes primary and middle deemed primary.
[2] Includes secondary, middle deemed secondary, City Technology Colleges and Academies.
3 Includes pupils aged 5 to 15 years, solely registered or main registration of dually registered pupils, excludes boarders.
Source:
School Census 2006

Schoolchildren (Expenditure)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent in real terms on each school child in *(a)* England, *(b)* Waltham Forest and *(c)* Redbridge in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 1995-96. [90879]

Phil Hope: The available information is contained in the following tables. The Department is currently collecting the financial information for 2005-06.

Expenditure per pupil on education in Waltham Forest, Redbridge and England in financial year 2004-05—Real terms figures at 2005-06 prices[1] as reported by local authorities in their 2004-05 outturn statements as at 6 September 2006[2]

£

	2004-05 at 2005-06 prices		
	Primary school based expenditure per pupil[3]	*Secondary school based expenditure per pupil[3]*	*Combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil[5]*
Waltham Forest	3,460	4,500	4,560
Redbridge	2,890	4,050	4,290
England	2,980	3,880	4,230

£

	1995-96 at 2005-06 prices		
	Pre-primary/ Primary school based expenditure per pupil[3,4]	*Secondary school based expenditure per pupil[3]*	*Combined local authority and school based expenditure per pupil[5]*
Waltham Forest	2,550	3,380	4,020
Redbridge	2,290	3,290	3,730
England	2,180	2,960	3,420

[1] Real terms figures calculated using GDP deflators as at 30 June 2006.
[2] 2004-05 data are subject to change by the local authority. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
[3] School-based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by local authority schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. The pupil data are drawn from the DFES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
[4]. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-00.
[5] Combined local authority and school-based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in local authority maintained establishments and pupils educated by the authority other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school-based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA). Certain elements of central local authority expenditure cannot be attributed to a particular phase of education and consequently a sector breakdown is not available. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under-5s funded by the authority and being educated in private settings (only available from 1999-00), pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and any other local authority maintained pupils. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

Schools (Outside Bodies)

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of schools permit activities of outside bodies on their premises. [90592]

Phil Hope: Schools may offer activities, both directly and through third-party providers from the private, voluntary and independent sectors, on their premises. They may also let their premises to outside bodies, such as sports clubs and community groups. The Department does not collect data on all such usage centrally; however, a baseline survey of extended services in a sample of maintained schools in 2005 found that 75 per cent. of primary schools and 97 per cent. of secondary schools permitted some outside use of their facilities. We are committed to ensuring that by 2010 all maintained schools in England become extended schools, providing access to a core offer of opportunities and services, including activities for pupils, family learning and adult learning available to the wider community. We are on track to achieve our target for 2,500 schools to provide this offer by the end of this month; and for half of all primary schools and third of secondary schools to do so by 2008. More than 10,000 schools are already working with their local authorities and with our partner organisation, TDA Development, to develop extended services.

Sexual Orientation Regulations

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the content of school assemblies will be covered by the sexual orientation regulations. [90706]

Phil Hope: The sexual orientation regulations currently being developed by the Department for Communities and Local Government are being put in place to prevent discrimination against individual pupils on grounds of their sexual orientation, or that of their parents or other people with whom they are associated. It is not the intention of the regulations to place a duty on schools to change the content of the curriculum, collective worship, assemblies or any other aspect of teaching in schools.

Special Needs Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken by his Department to increase awareness among *(a)* parents and *(b)* professionals working with children on how to support children with a speech and language disability. [90684]

Phil Hope: Parental awareness of speech, language and communication difficulties is very important. In 2005, the Department published a detailed information booklet for parent on speech and language difficulties under our Early Support Programme. This resource was produced in close collaboration with specialist organisations in the voluntary sector and the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. It explains how children normally develop communication, language and speech, how adults can help in this, the difficulties that can arise and how to seek help from professionals.

The Department has supported a longitudinal study by the University of Warwick looking into the learning needs of a group of children with specific language and communication difficulties, the characteristics of the current provision made for them and its impact, their aspirations for the future and the ways in which services can best support them. The results of the study are due to be published in autumn 2006.

The Primary and Secondary National Strategies have also produced a range of support and guidance to schools and childcare settings on the teaching of English and the development of speaking and listening skills, including frameworks to help teachers meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. We are reviewing the frameworks to provide more detailed and up to date guidance for schools which will be available before half term. We have also provided national training materials—"Communicating Matters"—for practitioners in early years Foundation Stage settings to specifically support children's early language acquisition.

The DfES and the Department of Health have jointly commissioned an independent scoping study to identify, for relevant professionals and other interested parties, examples of good practice in the effective delivery of speech and language therapy services to children and young people with special educational needs aged 0 to 19. A research team from Canterbury Christ Church University is carrying out the study and the fieldwork in currently under way. We expect to receive the final report on the scoping study early in the new year.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans to change the statementing process for children with special educational needs; and if he will make a statement. [90685]

Phil Hope: The Government have no current plans to change the statementing process. We are considering the recent report of the Education and Skills Committee's inquiry into special educational needs in which a review of policy is recommended and will respond in due course.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if his Department will set national guidelines on assessment and categorisation of special educational needs. [90686]

Phil Hope: Guidance on carrying out statutory assessments of special educational needs are given in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001), to which all local education authorities and schools must have regard. The code recognises that there are no hard and fast categories of need for assessment purposes. It identifies four broad types of need: communication and interaction; cognition and learning; behaviour, emotional and social development; and sensory and/or physical needs, but it stresses that each child is unique and that children may have needs that fall into more than one area. The code makes clear that children's needs must be considered on an individual basis.

Student Loans Company

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment has been made of the *(a)* security and *(b)* reliability of the Student Loans Company's IT systems. [90802]

Phil Hope: The Student Loans Company (SLC) routinely commissions independent security assessments before new online services are launched to highlight any weaknesses and addresses these prior to the service becoming operational.

A major independent review of the single IT system, administered by the SLC and used by local authorities and the SLC to process and pay student loan applications, was conducted over the period June to September 2005 by Gartner Consulting, a recognised global leader in technology futures and evaluation methodologies. Gartner reported average system transaction times and the handling of peak volume throughput to be on par with industry examples and system availability when tested to be 100 per cent. within service level hours.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what advertising campaigns the Department ran between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87058]

Mr. Hain: Following are the details of advertising campaigns (excluding classified advertising for recruitment) which took place within the Northern Ireland Office between 2000 and June 2004, along with the date and cost of each.

Advertising campaign	*Date*	*Cost (£)*
60 Second Car Checklist—aimed at protecting your car against car crime	13-22 December 2000	6,768.00
6 Steps to Protect your Home—aimed at protecting your home e.g. from burglars	16 March 2001	5,943.15
Going on Holidays—press advert on what precautions to take, actions to take when going on holidays e.g. cancelling newspapers etc.	5-18 July 2001	7,918.17
Creeper Burglary—protection for your car and precautions to take.	7 September to 16 October 2001	7,314.08
Stay Safe Stay Secure—aimed at the public's own personal safety in the home from intruders	13 October to 2 November 2003	112,241.97
Reclassification of Cannabis	15 March 2004	4,324.18
Stay Safe Stay Secure—As above	5-7 April 2004	56,777.80
'Are you a Victim of the Troubles'—aimed at victims of the troubles in NI to raise awareness of the help available from the NI Memorial Fund	March 2005	43,762.00
Tender Invitations for supply of Equipment—this was for a scientific piece of equipment to be used in Forensic Science NI. As it was expensive it was necessary to go through the process of advertising.	March 2004	897.92
NI Fireworks Safety Campaign, Schools and Public Awareness	2000-01	38,759.41
NI Fireworks Safety Campaign, Schools and Public Awareness	2001-02	15,047.04
NI Fireworks Safety Campaign, Schools and Public Awareness	2003-04	23,500.00
Total		323,253.72

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81492]

Mr. Hain: We cannot provide the information requested by the hon. Member. To do so would be at disproportionate cost. However, the total amount spent by the Northern Ireland office, excluding its Agencies and NDPBs, on staff employed through various employment agencies in the financial year 2005-06 was £213,227.

Arrest Warrants

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many arrest warrants have been issued in respect of individuals released from prison in the Irish Republic in the last five years. [74459]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland advises that the information sought by the hon. Gentleman would require an examination of all relevant warrants and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Automated Number Plate Readers

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many offenders were caught by automated number plate readers in Northern Ireland in the last year, broken down by area. [77365]

David Cairns: In the last year 16,973 offenders were caught by automated number plate readers for vehicle excise duty evasion in Northern Ireland. The figures are not broken down by area.

The PSNI has recently installed automated number plate readers in approximately 75 vehicles but at this stage it is too early to provide data on the number of detections.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81055]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office has not made any recent estimate of its carbon emissions. However, the NIO is committed to promoting sustainable development and is working with the Northern Ireland Departments on developing strategies which will include reduction of carbon emissions. In addition the NIO is a participant in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund, which aims to offset all carbon emissions from ministerial and official air travel.

Child Arrests

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children have been arrested by the Police Service of Northern Ireland following attacks on schools and churches in each of the last three years, broken down by district command unit; and if he will make a statement. [87988]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI does not keep statistics on the number of arrests made and to obtain such information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Children and Young People's Action Plan

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are to involve children and young people in the development of the draft Children and Young People's Action Plan. [88909]

Maria Eagle: It is intended to have a first draft of the action plan before autumn 2006. Consideration is currently being given to how we effectively involve children and young people in the first and future action planning processes. I also intend to seek the views of the all-party group on children and young people and other key stakeholders on how this can be effectively achieved.

Civil Servants

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants employed as civilian support staff in the Police Service Northern Ireland have transferred their status to direct employees *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the last five years; and how many have subsequently had their terms and conditions altered. [88255]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the number of civil servants employed as civilian support staff in the Police Service of Northern Ireland that have transferred their status to direct employees from the start of the scheme in 2001.

The change in status can only be achieved by internal promotion. The only terms and conditions of employment that changed on transfer related to pay.

	Number of Staff
2001	77
2002	129
2003	78
2004	87
2005	61
2006	21
Total number	453

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computers hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88762]

Paul Goggins: The table relates to equipment ordered for the NIO core during the financial year 2005-06 and is the total under each heading. Production of this information on a monthly basis could be done at disproportionate cost.

The figures, in particular those relating to *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* are approximate as there may be additional items purchased throughout the Department that we are not aware of.

Item	*Number purchase 2005-06*
(a) USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks	57
(b) compact discs	325
(c) DVD-ROM discs	0
(d) laptop computers	46
(e) external computers hard drives	1
(f) internal computer hard drives	23
(g) desktop computers	129

Crime Statistics

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* incidents of criminal damage, *(b)* domestic burglaries, *(c)* offences against a person, *(d)* sexual offences, *(e)* fraud and forgery crimes, *(f)* offences against the state and *(g)* violent crimes were recorded in each district command unit in Northern Ireland in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06, broken down by (A) urban and (B) rural area. [78725]

Paul Goggins: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many criminal offences his Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88469]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2004-05; and how much of that sum is accounted for by *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [50894]

Mr. Hain: Due to an administrative error the answer to the hon. Member's question was not submitted and I apologise for the late reply.

We cannot provide the information in the format requested by the hon. Member.

The information requested is captured under "hospitality", which includes food, alcohol and other related costs. The amount spent on hospitality by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and NDPBs, in 2004-05 was £258,436.

All expenditure of official hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting. The level of hospitality must be defined, and a broad outline of cost and numbers attending must be provided on all occasions before authorisation. Expenditure should be kept as low as possible, compatible with the occasion and the standing of guests.

A necessary pre-condition for any entertainment or hospitality to be financed from NIO funds is that it will be in the direct interests of the Northern Ireland Office. While one cannot always guarantee that the benefit will be achieved, that must be both the intention and the reasonable expectation.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on hospitality in each year since 2003-04. [51049]

Mr. Hain: Due to an administrative error the answer to the hon. Member's question was not submitted and I apologise for the late reply.

The amount spent on hospitality by the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and NDPBs, in each year since 2003-04 was:

	£
2003-04	319,741
2004-05	258,436
2005-06	299,634

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on refreshments in 2005. [78747]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and NDPBs, is unable to provide an answer in the form requested by the hon. Member due to the NIO's financial system being unable to distinguish between money spent on refreshments and other hospitality costs. The total spend on hospitality, which includes refreshments, in the financial year 2005-06 was £299,634.

To answer the hon. Member's question would involve a manual trawl of files which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of departmental hospitality was in each Department in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Department, in each of the last five years. [88256]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out the total cost of departmental hospitality in each Department in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Office, in each of the last five years.

Department	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
					£
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	45,800	53,021	77,697	86,481	97,169
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	30,387	36,056	21,721	22,260	34,901
Department of Education	17,319	23,609	23,791	43,074	33,891
Department for Employment and Learning	35,207	29,970	42,759	29,904	33,000
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	31,253	27,460	24,551	23,813	19,102
Department of the Environment	10,544	8,273	11,804	10,600	21,118
Department of Finance and Personnel	27,338	31,104	53,647	68,297	60,300
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	71,201	96,604	188,466	170,531	171,080
Department for Regional Development	33,791	39,077	19,179	21,206	22,701
Department for Social Development	17,440	16,622	15,865	25,947	26,270
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	109,228	149,993	93,703	63,974	71,599
Northern Ireland Office	235,989	363,755	319,741	258,436	299,634

Expenditure incurred on hospitality by the NIO includes accommodation and hospitality for members of the royal family, visiting dignitaries and heads of state, and also hospitality for the representatives of business, voluntary and community sectors in Northern Ireland attending the annual garden party at Hillsborough Castle.

The information in this answer attempts to provide expenditure on a consistent basis and may differ from that provided in previous answer as definitions of hospitality and treatment across Departments can vary.

Departmental Staff (Criminal Activity)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's employees have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997. [88459]

Paul Goggins: No members of staff employed within the Northern Ireland Office have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended, or *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in any year since 1997.

Departmental Staff (Sickness Absence)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1773W, on departmental staff, how many staff in each Department of the Northern Ireland Office have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the years for which he has provided figures. [84039]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Staff with two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 by Department

Department	*Number*
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	528
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	133
Department of Education	140
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	187
Department of Finance and Personnel	576
Department for Employment and Learning	292
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	216
Department of the Environment	449
Department for Regional Development	620
Department for Social Development	1,359
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	90
Northern Ireland Office	208

Notes

1. The table provides the number of staff in each Department within the NICS and NIO who have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the years 2004-05, 2003-04 and 2002-03. The figures include industrial staff, where appropriate.
2. Staff from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Complaints and the Planning Appeals Commission are included in the DFP figure.
3. Staff from HSENI and OFREG are included in the DETI figure.
4. The HRMS files used to produce the NIO figures include NICS staff only for 2002-03 and NICS and HCS staff for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Donaghadee and Comber Police Rapid Response Unit

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely impact on *(a)* the police and *(b)* the public of the recent decision by the District Policing Partnership to remove from Donaghadee and Comber the police rapid response unit. [87984]

Paul Goggins: The DPP has no statutory authority to make decisions in relation to operational matters. Any decision to remove the police rapid response unit from Donaghadee and Comber is a matter for the Chief Constable.

The PSNI has advised that a restructuring of policing services has been commenced within Ards District Command Unit. This entails the centralising of response crews in Newtownards town and Portaferry. In addition, there will be an increase in the number of Community Policing Teams in Comber and Donaghadee.

These changes have been introduced following examination of the nature and frequency of calls for assistance received from the public.

It is the opinion of the DCU Commander that these changes will more closely focus police resources on the areas of concern raised by the various communities in the Ards DCU area.

Environment and Renewable Energy Fund

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria will be used to select homes for funding from the Environment and Renewable Energy Fund; what information on applying for funding has been made available; and if he will make a statement. [87992]

Maria Eagle: I am pleased to report that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland launched the Household Programme on 24 July as the first initiative to provide funding for homes under the £59 million Environment and Renewable Energy Fund. Householders are eligible to apply for assistance under this programme, which will provide up to 50 per cent. of the cost of installation of renewable energy systems, provided they own the property and it is used primarily for domestic purposes. The grant will be offered on a first-come first-served basis.

The programme is being advertised widely and information on applying for funding, including guidance notes and application forms, can be accessed on the DETI and Action Renewables websites; they can also be requested via dedicated freephone (0800-023-4077), text and e-mail services which are being widely advertised.

Some funding from the Household Programme has been set aside to install 500 solar hot water systems in private households that are deemed to be in fuel poverty. Assistance at 100 per cent. of the cost of installation is available for these cases through the Department for Social Development. The criteria used to select homes for this assistance will be based on the eligibility criteria for the existing Warm Homes Scheme as well as conditions relating to the suitability of the property including suitable orientation needed to benefit from the solar energy. Selection will initially be carried out by the Warm Homes managing agent from the database of homes that have previously received other energy-related assistance under the Warm Homes Programme.

In addition to the Household Programme, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive will receive funding of £1.8 million over two years under the EREF

to install 600 solar hot water panels in their stock. Installation will be applied to dwellings that are in heating conversion schemes and, again, suitability, including suitable orientation of the property, will be the key selection criteria.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many homes in each Westminster constituency have received funding from the Environment and Renewable Energy Fund; and if he will make a statement. [87993]

Maria Eagle: On 24 July my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland launched the £8 million Household Programme as a major initiative within the Environment and Renewable Energy Fund.

Up until now no households have received funding from the Fund.

The Household Programme will provide up to 50 per cent. assistance to homeowners towards the cost of installing renewable technologies such as solar, wind, hydro, biomass or geothermal systems in their homes. A separate element within the programme will provide 100 per cent. assistance to those on low incomes.

The initiative is expected to lead to a tenfold increase in the number of homes with renewable energy systems in Northern Ireland by providing support to 4,000 homes.

In addition, the Warm Homes Scheme is being extended from the fund from 8,250 homes to 10,000, and 600 solar hot water systems will be installed over the next two years in Housing Executive dwellings.

External Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has paid since 2004 to external consultants who had previously been employed by the Department in any capacity within the previous five years. [41208]

Mr. Hain: Due to an administrative error the answer to the hon. Member's question was not submitted and I apologise for the late reply.

We cannot provide the information requested by the hon. Member. To identify those consultants who had previously been employed by the NIO could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Field Studies

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of including out-of-classroom learning in secondary schools in inspections by the Education and Training Inspectorate in Northern Ireland. [87098]

Maria Eagle: Out-of-classroom learning provides an important context for children and young people's learning and development. It takes place in almost all schools in all areas of the curriculum. I am satisfied that it is adequately dealt with, as an integral part of post-primary school inspections, by the Education and Training Inspectorate in Northern Ireland.

Implementation Structures

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the timetable is for establishment of each of the strategy for children and young people implementation structures; and what the selection *(a)* process and *(b)* criteria are for appointment to the implementation structures. [88908]

Maria Eagle: Structures to oversee the implementation of the 10-year strategy will be set up within the next few months. This will include the strategy planning and review group, which we are required to have up and running to advise on the strategy's action plan. We have not agreed the membership of the groups, nor have we finalised selection criteria at this stage. I intend to seek the views of the all-party group on children and young people and other key stakeholders on how this can be effectively achieved.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88983]

Paul Goggins: No IT contract awarded by the NIO has been abandoned within the last five years.

Key Persons Protection Scheme

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget for the Key Persons Protection Scheme in Northern Ireland was in each of the last five years. [59946]

Paul Goggins: The cost of the Key Persons Protection Scheme is given as follows, and the figures recorded include new works, maintenance and running costs, removal costs, some staffing costs and expenditure associated with travel. The costs are calculated in financial years.

	Cost (£ million)
2001-02	4.9
2002-03	11
2003-04	13
2004-05	7.5
2005-06	3.05

The increased expenditure during the period 2002 to 2005 reflects the need to provide physical home security measures for those whose personal details were compromised during the former year. This is also reflected in the numbers admitted to the scheme in 2002 and 2003.

MacGill Summer School

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his 19 July speech to the MacGill summer school, what definition he uses of a *(a)* constitutional endorsement of the structures of policing and *(b)* the practical service of policing in the community. [89126]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State's speech at the MacGill summer school simply pointed out the distinction between practical support for policing and political support for the governance structures of policing, which clearly have a particular resonance for republicans and nationalists in the light of Irish history.

Meetings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings have taken place involving the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Police Service of Northern Ireland and senior representatives of the Roman Catholic Church since 27 February; what information was provided in relation to *(a)* each diocese fully within Northern Ireland and *(b)* each diocese that straddles the border with the Republic of Ireland; when he expects to be in a position to make recommendations as a result of such meetings; and whether he plans to establish an independent inquiry into this matter. [88577]

Paul Goggins: Officials from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) met senior representatives of the Roman Catholic Church on 8 March 2006.

No meetings have taken place between the PSNI and senior representatives of the Roman Catholic Church since 27 February 2006.

At the meeting on the 8 March 2006, the Roman Catholic Church provided statistics pertaining to the number of allegations of child abuse within the Roman Catholic Church within Northern Ireland.

The Department have agreed to read and comment on the revised guidance produced by the Roman Catholic Church for the Northern Dioceses.

On completion of ongoing consultations, all possible options will be considered including the need for an independent inquiry and recommendations will be made.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he last met the Scottish First Minister; and what subjects were discussed. [88768]

Mr. Hain: Ministers have regular dialogues with ministerial colleagues in the Scottish Executive, discussing a wide range of issues of mutual interest. It is not our practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his oral answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 248, on the Northern Ireland Police Fund, what progress has been made in his investigation. [88680]

Paul Goggins: A full police investigation has been carried out in relation to alleged breaches of security within the Northern Ireland Police Fund. This investigation has now been completed and involved a comprehensive programme of interviews. No persons have been prosecuted as a result of this investigation. It would not be appropriate to comment on the operational detail of the investigation or on the question of charges being withdrawn as such issues are a matter for the Chief Constable and the PPS respectively. The Secretary of State has already confirmed that he will not call for a public inquiry.

Out-of-classroom Education

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of Northern Ireland teacher training courses' treatment of fieldwork as a teaching method in secondary schools. [86923]

Maria Eagle: I am content that teacher education as inspected and assessed by the Education and Training Inspectorate, is fit for purpose. However, individual teaching methodologies such as the treatment of fieldwork, are not inspected separately.

Parades

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many objections were received by the Parades Commission in advance of parades held on 17 March in Northern Ireland. [61106]

Paul Goggins: The Parades Commission has advised that there is no record of objections to any of the parades on St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any discussions have taken place between the Parades Commission and organisers of proposed Ancient Order of Hibernians parades during August 2006 which are due to take place in or close to Unionist areas regarding talks between local residents and the march organisers. [84935]

Paul Goggins: The Parades Commission has advised that it is in the process of facilitating dialogue between band organisers and local residents regarding proposed Ancient Order of Hibernians parades during August 2006.

Paramilitary Flags

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what further measures his Department plans to introduce to tackle the flying of paramilitary flags in Northern Ireland. [86585]

Paul Goggins: The Flags (NI) Order 2000 governs the flying of the Union Flag from Government buildings. There are no plans at present to make any major changes to this legislation.

"A Shared Future": Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland was published on 21 March 2005. It deals with (in part) the removal of inappropriate and aggressive displays of flags and emblems (specifically paramilitary flags and other displays which have the effect of intimidating or harassing).

This is best undertaken as a common project with key agencies working collaboratively with the PSNI and local communities to remove such displays. The launch of Protocol between PSNI and key agencies in April 2005 provides for such a mechanism.

Over the past year, individual PSNI District Command Units have been proactively working with others, as laid out in the joint protocol, to have flags removed through a process of consultation and negotiation. PSNI has also independently and unilaterally acted to remove flags when it has determined that the display of a flag is such as to justify enforcement without consultation and negotiation.

Policing

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on *(a)* the role of the structures of policing in the Patten recommendations and *(b)* the future of policing in Northern Ireland. [89127]

Paul Goggins: The Government are fully committed to implementing the Patten recommendations. The policing accountability architectures put in place as a result of the Patten report have been a notable success and a model for others to follow. The Northern Ireland Policing Board is one of the key elements in this accountability framework.

Prisons

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the availability of illegal drugs in prisons in Northern Ireland; and what measures are in place to reduce the availability. [87282]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service acknowledges that it is essential to have detailed monitoring systems and trends analysis of the availability of illegal drugs in prisons. The Service has a detailed monthly monitoring system which includes:

Prisoners who recorded a dependency or use of drugs or alcohol during committal screening;

Number of adjudications for possession of drugs;

Number of drug finds;

Number of times police were called to the prison to arrest visitors for suspected possession of drugs;

Voluntary drug testing;

Deployment of Passive Drug Dogs (FDD).

Complementing the statistical data, graphs and charts are produced which provide a trend analysis over six monthly periods. This information is disseminated within the Northern Ireland Prison Service and with the exception of sensitive information, is published on the NIPS website (www.niprisonservice.gov.uk).

More long-term, detailed assessments are carried out by external, independent consultants based on anonymous questionnaires and interviews with prisoners. These assessments provide a clear insight into the nature and scope of substance misuse in each establishment. They also provide a solid foundation on which to build and develop policy. They, too, are published.

The measures in place to reduce availability of illegal drugs in prison are set out in the "Policy on Alcohol and Substance Misuse" document which was published for consultation on 26 July 2006. It too can be accessed on the Northern Ireland Prison Service website.

Public Swimming Baths

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to increase the provision of public swimming facilities in Northern Ireland. [87283]

Maria Eagle: Article 10 of The Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 states that each district council has statutory responsibility for the provision of leisure and recreation facilities within its area. Therefore the responsibility to increase the provision of public swimming facilities in Northern Ireland falls to district councils. The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure is sponsoring a competition to facilitate the development of an Olympic standard 50m swimming pool through the provision of a capital grant to the appropriate authority with plans to build such a pool.

Recruitment and Selection

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much of the money spent on recruitment and selection by the Northern Ireland civil service was spent on recruitment agencies and consultants in each of the last four financial years. [86574]

Mr. Hanson: The following table details the amount spent on recruitment consultants by the Northern Ireland civil service in each of the last four financial years.

Amount spent on recruitment consultants

Financial year	£
2002-03	418,810
2003-04	724,693
2004-05	395,722
2005-06	196,230
Total	1,735,455

It has not been possible to provide a figure in respect of recruitment agency costs due to disproportionate cost. These costs were largely incurred through the need to fill temporary vacancies.

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Northern Ireland civil service has spent on recruitment and selection in each of the last four financial years; and how many jobs advertised were subsequently filled during this period. [86575]

Mr. Hanson: Recruitment Service of the Department of Finance and Personnel has responsibility for the majority of recruitment and selection, through external competition, to the Northern Ireland civil service. The figures in the following table represent the spend incurred by Recruitment Service within the years specified and the number of jobs filled.

In addition, several departments manage directly some recruitment, mainly to fill temporary positions. The number of jobs filled by departments is included in the following table. The costs associated with this element of departmental recruitment and selection cannot be provided due to disproportionate costs.

Financial year	Costs (£000)	Recruitment Service appointments	Direct departmental appointments	Total appointments
2002-03	1,848	3,045	1,240	4,285
2003-04	1,916	3,744	1,193	4,937
2004-05	1,782	2,631	852	3,483
2005-06	1,685	2,201	807	3,008
Total	7,231	11,621	4,092	15,713

It is not possible to provide a figure in relation to jobs advertised. Although some competitions do specify the number of jobs vacancies anticipated at the time of advertising, the majority of competitions do not. These are advertised in such a way as to provide departments with a pool of candidates to satisfy their business needs, at the grade advertised, within a 12-month period.

Reserved Posts

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions ministers have had with the Equality Commission on the eligibility of Irish nationals for reserved posts; and if he will make a statement. [87337]

Mr. Hanson: No discussions have taken place between Ministers and the Equality Commission on this issue.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been ruled ineligible for reserved posts in the Northern Ireland civil service in each of the last five years on the grounds that they were Irish citizens. [87338]

Mr. Hanson: The number of people who have been ruled ineligible for reserved posts in the NICS as a consequence of their Irish citizenship in the last five years is contained in the following table.

Financial year	Number
2001-02	0
2002-03	4
2003-04	1
2004-05	2
2005-06	2
Total	9

Schools (Vandalism)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* state controlled schools, *(b)* Catholic maintained schools and *(c)* other schools in each board area have been attacked by vandals over the last three years; and whether each case was recorded as a sectarian attack. [87998]

Maria Eagle: The number of controlled and Catholic maintained schools attacked by vandals over the last three years is as follows:

Education and Library Board	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Belfast			
(a) Controlled	[1]24	98	137
(b) Maintained	[1]27	100	196
Western			
(a) Controlled	29	17	14
(b) Maintained	27	23	22
North Eastern			
(a) Controlled	107	141	133
(b) Maintained	51	60	57
South Eastern			
(a) Controlled	425	383	459
(b) Maintained	75	100	70
Southern			
(a) Controlled	[2]259	[2]254	[2]265
(b) Maintained	[2]279	[2]273	[2]286

[1] Figures from 1 August 2003 when Board started to keep computerised records.
[2] Figures are for calendar year.

The information for voluntary grammar and grant maintained integrated schools is not readily available and is currently being collected. I will write to the hon. Member with the information as soon as possible.

Incidents of vandalism are not recorded as sectarian by the Education and Library Boards.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department by year since February 2004. [88560]

Mr. Hain: The number of passes reported by staff in the Northern Ireland Office to have been lost or stolen each year since February 2004 is as follows:

	Lost	*Stolen*
March 2004 to February 2005	23	1
March 2005 to February 2006	13	3
March 2006 (to date)	6	1

This reply relates only to the Northern Ireland Office and does not cover the 11 Departments of the Northern Ireland administration.

Sight-impaired Students

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to facilitate the inclusion of pupils who are blind, partially sighted and sight-impaired in mainstream education. [90807]

Maria Eagle: The introduction of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (SENDO) has increased the rights of children with special educational needs (SEN) to a mainstream education. Education and Library Boards (ELBs) assess and make provision for pupils on an individual basis, in line with the Code of Practice on the Assessment of Special Educational Needs and the Supplement to it, issued as a result of SENDO.

All of the ELBs have staff qualified to teach pupils who are blind, partially sighted and visually impaired, including those staff attached to the peripatetic support services. In addition support is available from Jordanstown Special Schools' outreach service.

Depending on the needs of the individual pupil, ELBs make available a range of aids to support learning, including large print literature, Braillers and appropriate ICT equipment and software. Schools themselves may also purchase specialist items through their dedicated SEN budgets.

Single Farm Payments

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the less favoured area (LFA) element of the Single Farm Payment will be paid in full in 2006-07; and when he expects the announcement relating to the LFA to be made. [90575]

Maria Eagle: The 2006-07 less favoured areas scheme will be an integral part of the 2007-13 Rural Development programme. This programme is currently under development and will be submitted to the EU Commission for its consideration and approval as soon as possible. Approval of that programme will enable DARD to accept claims and make payments under the 2006-07 LFA scheme.

DARD will continue to keep the farming sector informed of developments and an announcement will be made before the end of 2006.

Speed Detection Unit

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how the proposed new speed detection project will be rolled out in Northern Ireland; in which areas it will be tested; what budget has been allocated to the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [87985]

Paul Goggins: The new speed detection project, known as SPECS III, is still at an early stage. Before the system can be deployed operationally, it must obtain Home Office Type Approval. This process is managed through the Home Office Scientific Development Board, with the assistance of police forces that are willing to practically test the equipment. SPECS III is at the beginning of this process and along with the Metropolitan Police Service, the PSNI is providing the testing capability for the system. In Northern Ireland it is to be installed and tested on the A20 dual carriageway between Newtownards and Dundonald. If successful, it is anticipated that SPECS III will be rolled out across the province. Initial costs for the pilot scheme are to be met by the equipment supplier with no budget implications for the PSNI at this stage.

Sports Facilities

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much Government funding has been provided to local authorities for the improvement of sports facilities in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [85439]

Maria Eagle: Under the Recreation and Youth Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, the Sports Council for Northern Ireland (SCNI) is responsible for the development of sport including the distribution of funding to sport.

The SCNI has invested £897,210 in the last five years to local authorities for the improvement of sports facilities in Northern Ireland. This sum can be broken down by local authority as follows:

Council	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*
Lame Borough	40,930	—	—	—	8,375	49,305
Banbridge District	—	15,570	—	8,179	—	23,749
Derry City	—	40,542	83,714	38,100	65,606	227,962

Council	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Antrim Borough	—	—	920	5,000	—	5,920
Ballymena Borough	—	—	46,989	20,000	40,031	107,020
Belfast City	—	—	80,174	—	36,952	117,126
Carrickfergus Borough	—	—	3,517	33,033	—	36,550
Coleraine Borough	—	—	9,422	—	—	9,422
Cookstown District	—	—	16,097	—	—	16,097
Craigavon Borough	—	—	41,524	—	15,623	57,147
Limavady Borough	—	—	22,565	—	—	22,565
Lisburn City	—	—	7,400	3,000	3,600	14,000
Magherafelt District	—	—	31,800	—	16,800	48,600
Moyle District	—	—	20,728	38,325	40,241	99,294
Newtownabbey Borough	—	—	10,722	—	—	10,722
North Down Borough	—	—	14,530	—	—	14,530
Omagh District	—	—	17,120	—	9,142	26,262
Ballymoney Borough	—	—	—	4,504	6,435	10,939
Totals	40,930	56,112	407,222	150,141	242,805	897,210

Local Authorities have also been provided with funding from government departments as follows:

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

DARD provided £28,821.67 of funding to Fermanagh district council in 2004-05.

Department of Social Development

Name of local authority funded	Amount of funding provided (£)	Reason funding was given
2001-02	Nil	
2002-03	Nil	
2003-04		
Strabane district council	260,000.00	Provision of floodlighting, synthetic pitch and electrical installation
Coleraine borough council	135,000.00	Improvement to playing fields facilities.
Coleraine borough council	230,000.00	Ballysally multi-purpose sports facility
2004-05		
Belfast city council	152,000.00	Clarendon Development Association—Playing Field and Pavilion Development Project
2005-06		
Strabane district council	100,000.00	Melvin Hall—renovation and refurbishment
Armagh city and district council	52,090.60	To provide a multisport area in Drumarg
Armagh city and district council	42,184.74	To provide a multisport area in Mullacreevie
Armagh city and district council	70,976.50	To provide a multisport area in Callanbridge
Coleraine borough council	282,626.75	Ballykeel recreational facilities
Belfast city council	75,599.00	Clarendon Development Association—Playing Field and Pavilion Development Project

Note.
Funding listed includes both funding given to make improvements to existing sports facilities and funding given to create new sports facilities.

Department of Finance and Personnel

	Local authority	£ Amount provided
2001-02	—	0
2002-03	Cookstown district	150,000
2003-04	—	0
2004-05	Banbridge district	10,950
2005-06	—	0

The total Government funding provided to local authorities for the improvement of sporting facilities in each of the last five years is as follows:

Council	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	£ Total
Larne borough	40,930	—	—	—	8,375	49,305
Banbridge district	—	15,570	—	19,129	—	34,699
Derry city	—	40,542	83,714	38,100	65,606	227,962
Antrim borough	—	—	920	5,000	—	5,920
Ballymena borough	—	—	46,989	20,000	40,031	107,020
Belfast city	—	—	80,174	152,000	112,551	344,725
Carrickfergus borough	—	—	3,517	33,033	—	36,550
Coleraine borough	—	—	374,422	—	282,627	657,049
Cookstown district	—	150,000	16,097	—	—	166,097
Craigavon borough	—	—	41,524	—	15,623	57,147
Limavady borough	—	—	22,565	—	—	22,565
Lisburn city	—	—	7,400	3,000	—	14,000
Magherafelt district	—	—	31,800	—	16,800	48,600
Moyle district	—	—	20,728	38,325	40,241	99,294
Newtownabbey borough	—	—	10,722	—	—	10,722
North Down borough	—	—	14,530	—	—	14,530
Omagh district	—	—	17,120	—	9,142	26,262
Ballymoney borough	—	—	—	4,504	6,435	10,939
Strabane	—	—	260,000	—	100,000	360,000
Armagh city	—	—	—	—	162,252	162,252
Fermanagh	—	—	—	28,822	—	28,822
Totals	40,930	206,112	1,032,222	341,913	863,283	2,484,460

Sunbeds

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many local authorities in Northern Ireland do not permit the use of sunbeds in their leisure facilities. [87989]

David Cairns: Of the 26 district councils in Northern Ireland, 25 do not permit the use of sunbeds in their leisure facilities. The remaining council will close the one leisure facility that currently has sunbeds, at the end of the summer for refurbishment and when it reopens, sunbeds will not be provided.

Twelfth Celebrations

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the revenue accruing to the economy in Northern Ireland through the annual Twelfth Celebrations; and if he will make a statement. [86323]

Maria Eagle: While Government have made no estimate of the revenue accruing to the economy in Northern Ireland through the Twelfth Celebrations the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, who is responsible for social development recently announced Government funding of £104,200 for the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast to employ a development officer for three years to implement a strategy for the management of Twelfth of July celebrations within Belfast. The objectives for the post include: encouraging the Twelfth of July as an economic promotional day for trade and commerce in Belfast city centre and its main arterial routes; and, promoting Belfast in a positive light and encouraging visitors to watch the parade.

Vandalism

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many instances of vandalism were reported in *(a)* Castlereagh and *(b)* East Belfast district command unit in each year since 1990. [77376]

Paul Goggins: Crime statistics collated by the PSNI do not record a specific offence of 'vandalism'. There are a number of offences categorized under criminal damage and these are shown in the following tables, and cover the years from 1998-99 to 2005-06. Due to a change in Home Office counting rules in April 1998, statistics prior to that date belong to a different statistical series and are not comparable.

Castlereagh district command unit

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Arson	28	23	41	92	71	43	46	60
Petrol bombing offences	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Explosives offences	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Castlereagh district command unit

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Criminal damage/malicious damage	670	874	866	1,207	910	784	738	889
Other	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Total criminal damage	704	897	908	1,301	983	827	786	950

East Belfast district command unit

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Arson	72	93	89	101	130	121	81	92
Petrol bombing offences	8	3	6	6	10	2	2	3
Explosives offences	0	0	4	3	15	0	5	4
Criminal damage/malicious damage	1,760	1,821	1,954	2,101	2,174	1,440	1,289	1,484
Other	1	1	2	7	7	12	18	24
Total criminal damage	1,841	1,918	2,055	2,218	2,336	1,575	1,395	1,607

Vehicle Theft

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* thefts from a vehicle and *(b)* thefts of a vehicle there were in each District Command Unit in Northern Ireland in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06, broken down by (A) urban and (B) rural area. [78724]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following tables:

Urban region—Theft from motor vehicles

District Command Unit	2004-05	Recorded 2005-06
Antrim	13	123
Ards	121	74
East Belfast	321	178
North Belfast	498	263
South Belfast	1,123	637
West Belfast	229	215
Carrickfergus	50	31
Castlereagh	232	162
Larne	52	52
Lisburn	525	435
Newtownabbey	217	207
North Down	148	120

Rural region—Theft from motor vehicles

District Command Unit	2004-05	Recorded 2005-06
Armagh	50	71
Banbridge	66	47
Ballymena	94	101
Ballymoney	23	11
Coleraine	198	142
Cookstown	39	29
Craigavon	223	285
Dungannon and South Tyrone	68	83
Down	206	195
Fermanagh	159	144
Foyle	188	201

Rural region—Theft from motor vehicles

District Command Unit	2004-05	Recorded 2005-06
Limavady	58	87
Magherafelt	11	30
Moyle	26	10
Newry and Mourne	238	407
Omagh	42	43
Strabane	34	21

Urban region—Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles

District Command Unit	2004-05	Recorded 2005-06
Antrim	108	102
Ards	99	84
East Belfast	213	154
North Belfast	498	344
South Belfast	646	405
West Belfast	423	452
Carrickfergus	42	25
Castlereagh	143	95
Lame	40	29
Lisburn	415	338
Newtownabbey	182	139
North Down	99	73

Rural Region—Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles

District Command Unit	2004-05	Recorded 2005-06
Armagh	79	92
Banbridge	48	54
Ballymena	66	84
Ballymoney	23	18
Coleraine	97	59
Cookstown	50	40
Craigavon	151	119
Dungannon and South Tyrone	99	96
Down	143	146
Fermanagh	53	38
Foyle	251	278
Limavady	46	49
Magherafelt	22	35

Rural Region—Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles

District Command Unit	2004-05	Recorded 2005-06
Moyle	23	19
Newry and Mourne	311	266
Omagh	44	50
Strabane	42	38

Waiting Lists/Times

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting period was in each board area for NHS *(a)* hearing aid tests, *(b)* colonoscopy, *(c)* neurophysiology, *(d)* gastroscopy, *(e)* cystoscopy, *(f)* bone density scans, *(g)* MRI scans, *(h)* echocardiography, *(i)* barium enema and *(j)* CT scans in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [87991]

Paul Goggins: Information on waiting times for each of the diagnostic tests listed *(b)* to *(j)* is not routinely collected and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on waiting times for hearing aid tests is not held centrally and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member with the information as soon as it is available and place a copy in the Library.

I fully recognise that many patients are waiting too long for a whole range of diagnostic tests. I am determined to put measures in place to ensure that these waiting times are collected to give a more accurate reflection of the total waiting time patients experience from referral by their GP to completion of their treatment. I have established a dedicated team within the Department's service delivery unit to focus on waiting times for diagnostic tests. An exercise to assess diagnostic capacity and demand is due to be completed before the end of the summer and work is under way to develop weekly waiting time information for diagnostic tests.

Weapons

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many personal protection weapons on licence have been returned on request in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [77371]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable informs me that statistics are not readily available to enable him to provide this information, and that such data could be obtained only at disproportionate costs to public funds.

Workplace 2010 Strategy

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the Workplace 2010 strategy on civil servants in *(a)* Waterside House, *(b)* Carlisle House and *(c)* Orchard House in Derry to ensure that existing civil service jobs remain in Derry; and whether there are further plans to move jobs out of Derry. [90792]

Mr. Hanson: The proposed Workplace 2010 contract includes the refurbishment of Waterside House, Carlisle House and Orchard House. The refurbishment programme will improve the working environment for staff, provide much more flexibility and increase the capacity of the three buildings. Current planning assumptions are that the existing staff will remain in Derry. Under Workplace 2010 there are no plans to relocate these staff out of Derry.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Approved Premises

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places in approved hostels in England and Wales are occupied by persons convicted of sexual offences *(a)* on licence and *(b)* as a condition of a community penalty. [87794]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Statistical information about the type of offences committed by offenders residing in approved premises is not collected centrally

Asylum/Immigration

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers deported from the UK in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2002, *(d)* 2003, *(e)* 2004 and *(f)* 2005, were (i) of school age and (ii) enrolled in a school or college; and if he will make a statement. [30063]

Mr. Byrne: Information on asylum seekers enrolled in a school or college is not available. The following table shows the number of asylum seekers removed for the period 2004 and 2005, and includes those who were under the age of eighteen at the date of their removal. Data are unavailable for the years 2000 to 2003 due to data quality issues.

Removals, voluntary departures[1], and assisted returns of asylum applicants, including dependants, by quarter, in 2004 and 2005[2,3]

Number of asylum applicants

	Quarter				
	Q1 2004	Q2 2004	Q3 2004	Q4 2004	Total 2004
Total asylum applicants removed	4,090	3,790	3,595	3,435	14,915
of whom:					
Adults	3,480	3,295	3,180	3,025	12,985
Minors[4]	605	485	410	405	1,900
Unknown[5]	5	10	10	5	25

	Quarter				
	Q1 2005[3]	Q2 2005[3]	Q3 2005[3]	Q4 2005[3]	Total 2005[3]
Total asylum applicants removed	3,485	3,765	4,225	4,210	15,685
of whom					
Adults	3,115	3,335	3,825	3,760	14,035
Minors[4]	370	430	395	445	1,640
Unknown[5]	*	5	5	5	10

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing 'voluntarily' following enforcement action initiated against them, and persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest five, with * = 1 or 2, and may not sum due to rounding.
[3] Provisional figures.
[4] People recorded as being under 18 on the date of their removal from the UK.
[5] People whose date of birth is not recorded on the source database.
[6] Removals include those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities (470 asylum applicants, including dependants, in 2005).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants are in prison. [37961]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested on the immigration status of prisoners is not currently available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people awaiting a decision on indefinite leave to remain are receiving benefits. [85872]

Mr. Byrne: Figures on the numbers in excepted categories who have lodged or may lodge an application for indefinite leave to remain and are in receipt of state benefits are not available. With some limited exceptions, migrants who do not have indefinite leave to remain are ineligible to receive public funds until such time as they are given permission to remain permanently in the United Kingdom.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for the time taken for the publication of the most recent report by the Independent Monitor (Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002) submitted to Government in November 2005. [90639]

Mr. Byrne: The final agreed version of the 2005 Annual report of the Monitor of certification of claims as unfounded under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 was formally submitted to the Home Office on 6 April 2006. The report was published on 27 April. The document submitted to the Home Office on 29 November 2005 was the first draft of the Monitor's annual report. This document was then subject to a period of consultation and discussion prior to being submitted to the Secretary of State. This included the provision of further information requested by the Monitor to enable her to complete the report and the correction of factual errors.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date each of the reports by the Independent Monitor (Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002) were received by the Home Office; and what the date of publication was in each case. [90640]

Mr. Byrne: The Independent Monitor of certification of claims as unfounded under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 has published two annual reports, covering 2004 and 2005 respectively. The final version of the 2004 annual report was received by the Home Office on 1 June 2005 and published on 21 July. The final version of the 2005 report was received on 6 April 2006 and published on 27 April.

In each case the submission by the Monitor of the final version of the report was preceded by a period of consultation on draft versions.

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for changing the initial decision under the New Asylum Model to place eight caseworker teams in Croydon and instead to place these teams in Central London. [90810]

Mr. Byrne: By April 2007, all new asylum claims will be managed as part of the New Asylum Model (NAM). NAM is an integrated process and this therefore points to the need to be close both to reporting centres and to hearing centres. Analysis of the geographical locations of asylum claimants in the London area showed two large clusters of claimants in North Central London and in West London. This was a reasonable fit with the locations of IND reporting centres: at Communications House in Central London and at Eaton House in West London, near Heathrow; as well as with the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal hearing centres in London EC1 and at Feltham in Middlesex. It was accordingly decided that it would be most efficient to locate the Asylum Teams as close to the reporting centres as possible. We have now found and signed leases on buildings in both locations. The experience of the first NAM team which was set up in Croydon in June 2005 was that few of the claimants lived in the Croydon area and were having to travel a long way to report to their case owners and this validated the decision we made.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of foreign nationals illegally in the country; and on what statistical evidence such estimates are based. [71444]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Secretary explained the position in his answer given to the Home Affairs Committee on 23 May 2006.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants who have been released from prison and not detained have subsequently been convicted of armed robbery in the past two years. [83990]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary updated the House in a written ministerial statement on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 19WS, regarding the release of foreign national prisoners without deportation consideration. The director-general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) wrote on the same date to the chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of this letter is available in both Libraries. Previous updates have also been provided to the House on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written ministerial statements of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, and 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 77-81WS.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers *(a)* between 27 January 1997 and 10 February 2003 and *(b)* since 10 February 2003, have been investigated for consideration of prosecution by his Department or by any police force or other public authority for offences in any way related to or arising from the employers' alleged, intended or actual employment of illegal workers or facilitation of illegal immigration or other immigration-related offences alleged to have been committed by employers (i) under the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, (ii) under the Nationality, Asylum and Immigration Act 2002 and (iii) under any other legislation; of these employers, how many were prosecuted and, of those employers prosecuted, how many were convicted; and, as regards the convictions, what were the minimum, average and maximum sentences imposed, both in total and broken down by legal characterisation of the offences. [83569]

Mr. Byrne: There are no centrally collated reports on how many employers have been investigated for consideration of prosecution action by the UK Immigration Service, the police or other public authorities as decisions on whether or not to prosecute are made by individual departmental prosecution sections, as well as the Crown Prosecution Service. However, statistical information on those employers successfully prosecuted for such offences is published in the Home Office Command Papers "Control of Immigration: Statistics—United Kingdom 2005" and "Control of Immigration: Statistics—United Kingdom 2004". These papers are available on the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the number of illegal immigrants entering the United Kingdom in 2005; and how many have since been deported. [84236]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available.

Bail Statistics

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were bailed without being charged in the last period for which figures are available; under what circumstances this occurs; and if he will make a statement. [90895]

Mr. McNulty: Information on people who are bailed but not charged is not collected centrally.

Biometric Technology

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* planned and *(b)* existing projects in his Department involve the use of biometric technology. [82580]

Joan Ryan: Planned projects in the Home Office which will make use of biometrics include:

preparation for the addition of a second biometric in the UK ePassport;

Identity Cards programme in support of the national identity scheme;

UKvisas Biometric programme to ensure that all UK issued visas will use biometric identifiers by the end of 2007 or early 2008;

Biometric travel documents;

Biometric residence permit to be developed in line with common EU standards;

IAFS+, extension of IAFS (Immigration and Asylum Fingerprints System) to accommodate the biometric visas and biometric residence permits;

e-Borders programme, delivering a modernised border control, which is fundamentally more effective, efficient and secure to meet the future operational needs of UK border, law enforcement and intelligence agencies;

FIND national database of facial images managed by the Police Information TechnologyOrganisation, PITO;

PITO project to use face recognition to support FIND;

LANTERN, a mobile fingerprint system under development by PITO.

In addition there are a number of smaller projects some of which are partnerships with other organisations in the UK and abroad.

Existing projects in the Home Office which make use of biometrics include:

IDENT1 UK police platform for fingerprints and palmprints;

UK ePassport: completion of its rollout scheduled for third quarter of 2006;

IAFS (Immigration and Asylum Fingerprint System), database of biometric data relating to immigration cases and asylum seekers;

ARC (application registration cards) and the use of mobile quick check readers. ARC is a credit card sized plastic credential which contains fingerprint details of asylum claimants and others;

RepARC (Reporting with ARC) programme to require asylum claimants to produce their ARC card at each reporting event;

ISRP (Immigration Stateless Refugee Project) to collect fingerprint details from holders of the 1951 UN Convention Travel Document;

VIAFS—Visa Immigration and Asylum Fingerprint System, collecting fingerprints of visa applicants from certain countries;

EURODAC—European-wide system in support of the Dublin Convention uses fingerprint data in order that member states can determine whether an asylum-seeker or a foreign national found present within a member state has previously claimed asylum in another member state;

IRIS (Iris Recognition Immigration System), a free and voluntary way for air passengers to clear immigration utilising their iris image to verify their identity;

Systems in prisons to prevent escapes by prisoners exchanging places with visitors;

C-NOMIS (Custody-National Offender Management Information System). Fingerprint based for confirmation of prisoner identity against IDENT1 and PNC;

Pilot of a Methadone dispensing system using iris recognition, at HMP Eastwood Park;

Trial of fingerprint based access control to IT systems in prisons.

As for planned projects, there are a number of smaller projects some of which are partnerships with other organisations in the UK and abroad.

The Home Office is continuing to examine new technologies, and new ways of using existing biometric technologies, to ensure the protection of the public.

Body Searches

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are applied for clothed body searches *(a)* in women's prisons and *(b)* at ports of entry. [90569]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service has full, step-by-step procedural guidelines set out in the National Security Framework, accessible to all staff, on how rubdown searches must be conducted. In a standard level rubdown search the officer rubs down the upper and lower areas of the front and back of the body. Higher-level searches additionally include searching hair, feet and footwear. The power to search a passenger is contained in the Immigration Act 1971, Schedule 2 and in the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004. However, this power is used sparingly and only in exceptional circumstances. An immigration officer, or a customs or police officer conducting the search under his direction, may invite any person to empty their pockets voluntarily as part of a search for documents. Detainee custody officers have a power under Schedule 11 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to undertake a clothed body search of a detained person at an immigration removal centre or a short term holding facility, including a holding room at a port of entry.

British Citizenship

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2353W, on British citizenship, what the percentage breakdown is by country of origin of applicants for each of the last five years. [42195]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 January 2006]:* The information is presented in the following table. (This information has not been quality assured and is not a National Statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information and may be subject to change.)

Applications for naturalisation from Northern Ireland

	2001 (percentage)	2002 (percentage)	2003 (percentage)	2004 (percentage)	YTD 2005 (percentage)	Total 2001-05	Percentage 2001-05
Afghanistan	0.0	0.6	0.0	1.2	0.0	5	0.3
Albania	1.0	1.2	0.5	1.2	0.4	5	0.8
Algeria	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.2	1.2	5	0.7
Argentina	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2	0.1
Australia	0.0	0.6	2.6	1.8	2.0	15	1.6
Austria	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
Bahrain	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2	0.1
Bangladesh	2.1	3.6	5.8	1.2	3.2	30	3.3
Belarus	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2	0.1
Bolivia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	2	0.1
Brazil	2.1	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.8	10	0.9
British Citizen	2.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	5	0.5
British Dependant Territories Citizen (Territory not known)	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
British National (Overseas)	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.0	5	0.3
British Overseas Citizen	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
Bulgaria	0.0	1.2	2.1	0.6	0.4	10	0.9
Cambodia (Kampuchea)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2	0.1
Canada	2.1	4.2	2.6	3.6	2.0	25	2.9
China (Peoples Republic of China)	16.5	14.5	14.2	10.8	6.0	100	11.5
Colombia	4.1	0.6	0.0	1.2	1.2	10	1.2
Croatia	1.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	5	0.5
Cuba	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	2	0.2

Applications for naturalisation from Northern Ireland

	2001 (percentage)	2002 (percentage)	2003 (percentage)	2004 (percentage)	YTD 2005 (percentage)	Total 2001-05	Percentage 2001-05
Czech Republic	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	2	0.2
Dominican Republic	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
Ecuador	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.4	5	0.3
Egypt	0.0	1.2	1.6	1.2	0.4	10	0.9
Ethiopia	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	0.2
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6	2.4	10	0.9
France	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	2	0.2
Georgia	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
Germany	5.2	0.6	0.5	0.0	1.2	10	1.2
Ghana	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.8	5	0.3
Greece	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.4	5	0.3
Guyana	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	2	0.2
Honduras	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2	0.1
Hong Kong SAR of China (Holder of Certificate of Identity or Document of Identity)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2	0.1
Hong Kong SAR of China (Holder of Special Administrative Region Passport)	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	5	0.3
Hungary	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2	0.2
India	2.1	7.9	7.4	11.4	11.2	75	8.8
Indonesia	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.4	5	0.6
Iran	3.1	4.2	3.2	3.0	1.2	25	2.8
Iraq	4.1	1.2	0.5	1.2	0.0	10	1.0
Ireland	1.0	1.8	2.1	1.2	1.6	13	1.6
Israel	0.0	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.0	5	0.3
Italy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	2	0.1
Ivory Coast (Cote D Ivoire)	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	2	0.2
Jamaica	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	5	0.5
Jordan	0.0	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.8	5	0.7
Kazakhstan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.4	2	0.2
Kenya	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.2	0.8	5	0.6
Korea (South)	1.0	0.6	0.5	1.2	3.6	15	1.6
Kosovo	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	5	0.3
Latvia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	2	0.1
Lebanon	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
Libya (Arab Republic)	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	5	0.6
Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of)	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
Malawi	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	2	0.1
Malaysia	4.1	2.4	2.6	2.4	1.2	20	2.3
Malta	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
Mauritius	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	5	0.3
Mexico	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.4	5	0.3
Moldova	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	2	0.1
Morocco	1.0	1.2	1.6	0.6	2.0	10	1.4
Myanmar (Burma)	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.4	5	0.3
Nepal	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.8	5	0.5
Netherlands	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
New Zealand	0.0	1.2	2.1	0.6	1.2	10	1.2
Nigeria	1.0	1.8	2.6	1.8	1.2	15	1.7
Norway	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	0.1
Pakistan	7.2	5.5	3.7	6.0	2.4	40	4.5
Palestine	1.0	0.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	5	0.6
Peru	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.0	2	0.2
Philippines	2.1	2.4	2.1	3.0	9.2	40	4.4
Poland	0.0	1.8	1.1	0.6	0.4	5	0.8
Portugal	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.2	5	0.7
Romania	3.1	3.0	1.6	1.8	0.8	15	1.8

Applications for naturalisation from Northern Ireland[1]

	2001 (percentage)	2002 (percentage)	2003 (percentage)	2004 (percentage)	YTD 2005 (percentage)	Total 2001-05	Percentage 2001-05
Russia	5.2	0.6	0.5	3.0	3.6	20	2.4
Sierra Leone	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	[2]	0.1
Singapore	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	[2]	0.2
Somalia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	[2]	0.1
South Africa	3.1	6.7	7.9	4.2	5.2	30	5.6
Sri Lanka	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.8	5	0.6
Sudan	1.0	1.8	0.5	2.4	0.8	10	1.3
Switzerland	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	[2]	0.1
Syria	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.4	5	0.3
Taiwan	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.8	5	0.5
Tanzania	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.8	5	0.3
Thailand	1.0	2.4	1.6	3.6	4.4	25	2.9
Trinidad and Tobago	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	[2]	0.1
Tunisia	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	5	0.3
Turkey	2.1	3.0	3.2	4.2	3.2	30	3.2
Ukraine	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.4	5	0.3
United States of America	5.2	4.2	3.2	2.4	4.4	35	3.8
Vietnam	0.0	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	5	0.7
Yemen	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	[2]	0.1
Zambia	2.1	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	5	0.5
Zimbabwe	1.0	1.8	1.1	3.0	2.0	15	1.8
Total	100	165	190	170	250	875	

[1] This information is based on the postcodes from which applications were made, and so does not necessarily show current Northern Ireland residents
[2] Indicates '1-2'

Business in Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received regarding the future funding of Business in Prisons. [62769]

Mr. Sutcliffe: John Lowe, the Director of Business in Prisons, wrote to Baroness Scotland in August 2005 requesting funding. The Minister suggested that he should speak with Neil Moore who was then the HM Prison Service National Voluntary Sector Co-ordinator, working in the National Offender Management Service Voluntary Sector Unit. A meeting was held between Neil Moore and Mr Lowe where Neil explained that there was no central funding available but that the organisation was eligible to submit a bid for the NOMS VSU grant round for 2006-07. The organisation did submit a bid for funding but the application was unsuccessful. The NOMS Voluntary Sector Unit received almost 700 applications for grants and, having identified Finance, Benefit and Debt as a Pathway which was under-resourced, had to reject applications that did not cover that area. There is a new grant round for 2007-08 with a closing date for applications of 15 September 2006 for which the organisation is eligible to apply.

Child Abductions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been abducted from the UK in each of the last five years. [88536]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

The answer addresses the number of recorded civil cases of child abduction or wrongful retention for which statistics are available. If a recorded case involves more than one child this would not be reflected in the statistics.

Cases received by the ICACU claiming that a child or children have been abducted from England and Wales, or wrongfully retained in another country when habitually resident in England and Wales, in breach of article 3 of the 1980 Hague Convention are as follows:

	Number
2001	135
2002	143
2003	148
2004	155
2005	159

The Child Abduction Section at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) records statistics on cases of international parental child abduction or retention brought to its attention and where it has offered consular assistance to British nationals, rather than recording the total number of abductions from the United Kingdom. The FCO usually provides assistance in abduction and retention cases in countries which are not party to the 1980 Hague Convention. Statistics are not available before 2003.

	Number
2003	240
2004	295
2005	208

Civil Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of his Department's civil service have experience of working as a police officer. [90896]

Mr. McNulty: Details of an employee's employment history are not held centrally and to provide the information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Committee on Treatment in Custody

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from the Howard League on the proposals of the committee on treatment in custody chaired by Lord Carlile, QC; and what response he has given. [90656]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lord Carlile wrote to the then Home Secretary on 14 December 2005, giving notice of his likely findings and proposing a meeting either before or after publication of the Howard League's report. My noble Friend, the Baroness Scotland replied on 16 January, agreeing to a meeting to discuss the report. The meeting took place on 29 March. A number of the report's recommendations were addressed to the Youth Justice Board: the Board's response to these is published on its website:

http://www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk/YouthJusticeBoard/Custody/CarlileInquiry

The Prison Service is currently preparing its own response, which it plans to make available shortly.

Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Nationality, Citizenship and Immigration will reply to the letter dated 31 May from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean regarding Ms Stephanie Caborn; and when his Department will return her driving licence. [90935]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 12 September 2006. Ms Caborn's driving license was returned to her by recorded delivery on 11 September 2006.

Criminal Records Bureau

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information technology projects are being undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau which have started since 2000; what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is of each; and if he will make a statement. [88586]

Joan Ryan: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has made significant investment in a number of projects, to enhance the quality, coverage and accessibility of its service and to deliver real changes and benefits to its customers. There are eight information technology projects being undertaken by the CRB, which have commenced since 2000. Of these, four are currently at the feasibility stage and costings and completion schedules have yet to be determined. These are: the I-PLX+ project, which aims to enhance the national police cross referencing database of local police force information (I-PLX), which is an important development in vetting and security checks, delivering significant improvements to the protection of the vulnerable; vetting and Barring Scheme: the CRB will continue to play a key role in the development of the new Vetting and Barring Scheme, introduced as a result of Bichard recommendation 19—entry to the scheme will be via a CRB check—and New Disclosure application form (DAF). The CRB has also been examining the feasibility of devising an upgraded Disclosure application form. A prototype of a new form has been produced, in consultation with a number of its customers and has been piloted with a cross section of Registered Bodies. As part of the feasibility studies, full costings will be prepared. The on-line application project aims to enable applicants to complete applications for Standard and Enhanced Disclosures via the e-channel. During 2005 the CRB developed a new Quality Assurance Framework (QAF). This is now being rolled out to all police forces and should be completed by January 2007, subject to forces' readiness to complete staff training and implementation. The framework will standardise the forces' approach to deciding what, if any, information is relevant to be released on a Disclosure. The framework also provides good practice guidelines for the wording of this information on the Disclosure, including consideration of the victim's age and mental capacity. With the introduction of the On-line Tracking Service, customers will be able to track the progress of a CRB check from receipt to issue, providing greater visibility of the process. The Registration Cancellation project aims to improve the CRB's assurance regime and enable greater support to its customers and Registered Bodies, whilst further eliminating risk.

The CRB now has legislation, as a result of the recent Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, giving it access to a wider range of information that can be searched when carrying out a CRB check, for example that held by the British Transport Police, the Serious and Organised Crime Agency and the Royal Military Police. These are scheduled to come on stream during 2006-07.

Details of the four ongoing projects which have started since 2000 are provided in the following table:

Project name	*Start date*	*Original planned completion date*	*Current expected completion date*	*Planned cost (£)*	*Current estimated cost (£)*
QAF (Quality Assurance Framework)	2005	31 October 2006	31 January 2007	£325,996	114,716

Project name	Start date	Original planned completion date	Current expected completion date	Planned cost (£)	Current estimated cost (£)
On-Line Enquiry Service STAGE 1	May 2006	21 October 2006	21 October 2006	£314,093	314,093
Registration Cancellation	November 2004	28 October 2006	25 November 2006	£700,000	761,946.79
New Data Sources	April/May 2006	[1]	British Transport Police (BTP)[2]	[3]	[4]45,962

[1] Planned completion at various dates as data sources are rolled out [2] Go live 25 September 2006 [3] £1.2 million budgeted [4] For BTP

Departmental Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* laptops and *(b)* mobile phones his Department bought in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each category of equipment was in each year. [41263]

Mr. Byrne: IT hardware including laptops used by the core Home Department is not bought by the Department but provided under a PFI contract by its IT service provider, Sirius (Fujitsu Alcedo Ltd). Details of any peripheral purchases made outside of this contract are not held centrally and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Detailed records on purchase of mobile telephones by year are not available centrally and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay and Pensions Service

Mr. Benton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total training budget for his Department's Pay and Pensions Service was for the financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [84731]

Mr. Byrne: The total training budget for Home Office Pay and Pensions Service, for the current and previous financial years is detailed as follows.

Financial year	Amount (£)
2005-06	80,000.00
2006-07	129,000.00

Mr. Benton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost was in each financial year of the Dale Carnegie training course which took place between autumn 2005 and autumn 2006 which was delivered to staff at the Pay and Pensions Service based at Litherland House, Bootle; how much of that sum is accounted for by *(a)* moneys paid to the company providing the training, *(b)* monies spent on the accommodation used for the course and *(c)* the cost of releasing staff from their departmental duties; and what the total cost was of all other training delivered to staff at his Department's Pay and Pensions Service over that period. [84733]

Mr. Byrne: The contract value for the investment in Team Working Programme, delivered by Dale Carnegie Training is £113,200. The main training events began on 5 April 2006. Accommodation and travel costs from 5 April to 21 June were £6,495.85. It is estimated that a further £13,000 will be spent on travel and accommodation to complete the programme. Staff costs arising from the programme are notional and are regarded as part of the Department's underlying commitment to provide management training and other development opportunities. For the 2005-06 financial year, spending against the HOPPS training budget was £56,734, against a budget figure of £80,000. The budget for 2006-07 is £129,000.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that no illegal immigrants are employed in the manned guarding of his Department's premises. [80798]

Mr. Byrne: People employed to work on Home Office premises whether employed directly by the Home Office or provided by a contractor, are required to satisfy requirements on identity, nationality and immigration status. In the case of contract workers, these checks are carried out by their employers; under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 it is an offence to employ a person aged 16 or over, who is subject to immigration control and who is not entitled to work in the UK or to undertake the employment in question.

Departmental Telephone Lines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the money that is raised from his Department's 0870 prefix contact telephone number is spent. [27132]

Mr. Byrne: The public inquiries telephone contact telephone number 0870 000 1585 was replaced with a geographic number in September 2005. Prior to that date any revenue generated was returned to HM Treasury, and not spent by the Home Office.

Deportation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the foreign prisoners who were released without being considered for deportation are believed to be in Essex; and if he will make a statement. [70085]

Mr. Byrne: The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 29 June and set out, in line with the Home Secretary's requirements, the most accurate

data the Department currently holds on the 1,013 foreign national prisoner cohort released without due deportation consideration.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners have been released and not removed under sections 259 to 262 of the early removal provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 since they came into force. [76126]

Mr. Byrne: Sections 259 to 262 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 are only used to release foreign national prisoners for removal.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policy direction he has issued to police forces on the issuing of names and photographs of former prisoners who should be considered for deportation. [75381]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has explained to the Home Affairs Committee on 23 May 2006 that this is an operational matter for the police. Discussions have taken place between officials from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on whether making public details of ex-offenders would assist in locating them. It is the considered view of ACPO that a decision should only be taken on a case by case basis as to whether to publicise the details of those individuals who are the subject of ongoing deportation action and still need to be located.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Ministers in his Department have responsibility for ensuring that foreign nationals are considered for deportation prior to being released from prison. [67678]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has overall responsibility for the Home Office. I am Minister of State for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality, and I am supported in this by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) .

The Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety is supported by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker).

Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC is for Criminal Justice and Offender Management and she is supported by the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe).

Drink-driving

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps *(a)* to ensure that the law relating to drunken driving is fit for purpose, *(b)* to evaluate recent cases where defendants have been acquitted on technicalities and *(c)* to ensure the law is properly enforced against all those convicted of drink driving. [90601]

Mr. McNulty: The operation of the law on drink driving is kept under continuous review by the Home Office chaired Drink-Drug Drive Working Group. We have taken steps to assist police in their enforcement activities by making it easier for them to conduct tests for the presence of alcohol in a suspected drunken driver. Charging and prosecution are for the police and Crown Prosecution Service; decisions in individual cases, including decisions on the appropriate penalty, are matters for the courts.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people charged with drink driving had not gone to trial within *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months of being charged in the last year for which figures are available. [85896]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

During 2005, the estimated proportion of drink -driving cases which had not been listed for trial in the magistrates courts within three months of charge (in charged cases) or laying of information (in summonsed cases) is less than 0.3 per cent.

The following table shows the estimated proportion of drink driving cases which had not been completed in the magistrates courts within three, six and twelve months of charge or laying of information.

These figures are estimates taken from the Time Intervals Survey for criminal cases in the magistrates courts. The survey covers all adult and youth cases completed during two one-week sample periods in March and September 2005. The figures shown are for all cases where the most serious offence was either driving after consuming alcohol or drugs, or being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle.

Initial plea	*Percentage of cases not complete*	*Margin of error*[1]	*Number of cases in sample*
Within three months of charge or laying of information			
Guilty	5.0	+/- 0.9	2249
Not guilty or no plea entered[2]	68.3	+/- 5.0	328
All cases	13.1	+/- 1.3	2577
Within six months of charge or laying of information			
Guilty	2.3	+/- 0.6	2249
Not guilty or no plea entered[2]	29.9	+/- 5.0	328
All cases	5.8	+/- 0.9	2577

Initial plea	Percentage of cases not complete	Margin of error[1]	Number of cases in sample
Within 12 months of charge or laying of information			
Guilty	0.6	+/- 0.3	2249
Not guilty or no plea entered[2]	5.8	+/- 2.5	328
All cases	1.3	+/- 0.4	2577

[1] 95 per cent. confidence limits for the overall percentage of cases not complete during the year, expressed in percentage points.
[2] Includes cases subsequently withdrawn.

Fires (London)

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer to Question 88959, on fires in London, how many prosecutions have been brought for arson and arson -related offences in each London borough, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [90553]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 September 2006]:* Data from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of persons proceeded against for arson offences in 2004, broken down by London Court Area, sex and age, is provided in the following table. It is not possible to identify court proceedings for other offences involving arson because the individual circumstances of offences are not held centrally. Data for 2005 will be available in the autumn.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for arson offences by sex, age and London court area 2004[1, 2]

	Offence: Arson endangering life *Statute: Criminal Damage Act 1971 S.1(1)*						*Offence: Arson not endangering life* *Statute: Criminal Damage Act 1971 S.1(2)*					
	Male			*Female*			*Male*			*Female*		
London court area	*10-17*	*18-20*	*21+*	*10-17*	*18-20*	*21+*	*10-17*	*18-20*	*21+*	*10-17*	*18-20*	*21+*
City of London Police												
Guildhall Justice Rooms	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total City of London	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police												
Inner London Magistrates Courts												
Bow Street	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	1	—	10	—	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	1
Greenwich and Woolwich	—	1	4	—	—	2	1	—	2	1	—	—
Highbury Corner	—	1	7	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	1
Horseferry Road	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—
South Western	4	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	1
Thames	—	—	2	—	1	1	3	—	1	—	—	—
West London	1	—	2	2	—	1	4	2	3	1	—	1
Other London Courts												
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—
Barnet	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bexley	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—
Brent	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
Bromley	—	1	3	—	—	1	1	2	2	1	—	—
Croydon	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	—
Ealing	—	—	3	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	—
Enfield	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—
Haringey	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Harrow	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Havering	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Hillingdon	—	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	1	1	—	—
Hounslow	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston-upon-Thames	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Merton	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Newham	1	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Redbridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	1	—	—
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for arson offences by sex, age and London court area 2004[1,2]

	Offence: Arson endangering life *Statute: Criminal Damage Act 1971 S.1(1)*						*Offence: Arson not endangering life* *Statute: Criminal Damage Act 1971 S.1(2)*					
	Male			*Female*			*Male*			*Female*		
London court area	*10-17*	*18-20*	*21+*	*10-17*	*18-20*	*21+*	*10-17*	*18-20*	*21+*	*10-17*	*18-20*	*21+*
Waltham Forest	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total Metropolitan Police	9	4	53	3	1	15	35	14	47	10	—	5
Total Greater London	9	5	53	3	1	15	35	14	47	10	—	5

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

Foreign Criminals

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of whether any of the convicted foreign nationals who were released without being considered for deportation are on the electoral roll; and whether steps are being taken to check the electoral roll to identify them. [74082]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Checks on all those foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration of deportation action have been carried out on an individual basis. These checks were conducted on a case-by-case basis and not collated centrally and so the overall results are available only at disproportionate cost.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list in descending order according to the number of prisoners concerned the countries of origin of foreign national prisoners who have *(a)* been released without consideration for deportation and *(b)* been deported from Northern Ireland since February 1999. [75220]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 19WS, made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary. In this statement he explained that the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) had written to the Home Affairs Committee on 29 June providing the most accurate data available at that time on the 1013 individuals who were released without deportation consideration. This information was collated centrally and quality assured by the Department and is the most accurate and robust data currently available to the Department. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library of the House along with previous statistical information on those foreign nationals released without deportation consideration.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants employed by his Department are engaged in duties related to the release of foreign offenders. [68621]

Mr. Byrne: Within the Department the number of employees engaged in duties relating to the release of foreign offenders is not disaggregated from the overall number of employees and therefore not readily available.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who were not deported after release from prison were released early; and how many of these were not interviewed by the parole board. [68744]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long a foreign national who has committed a crime in the UK may be detained when there is little prospect of their home country supporting their deportation. [84299]

Mr. Byrne: Where a deportation order is in force against any person, the Secretary of State may give directions for the person's removal to either a country of which he is a national or citizen, or a country or territory to which there is reason to believe that he will be admitted. Immigration Act powers to detain are not time-limited. However, domestic and ECHR case law provides that detention must last for no longer than is reasonably necessary for the purpose for which it is authorised and must not be of excessive duration. In the case of a person being deported or removed from the UK detention would be lawful provided there was a realistic prospect of deportation or removal within a reasonable period of time. Where a detainee refuses to cooperate with the removal process detention may be prolonged and the risk of reoffending is a factor that may be taken into account in determining whether the duration of a person's detention is reasonable. This position has been supported by the Courts.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 July 2006 to Questions 68218, 68529, 68530 and 68531, on deportation of foreign prisoners, how many of the nine named individuals have been deported since serving their sentences. [86008]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 July 2006]:* As I advised the hon. Member previously, it is not the Department's policy to comment in the public domain on individual cases.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* instructions and *(b)* guidance relating to foreign national prisoners he has issued to (i) the Governor of each prison in Gloucestershire, (ii) the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire Constabulary, (iii) the Chairman of Gloucestershire Police Authority and (iv) the head of the Probation Service in Gloucestershire; and if he will place copies of that guidance in the Library. [67476]

Mr. Byrne: A revised Prison Service Order (PSO 4630) on Immigration and Foreign Nationals was issued to all prisons, including those in Gloucestershire on 17 July.

No additional instructions or guidance were issued by the Department to the Chief Constable for Gloucestershire or the Chairman of Gloucestershire Police Authority. Normal procedures for dealing with prisoners locally were applied.

The National Probation Directorate issued a Probation Circular to all chief officers on 5 June which set out the requirements in relation to the management of foreign national prisoners subject to statutory supervision and advising them to implement a system to provide regular checks on their supervision.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners are held in UK prisons; and how many of them *(a)* came to the UK (i) on a visitor's visa, (ii) on a work permit and (iii) as asylum seekers known to the authorities but not granted asylum, *(b)* were not known to the authorities before their arrest and *(c)* were citizens of other EU countries. [68492]

Mr. Byrne: In respect of information on the nationality of foreign nationals held in prison establishments in England and Wales I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, gave to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 18 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 403W. The information requested on the immigration status of foreign nationals held in UK prisons is not recorded centrally and only available through examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. In a written ministerial statement of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 29WS, I set out the progress the Department is making in respect of improving our processes for dealing with and removing foreign national prisoners.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign criminals deported after serving their sentences can be prevented from re-entering the United Kingdom when their countries subsequently join the European Union. [68911]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* A person entering or seeking to enter the United Kingdom in breach of a Deportation Order (DO) is an illegal entrant as defined in section 33(1) of the Immigration Act 1971 and so is not permitted to seek re-entry to the United Kingdom. Records of individuals deported from the UK are added to the UK's Immigration database deployed at all UK border control points, against which those seeking entry to the UK are routinely checked. An individual who was deported from the United Kingdom prior to their country acceding to the European Union, and thus prior to their acquisition of rights of movement under EC law, would not be able to exercise the right of free movement without first seeking to have the deportation order revoked.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 991 to the Leader of the Opposition, how many foreign nationals sentenced to serve a prison sentence have been deported at the halfway point of their sentence under the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 since the Act came into force. [72722]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not centrally available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost was of holding *(a)* non-British EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals in prisons in England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [80202]

Mr. Byrne: The Prison Service does not collate centrally the cost of keeping individual prisoners, broken down by their nationality.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners in UK prisons are citizens of *(a)* Albania, *(b)* Romania, *(c)* Turkey and *(d)* Poland; and what percentage of the overall prison population each figure represents. [90956]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The table gives the numbers of prisoners held in prison establishments in England and Wales who were citizens of *(a)* Albania, *(b)* Romania, *(c)* Turkey and *(d)* Poland at 31 December 2005. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number. As the written ministerial statement of 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 28-30WS, from my hon. Friend the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality indicated, the Home Secretary has identified eight priority areas to be addressed in order to improve the effectiveness of arrangements for deporting foreign national prisoners. The second of these priority areas is that there is currently no legal requirement for prisoners to provide evidence of their nationality, or consistent processes for nationality to be recorded. Before the summer, staff in IND and the criminal justice agencies worked together to design possible ways of addressing this gap, including a new legal requirement. A programme of activities is currently in hand, managed through the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, to test the options with frontline staff across the criminal justice system and to examine their feasibility and relative merits, in order for

recommendations to be produced by the end of October. Information on the numbers of foreign national prisoners serving prison sentences in prison establishments in Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Listed foreign national prisoners in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 31 December 2005

	Number of prisoners	*As percentage of prison population*
Albania	122	0.2
Poland	155	0.2
Romania	142	0.2
Turkey	294	0.4
Total prison establishment population	74,194	

Helicopter Searches

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 40W, on helicopter searches, for what reason the police helicopter based at Luton was used in this search rather than the one based at RAF Benson. [90877]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 May 2006]:* The police helicopters based at RAF Benson and Luton are constituent parts of the Chiltern Air Support Consortium. The duty period for the police helicopter based at RAF Benson ended at 02.30 on 18 July 2003. The new duty period commenced at 08.00 on 18 July. Therefore the two flights that were made in support of the search for Dr. David Kelly on the 18 July 2003 were made by the police helicopter based at Luton. The first flight was from 02.50 until 04.05, followed by a refuel at RAF Benson and a second flight from 04.30 until 05.10.

Hunting

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted under the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004 since November 2005. [90805]

Mr. McNulty: The Hunting Act 2004 came into force on 18 February 2005. Data on the number of prosecutions in 2005 will be available in the autumn.

Identity Cards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to address the issues identified with his Department's planned identity card scheme by the Science and Technology Committee; on what date the first identity card will be issued; how much has been spent on the scheme; and when he expects to be able to produce accurate total costings for the scheme. [90858]

Joan Ryan: The Government welcomes the Report from the Science and Technology Committee and is grateful for the attention they have given to this crucial element of our plans to enhance the security of all legal residents of the UK. We are considering the report very closely and will give a full response in due course. ID cards will be implemented as rapidly as possible, starting with biometric residence permits for foreign nationals in 2008, and rolling out to UK nationals thereafter. With regard to past spending on the identity cards scheme, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) on 19 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 553W. A report on projected costs of the scheme over the next ten years will be laid before Parliament as required by Section 37 of the Identity Cards Act on 9 October. A written ministerial statement explained on 20 July that the report would have been due on 30 September but, because of the dates of recess, will be laid before Parliament on its return. The report cannot be laid when Parliament is not sitting.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Immigration and Nationality Directorate will reply to the fax from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West of 31 May with regard to Ghanzanfar Ali. [79785]

Mr. Byrne: The hon. Gentleman's inquiry has now been dealt with and I understand that he no longer wishes to pursue this question.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total *(a)* cost to callers and *(b)* revenue to his Department was from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate number 0870 606 7766 in each year that the number has been in operation. [81680]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* Information on call charges and revenue for phone number 0870 606 7766 is available for the financial years April 2002 to March 2006 presented in the following table. The Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) ceased taking any revenue from this number from 1 April 2005.

£

April to March	*Cost to callers*	*IND revenue*
2002-03	504,166.00	88,333.00
2003-04	549,496.00	97,212.00
2004-05	639,549.00	108,151.00
2005-06	741,388.00	0.00

Information Technology

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computers hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in his Department in each month since March 2005. [88760]

Mr. Byrne: IT hardware used by the core Home Department is not purchased but provided under a PFI contract by its IT service provider, Sirius. Details of any peripheral purchases made outside of the Sirius contract are not held centrally and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Inter-country Marriage

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to announce the outcome of his review of the restrictions on marriage between UK citizens and non-UK citizens. [91042]

Mr. Byrne: The High Court has found the certificate of approval regime incompatible with ECHR on two grounds: that it discriminated against non-Church of England marriages and that it was disproportionate in not seeking evidence other than immigration status to establish whether or not a marriage was genuine. We shall be appealing the second part of the judgment on proportionality grounds and will await the outcome of that appeal before proceeding with any further review. In parallel we are working with the Department of Constitutional Affairs and the Church of England to consider how best to respond to the court's judgment on the discrimination point.

Malicious Damage Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted in England and Wales of offences under sections (A) 35 and (B) 36 of the Malicious Damage Act 1861. [39744]

Mr. McNulty: Information taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of criminal damage, England and Wales, 2004 is contained in the table.

It is not possible to separate prosecution and conviction data under sections 35 and 36 of the Malicious Damages Act 1861 from data relating to other offences of criminal damage.

Number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for criminal damage—England and Wales, 2004[1]

	Proceeded against		*Found guilty*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Criminal damage endangering life (excluding arson)[2]	174	29	103	18
Other criminal damage[3]	12,032	1,327	8,157	972

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Includes offences under Explosive Substances Act 1883 S.2 (in part) and S.3 (in part), Malicious Damage Act 1861 SS 35, 36, 47 and 48, Criminal Damage Act 1971 S.1(2).
[3] Includes offences under Explosive Substances Act 1883 S.2 (in part) and S.3 (in part), Malicious Damage Act 1861 SS 35, 36, 47 and 48, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Area Act 1979 S.28(1), Post Office Act 1953 S.60, Criminal Damage Act 1971 S.1(1) (value over £5,000 or at the same time as another offence).

MI5

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors underlie the increase between 2001 and 2005 in the number of personal files held by MI5. [90874]

Mr. McNulty: The main factors are the increase in Security Service workload and resources in the wake of the 9/11 and subsequent terror attacks.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1328W, on MI5, what other categories of MI5 file there are in addition to personal files; and how many files are held in each category. [90875]

Mr. McNulty: In addition to personal files, the Security Service holds files on its policies, internal management matters, subjects and groups it studies, and on people and groups not under investigation—this last category includes those to whom security advice has been given.

It would be of disproportionate cost to establish the numbers of files in each category.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87646]

Mr. Byrne: As the Home Office has only occupied 2 Marsham Street since 2005, none of the ministerial offices have been decorated since. The Secretary of State for the Home Department's ministerial office at 50 Queen Anne's Gate was not decorated during the last three years of occupancy.

Murderers

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many convicted murderers have had their tariff set after sentencing since the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003; [86051]

(2) how many convicted murderers who have been sentenced are waiting for their tariff to be set by a High Court judge. [86050]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

There have been 418 convicted murderers sentenced who are awaiting their tariff and 282 have had their tariff set since the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Open Prisons (Deportees)

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people held in open prisons while awaiting deportation absconded in each year between 2001 and 2005; [73532]

(2) how many people awaiting deportation were held in open prisons on 31 December *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2002 and *(e)* 2001; [73533]

(3) what guidance he has issued on the holding in open prisons of those awaiting deportation; and if he will make a statement. [73534]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of people awaiting deportation who have absconded or have been held in open conditions is not held centrally in the format requested and may only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. The Prison Service reviewed the criteria for the categorisation and allocation of foreign national prisoners to open conditions earlier this year. The review concluded that no changes to the security re-categorisation policy were required. However, governors were advised that before a foreign national prisoner was approved for open conditions the individual risk was to be assessed on the assumption that deportation will take place unless a decision not to deport had already been taken by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what administrative functions for which his Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment he has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81553]

Mr. Byrne: None of the core Home Office administrative functions for which the Home Department is responsible are outsourced overseas.

Paid Leave

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff in his Department have been on paid leave for more than *(a)* six months, *(b)* a year and *(c)* two years; and if he will make a statement. [76896]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The following figures are as of 12 June 2006 and include staff in the central Home Office, the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and HM Prison Service.

To breakdown these figures further may lead to the identification of individuals and breach confidentiality.

Number of staff who have been on paid leave

Time line	*Actual staff*	*Percentage of all staff*
6 months to1 year	26	0.04
1 year to 2 years	20	0.03
More than 2 years	8	0.01

Physical Evidence Gathering Protocol

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the physical evidence-gathering protocol was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [16857]

Mr. McNulty: I will write to the hon. Member separately.

Police

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much police forces in England and Wales have spent on interpreters in each of the last 10 years. [90590]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* own force investigations, *(b)* supervised investigations, *(c)* managed investigations and *(d)* independent investigations have been carried out by the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since it was established. [90591]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission is an independent body responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Gentleman directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigators have been employed by the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since it was established; and how many were budgeted for in each year. [90593]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission is an independent body responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Gentleman directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that the Independent Police Complaints Commission supervised and managed investigations are not conducted by police officers from the force being investigated; and if he will make a statement. [90762]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission is an independent body responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Gentleman directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications made to become police community support officers were *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected in the most recent period for which figures are available. [90821]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1332W, on police, what factors led to the decision to make the police helicopter based at RAF Benson available for tasking from 17.35 on 17 July. [90878]

Mr. McNulty: The police helicopter at RAF Benson was undergoing maintenance on 17 July 2003 until 17.35 when it was available for tasking until the end of its duty period at 02.30 on 18 July. It was available for tasking again from 08.00 on 18 July until 02.30 on 19 July.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since its inception in *(a)* England and *(b)* Essex; and how many have been upheld in each case. [90884]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission is responsible for the management of the police complaints system. I will ensure that the chairman receives a copy of the question and replies to the hon. Gentleman directly. Copies of the letter containing the IPCC's response will be placed in the House Libraries.

Prisons

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners are being held in open prisons; and how many have absconded from such prisons in the last 12 months. [71432]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 16 May 2006]:* On 29 August 2006, 139 foreign national prisoners were being held within open conditions. Of these, 10 were having their nationality verified by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. It is not possible to identify the number of absconds in 2005-06 who were foreign nationals except at disproportionate cost.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals were released from each UK prison in each of the last five years; and how many of these prisoners were considered for deportation. [85937]

Mr. Byrne: Comprehensive statistical information on discharges is not centrally available, and providing information based on manually stored records could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the prison population is receiving the state pension. [90750]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisoners are not entitled to receive the state pension while in prison.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the largest sum is that a prisoner has earned in a year while working in a job inside or outside the prison in each of the past five years for which figures are available. [90752]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on individual prisoners' wages is not held centrally. Payment for prisoners who work within prisons is set out in PSO 4460 and I have placed a copy of this in the Library. Those working outside the prison for an external employer are paid the same rates as normal employees.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what strategy he has to tackle corruption in the Prison Service. [90856]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service's policy on tackling corruption is set out in Prison Service Order 1215 and can be viewed at: www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/psispsos/listpsos/

Private Sector Fund Recipients

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments from his Department in each of the last five years. [71764]

Mr. Byrne: The following tables give details of the 10 non-public sector entities that have received the largest total sum of payments in each of the last five years.

Top 10 non-public sector entities

2005-06	*Amount (£)*
Sodexho Pass Ltd.	103,004,397
Fujitsu Services (Alcedo) Ltd.	64,956,332
Field Fisher Waterhouse	62,136,929
Clearsprings Management Ltd.	50,057,005
Ajos Origin II Services UK	43,503,268
GSL UK Ltd.	41,845,986
Annes Gate Property Plc	39,560,588
Securicor Custodial Services	39,353,748
Bridgend Custodial Services Ltd.	37,918,811
Steria Ltd.	35,085,591

2004-05	*Amount (£)*
Sodexho Pass Ltd.	86,159,241
Fujitsu Services (Alcedo) Ltd.	49,287,035
Clearsprings Management Ltd.	46,464,218
GSL UK Ltd	46,115,610
Colliers CRE	33,838,515
Siemens Business Services Ltd.	32,665,918
Sodexho Ltd.	30,077,693
Steria Ltd.	25,348,535
Carlson Wagonlit Travel	22,895,452
Premier Monitoring Service Ltd.	22,835,397

2003-04

	Amount (£)
Sodexho Pass Ltd.	151,373,058.99
Fujitsu Services (Alcedo) Ltd.	92,375,656.01
Siemens Business Services Ltd.	70,171,056.45
GSL UK Ltd.	57,216,818.74
Clearsprings Management Ltd.	54,194,678.14
Harmondsworth Detention Services Ltd.	43,933,566.80
Roselodge Limited	43,257,617.99
Premier Detention Services Ltd.	42,770,545.42
Accomodata Ltd.	38,498,682.27
Steria Ltd.	32,981,112.17

2002-03

	Amount (£)
Sodexho Pass Ltd.	163,344,761.81
Fujitsu Services (Alcedo) Ltd.	69,456,791.98
Siemens Business Services Ltd.	66,425,116.74
Clearsprings Management Ltd.	42,201,843.37
Roselodge Limited	40,685,728.32
Accomodata Ltd.	36,586,451.28
Adelphi Hotels Ltd.	32,075,935.93
Wackenhut UK Limited	29,166,418.89
Securicor Custodial Services	24,402,989.48
Capital Accommodation Ltd.	24,155,705.74
Angel Group Ltd.	23,582,798.83
Glasgow City Council	23,487,262.69
Premier Monitoring Service Ltd.	23,307,553.96

2001-02

	Amount (£)
Sodexho Pass Ltd.	102,978,419.06
Harmondsworth Detention Services Ltd.	59,867,741.53
Fujitsu Services (Alcedo) Ltd.	57,568,984.08
Siemens Business Services Ltd.	57,546,494.06
Group 4 Amey Immigration Ltd.	47,083,056.77
Roselodge Limited	29,477,347.87
Wackenhut UK Limited	28,045,598.41
Adelphi Hotels Ltd.	25,724,273.50
Accomodata Ltd.	21,947,343.92
Angel Group Ltd.	21,131,361.36
Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd.	18,665,039.10
Clearsprings Management Ltd.	18,644,159.16
Capital Accommodation Ltd.	17,426,528.37

Privileged Entry

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK citizens are given privileged entry treatment when entering the UK. [90961]

Mr. Byrne: UK citizens are required to satisfy the Immigration Officer that they have the right of abode when entering the United Kingdom, in accordance with the British Nationality Act 1981 and are not subject to immigration control. Those satisfying an immigration officer as above, are expedited through immigration control without further hindrance, subject to any security measures.

Reducing Reoffending Action Plan

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes he plans to make to the way resources are allocated to deliver the Reducing Reoffending Action Plan effectively in Wales. [49064]

Mr. Sutcliffe: While the national Reducing Reoffending Delivery Plan details the partnership work in England, similar principles and the broad approach to reducing reoffending are reflected in 'Joining Together in Wales: an Adult and Young People's Strategy to Reduce Reoffending'. The strategy was launched jointly by the Welsh Assembly Government and Home Office Ministers earlier this year and reflects the roles and responsibilities of the Welsh Assembly Government and the National Offender Management Service. It identifies the issues and aims to be addressed in Wales, which formed the basis of a consultation to develop the actions. Following the consultation, work is now underway with the Welsh Assembly Government and other key partners to develop and agree a joint action plan to deliver the strategy in Wales. Responsibility for the development of the strategy in Wales rests with the Director of Offender Management Services in Wales. Through the role of commissioning services, the Director of Offender Management Services in Wales will be able to influence the allocation of resources to pursue national objectives and in the delivery of the joint action plan. Clearly, not all resources will be allocated directly through the National Offender Management Service and those within other partners' responsibilities form part of the consideration being given to developing and resourcing the delivery of the joint action plan. In addition, to support this work, we are also developing our reducing re-offending alliances in Wales, with the corporate sector, civic society, faith groups and the voluntary sector. The aim is to bring in new skills and innovation enabling us to work effectively with ex-offenders in different ways.

Sentences

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of convicted offenders released from detention in the last 12 months served their sentence in full. [91025]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Prison sentences are served in two parts, the first in prison and the second under restrictions in the community. Information on the average length of time served in prison by prisoners discharged from determinate sentences can be found in tables 10.1 and 10.2 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, available in the House of Commons Library. The figures provided in the tables were drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so is not necessarily accurate to the last whole number.

Sex Offenders

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders moved from approved premises adjacent to schools were moved to *(a)* other approved premises, *(b)* bed and breakfast accommodation and *(c)* other housing; and how many were participating in sex offender treatment programmes when they were moved. [88480]

John Reid: The total number of sex offenders moved from the 12 approved premises listed as immediately adjacent to schools is 65. Of these, 49 were moved to other approved premises and 16 were relocated to other housing; none were placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. All moves were undertaken following individual risk assessments. The number of residents participating in sex offender treatment programmes when they were moved was 23.

Speed Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices have been issued for speeding as a result of the enforcement camera sited on the A13 eastbound carriageway at Pitsea; and how many tickets have been issued in each month since the camera was sited there. [90887]

Mr. McNulty: Information on speeding penalties in respect of offences at specific camera locations is not held centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been employed in Essex in each year since 1997; and how many officers were engaged in monitoring traffic speed on average in each year. [90888]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of police officers in Essex police is set out in the following table. Data on the number of officers engaged in monitoring traffic speeding is not collected. The deployment of police officers to this and other police duties is an operational matter for the chief constable.

Essex police—strength 1997 to 2006

Year (as at 31 March)	*Number of police officers*
1997	2,961
1998	2,928
1999	2,891
2000	2,806
2001[1]	2,887
2002	2,946
2003	2,989
2004	3,098
2005	3,190
2006	3,279

[1] Boundary changes with the Metropolitan police on 1 April 2000 transferred resources to the Essex police area. Like with like comparisons cannot therefore be made for years before March 2001.

Student Visas

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people allowed into the UK under false student visas have been identified and deported in each of the last five years. [89062]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost by the examination of individual case files.

Sustainable Training and Employment Partnership

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the Sustainable Training and Employment Partnerships resettlement project; what plans he has to extend the scheme; and what assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of the project. [59937]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 March 2006]:* The Sustainable Training and Employment Partnerships resettlement project was a local initiative at HM Prison Coldingley. The project was not evaluated formally but it has informed local resettlement activities.

Unaccompanied Minors

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 September 2006, Official Report, column 1975W, how many unaccompanied minors were admitted to the UK at Heathrow airport in each of the last three years. [90929]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information on asylum applications from unaccompanied minors is published in quarterly web pages and in the annual statistical bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Copies of these publications and others relating to general immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Wales Office

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to meet the Secretary of State for Wales to discuss the implications for Wales of the action plan for reform of his Department; [88173]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the interests of Wales are fully represented at each *(a)* level and *(b)* stage of the action plan to reform his Department. [88174]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* As with all Cabinet colleagues, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department meets our right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether clothed body searches are conducted on women and female children by male officers at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre. [90568]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The searching of female immigration detainees can only be conducted by female members of staff. Further details of searching procedures can be found in the published Operating Standards for Immigration Removal Centres. http://horizon/IND/Directorates/OPERATIONS/Resources/PDF/DetentionServices/OperatingStandards.pdf

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Thursday 14 September and Monday 18 September 2006

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Scouting Centenary

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what Government support will be made available for the Centenary of Scouting in 2007; which Minister has been designated to lead Government support for the Centenary; and if she will make a statement. [91207]

Edward Miliband: As Minister for the Third Sector, I want to ensure the Government play a role in supporting the Centenary of Scouting celebrations. Officials from the Office of the Third Sector are currently working with the Scout Association to consider how the Government can support the Centenary of Scouting in 2007.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Northamptonshire CPS

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Solicitor-General in what proportion of cases prosecuted by the Northamptonshire Crown Prosecution Service, bail was given against the prosecutor's advice in each of the last five years. [91111]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not maintain records on bail decisions other than the information held on individual case files. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by identifying and retrieving every relevant file.

Persistent/Prolific Offenders

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps he is *(a)* taking and *(b)* plans to take to ensure the successful prosecution by the Crown Prosecution Service of persistent and prolific offenders. [91110]

The Solicitor-General: As I have previously indicated on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1264W, persistent and prolific offenders receive a 'Premium Service' from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and other criminal justice agencies. CPS prosecutors review the progress of these cases with local police crime managers at regular meetings and the CPS works with the courts to give these cases priority listing. The full extent of the criminal activity is brought to the attention of the court.

The CPS will continue to work closely at a national and local level with colleagues in the criminal justice system, particularly the police, in order to bring to justice those prolific and priority offenders who are causing the most harm to their communities.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Health and Safety

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to make teachers aware of the health and safety warnings relating to interactive whiteboard use in schools. [91049]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 13 September 2006]*: Becta (British Educational Communications and Technology Agency), the Department's strategic ICT partner and lead on the operational aspect of embedding ICT in schools, provides guidance on the safe use of interactive whiteboards in schools through its website, liaison with interactive whiteboard suppliers, briefings and publications for local authorities and schools.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Freedom of Information Act

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans the Government have to change the charging arrangements in relation to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if she will make a statement. [91267]

Bridget Prentice: The fees regime is still under review and the Government have not yet made a decision on what changes should be made to the present regime.

Judicial Powers

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what consultation process was undertaken in relation to the Government's proposals to give judges the power to order the withdrawal of a defendant's solicitor or barrister from certain trials, as published in proposals by her Department. [91001]

Vera Baird *[holding answer 13 September 2006]*: The Consultation Paper "Proposals to create judicial powers to manage conflict of interest and capacity issues in very high cost cases" was published on 4 August 2006 and responses are required by 27 October 2006. It is available on the DCA's website and we have sent copies to key stakeholders. In addition, copies of the Consultation Paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. We are keen to ensure the widest range of views are considered. We have already discussed the proposals with the judiciary and the professional bodies. We will publish our response at the beginning of November on the DCA's website and copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Policing Board

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what determining date was used in deciding on the allocation under the d'Hondt formula for the political members of the Northern Ireland Policing Board; and what factors he took into account when selecting the determining date. [57296]

Paul Goggins: Under the terms of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, the Secretary of State's only obligation, when appointing members of the Policing Board during suspension of the Assembly is to ensure that the Board, as a whole, is representative of the community in Northern Ireland. Therefore he is not required to use the results of the Assembly elections or apply d'Hondt to the allocation of seats to political members.

The Secretary of State announced on 13 October 2005 that he intended to invite nominations from the political parties based on the 2003 election results and reflecting what would have been the parties representation at that time, had the Assembly not been suspended and the d'Hondt formula run based on those strengths. His recent invitation to the parties to make nominations was consistent with that decision.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what factors he took into account when setting the notice period for party leaders to submit nominations for the Northern Ireland Policing Board. [57297]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State in determining the notice period for party leaders to submit the political nominations for the Northern Ireland Policing Board took into account the following factors:

(1) He had already announced on 13 October 2005 the reconstitution of the Board with effect from 1 April 2006 including the proposed seeking of political nominations.

(2) He had launched the recruitment competition for independent members on 15 November 2005 and this competition closed on 16 December 2005.

(3) Political parties were made aware at the launch of the competition for independent members that the seeking of political nominations was the next step.

(4) All steps in the reconstitution process must be concluded by 1 April to ensure the establishment of the new Policing Board.

School Finance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much of the Department of Education's budget allocation has been spent on *(a)* new integrated schools and *(b)* maintenance and essential repairs to schools in each education and library school area in each of the last five years. [87997]

Maria Eagle: The information for the last five years for which information is available is as follows:

(a) Spending on the new grant-maintained integrated schools which have been recognised and funded by the Department of Education since September 2000 is as follows:

£000

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Grand total
BELB	0	0	0	0	0	0
WELB	0	0	0	0	90	90
NEELB	826	1,971	2,075	3,020	3,484	11,376
SEELB	0	96	309	508	[1]3,220	4,133
SELB	0	0	0	0	269	269
Total	826	2,067	2,384	3,528	7,063	15,868

[1] Includes capital grant of £2,500

(b) Spending on maintenance and essential repairs in all schools, including integrated schools, is as follows:

£000

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Grand total
BELB	9,860	10,673	11,318	9,573	5,497	46,921
WELB	7,643	8,262	8,490	4,885	5,406	34,686
NEELB	7,449	9,446	5,836	8,869	5,306	36,906
SEELB	8,162	11,318	10,732	7,442	5,237	42,891
SELB	11,244	9,283	9,704	9,949	7,937	48,117
Total	44,358	48,982	46,080	40,718	29,383	209,521

Sexual Offences

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of a serious sexual nature *(a)* were investigated by police in Northern Ireland and *(b)* were the subject of a successful prosecution in 2005. [69464]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI do not gather statistics relating to number of investigations. Although details of prosecutions for 2005 are not yet available, the tables show the number of sexual offences recorded and cleared for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Number of sexual offences recorded in Northern Ireland 2004-05 to 2005-06

	Recorded		Cleared	
	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
Rape	347	356	156	155
Attempted rape	33	35	16	24
Indecent assault	746	808	412	335
Other sexual offences	560	512	192	227
Total	1,686	1,711	776	741

All sexual offences cleared by method of clearance 2004-05 to 2005-06

	2004-05		2005-06	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Charge/summons	40.1	311	41.0	304
Caution	3.0	23	5.3	39
Taken into consideration	0.4	3	0.0	0
Offender under age	1.0	8	1.5	11
Complainant declined to prosecute	22.3	173	29.6	219
Otherwise disposed of	33.2	258	22.7	168
Total	100	776	100	741

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creative Industries (Funding)

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to protect the budgets of those publicly funded organisations which promote creative industries. [91174]

Mr. Woodward: HM Treasury announced in July 2005 that there would be a Comprehensive Spending Review of Government spending. As part of this work the Department has been asked to identify how value for money could be improved. The Department is also compiling evidence on the wider benefits that our sectors bring for areas including the economy and community.

The Department has ensured that all of its sectors, including the Creative Industries, have been engaged with this process. DCMS is currently working with relevant non-departmental public bodies to finalise this.

Internet Gambling

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received regarding the promotion of internet gambling sites in *(a)* broadcast and *(b)* non-broadcast media. [91141]

Mr. Caborn: We have had a number of discussions with the Gambling Commission, the Responsibility in Gambling Trust, remote gambling industry representatives, and others, on the promotion of internet gambling.

The promotion of gambling in non-broadcast media is regulated by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA); and in broadcast media it is regulated by Ofcom. ASA and Ofcom will consult the Gambling Commission when setting, reviewing and revising standards for gambling advertising.

Tote

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress with negotiations regarding the planned sale of the Tote. [91132]

Mr. Caborn: The Government remain committed to selling the Tote to racing.

We are currently in discussions with racing regarding a closed sale of the Tote at full market value.

UK Film Council

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the reasons for the difference in funding for film projects by the UK Film Council in *(a)* the City of Brighton and Hove and *(b)* West Sussex. [91166]

Mr. Woodward: The difference in funding for film projects between the City of Brighton and Hove and West Sussex is a reflection of the level of film making activity in each of the areas.

Since funding applications are necessarily considered on a project by project basis, the density of awards made in Brighton and Hove is attributable to the relative level of film activity in the area. Many more applications are received from Brighton and Hove (341) than from West Sussex (87).

It should be noted however that the proportion of successful applications to Screen South, the Regional Screen Agency for the South East, is in fact higher in West Sussex than in Brighton and Hove, with an average of 48 per cent. proceeding to award over the last four years compared with an average of 40 per cent. in Brighton and Hove over the same period.

Equally, applications to UK Film Council central funds show the same trend: more applications have been received from Brighton and Hove (140) than from West Sussex (51), but of those latter a higher percentage proceeded to award—25 per cent. as against 14 per cent.

Wicksteed Park

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if the Minister with responsibility for creative industries and tourism will meet *(a)* a small delegation from the Wicksteed Trust and *(b)* the hon. Member for Kettering to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing the future of Wicksteed Park, Kettering. [91107]

Mr. Woodward: Subject to my other commitments, I should be very pleased to look into the possibility of a meeting with the hon. Gentleman to discuss Wicksteed Park. I look forward to his contacting my office to discuss a convenient date.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Rural Housing Commission

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department will respond to the recommendations of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. [91272]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are already taking forward many of the recommendations of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. Its proposals are being fed into a series of progress of work including the Comprehensive Spending Review and the forthcoming planning policy statement on housing. We will also shortly be setting up a website on which we will post progress we are making towards improving access to affordable housing in rural areas and examples of best practice in the light of the Affordable Rural Housing Commissions report.

Brownfield Development

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1744, on brownfield development, if she will break down the London figure for 2004 by local authority area. [84587]

Yvette Cooper: The information available is from Land Use Change Statistics, shown in the following table. In a small number of London boroughs the proportions are not reliable enough to be shown for a single year. Proportions are also shown for the period 2001 to 2004 as a whole, and for the period 1989 to 1992 as a whole as four year averages are more reliable. Compared to 1989 to 1992 there has been a significant drop in the percentage of dwellings in London built on undeveloped land.

New dwellings on previously-developed land: London

Percentage

2004

	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	*New dwellings on greenfield land as a proportion of all new dwellings*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings*
City of London	100	0	22	22
Barking and Dagenham	65	35	17	11
Barnet	94	6	21	20
Bexley	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Brent	100	0	36	36
Bromley	94	6	49	46
Camden	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Croydon	94	6	66	62
Ealing	68	32	16	11
Enfield	100	0	18	18
Greenwich	94	6	5	5
Hackney	100	0	17	17
Hammersmith and Fulham	100	0	33	33
Haringey	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Harrow	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Havering	100	0	9	9
Hillingdon	100	0	43	43
Hounslow	100	0	4	4
Islington	100	0	60	60
Kensington and Chelsea	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Kingston upon Thames	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Lambeth	98	2	22	21
Lewisham	100	0	32	32
Merton	45	55	15	7
Newham	99	1	19	19
Redbridge	95	5	9	9
Richmond upon Thames	97	3	42	41
Southwark	98	2	16	15
Sutton	100	0	27	27
Tower Hamlets	100	0	6	6
Waltham Forest	95	5	37	35
Wandsworth	100	0	4	4
Westminster	100	0	2	2
Total London	96	4	20	18

Percentage

Average 2001-04

	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	*New dwellings on greenfield land as a proportion of all new dwellings*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings*
City of London	100	0	22	22
Barking and Dagenham	75	25	19	14
Barnet	91	9	32	29
Bexley	79	21	20	16

Percentage

Average 2001-04

	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	New dwellings on greenfield land as a proportion of all new dwellings	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings
Brent	91	9	21	19
Bromley	89	11	37	33
Camden	97	3	24	23
Croydon	98	2	58	57
Ealing	78	22	23	18
Enfield	99	1	17	17
Greenwich	95	5	6	5
Hackney	99	1	9	9
Hammersmith and Fulham	99	1	19	19
Haringey	100	0	19	19
Harrow	83	17	22	18
Havering	94	6	13	13
Hillingdon	98	2	27	26
Hounslow	89	11	5	5
Islington	100	0	35	35
Kensington and Chelsea	97	3	7	7
Kingston upon Thames	94	6	32	30
Lambeth	91	9	19	17
Lewisham	98	2	31	31
Merton	80	20	30	24
Newham	80	20	10	8
Redbridge	98	2	6	6
Richmond upon Thames	98	2	34	33
Southwark	95	5	9	9
Sutton	100	0	36	36
Tower Hamlets	99	1	8	8
Waltham Forest	92	8	32	30
Wandsworth	100	0	4	4
Westminster	100	0	15	15
Total London	94	6	18	17

Percentage

Average 1989-92

	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	New dwellings on greenfield land as a proportion of all new dwellings	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously-developed land	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings
City of London	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Barking and Dagenham	72	28	15	11
Barnet	86	14	40	34
Bexley	86	14	37	31
Brent	81	19	31	25
Bromley	88	12	48	42
Camden	99	1	26	26
Croydon	79	21	40	31
Ealing	94	6	24	22
Enfield	69	31	22	15
Greenwich	90	10	20	18
Hackney	100	0	15	15
Hammersmith and Fulham	95	5	19	18
Haringey	87	13	10	9
Harrow	97	3	73	71

Percentage

Average 1989-92

	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	New dwellings on greenfield land as a proportion of all new dwellings	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously-developed land	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings
Havering	68	32	46	31
Hillingdon	72	28	40	29
Hounslow	78	22	31	24
Islington	98	2	15	15
Kensington and Chelsea	100	0	20	20
Kingston upon Thames	73	27	32	24
Lambeth	81	19	29	23
Lewisham	88	12	8	7
Merton	63	37	27	17
Newham	98	2	9	9
Redbridge	88	12	16	14
Richmond upon Thames	77	23	54	41
Southwark	98	2	11	11
Sutton	93	7	39	36
Tower Hamlets	93	7	15	14
Waltham Forest	82	18	10	8
Wandsworth	97	3	21	20
Westminster	100	0	7	7
Total London	86	14	26	22

[1] Numbers too small to give a reliable percentage.

Casino Advisory Panel

Justine Greening: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what processes were involved in choosing the members of the Casino Advisory Panel; and what direct input he had in those procedures. [91137]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

The role specification for the chair and members of the Casino Advisory Panel was agreed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and myself. The appointments were advertised in *The Sunday Times* on 5 June 2005, and on public appointments and DCMS websites. The closing date for applications was 24 June 2005.

The shortlist of candidates for interview was ratified by me, and I also considered the recommendations of the selection panel after the interviews had taken place, and decided whom to appoint.

The selection panel was chaired by the head of Gambling, Lotteries and Licensing Division. The panel also comprised two independent assessors, who are trained by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) to conduct such processes in accordance with the Commissioner's Code.

These three people met to sift applications in order to recommend a shortlist to the Minister. They met again to hold interviews, at which the potential for conflict of interest was discussed in every case, following which their views were submitted to the Minister for him to make his decision. Officials obtained statements from the successful candidates of their private interests, and assessed these for the potential for actual or perceived conflict of interest.

The selection criteria for the roles were contained in the role specification, which was sent out to all interested candidates. This document informed the sift of applications and the general framing of questions at interview.

The Deputy Prime Minister had no involvement in the appointment of the panel.

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computers hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in her Department in each month since March 2005. [88707]

Angela E. Smith: This table indicates the amount of IT equipment bought from the four major suppliers of IT equipment to DCLG since March 2005. Identification of external HD purchases from DCLG financial records. USB memory, memory sticks and flash drives are different names for the same, or similar, products, could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Month	CDs (x50)	DVDs (x25)	Internal HD	Laptops	Desktop PC	USB Memory
March 2005	65	—	8	44	6	11
April 2005	3	—	—	14	2	21
May 2005	17	—	—	49	6	21
June 2005	2	—	2	12	—	2
July 2005	26	—	—	14	7	20
August 2005	4	—	—	14	1	9
September 2005	—	—	1	11	—	14
October 2005	—	—	2	28	2	48
November 2005	—	—	—	11	—	30
December 2005	13	—	—	22	—	21
January 2006	1	—	—	8	2	10
February 2006	1	—	1	30	5	34
March 2006	4	—	—	56	2	15
April 2006	—	—	—	3	1	55
May 2006	3	2	—	5	2	12
June 2006	23	4	1	5	1	12
Total	162	6	15	326	37	335

Housing

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what action her Department is taking to increase the *(a)* availability and *(b)* affordability of shared accommodation in the private rented sector. [85598]

Yvette Cooper: The private rented sector has expanded by 33 per cent. in the last 12 years from 9 per cent. of households (1993) to 12 per cent. of households (2005). Rents are affected by house prices and the wider market and therefore by overall housing supply. The Government believe we need to increase housing supply to improve long term affordability. In addition families on low income can get housing benefit to help with private sector rents.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the *(a)* need and *(b)* demand for affordable housing provided by local authorities in (i) Leeds and (ii) England; and what action she is taking to encourage and enable the provision of such housing. [90923]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Government do not produce national or local assessments of the need and demand for affordable housing. Regional assemblies and local planning authorities are responsible for producing regional and local assessments of housing need.

We encourage and enable provision of affordable housing primarily through the payment of Social Housing Grant by the Housing Corporation to registered social landlords and unregistered bodies. The Government also assist local authorities to maximise the contribution made by the planning system consistent with creating sustainable communities, set out in draft Planning Policy Statement 3 'Housing' (December 2005), and provide guidance on requiring developer contributions through planning obligations for the provision of affordable housing. The Government are also consulting on new ways of increasing the role of authorities in meeting local housing needs.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families were on waiting lists for social housing in each English local authority at the latest date for which figures are available. [91097]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Waiting list data at a local authority level for England and Wales are available from the Annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and published on an annual basis on the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) website. The list data include people who have applied for social housing but do not assess need. The latest available data are for 2005. The accuracy of the list will vary as it depends on how frequently and effectively local authorities update their lists.

The hon. Gentleman is referred to the DCLG website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/853/Table600Excel126Kb_id1163853.xls.

Housing Associations

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many faith-based housing associations there are; and what the capital allocation for each was in each of the last five years. [91128]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Corporation maintains records on housing associations that are registered under section 2 of the Housing Act 1996 but does not collect information about whether they are faith-based and therefore the requested information is not available.

Learning Difficulties

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to assist local authorities in providing additional support for parents with learning difficulties to care for their children; and if she will make a statement. [86961]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has commissioned the Social Care Institute for Excellence to undertake a knowledge review into support for parents with disabilities including parents with learning disabilities. This will be published on their website shortly. The second phase of the work will be to develop a resource guide for organisations supporting disabled parents. This includes a national protocol for joint working.

In addition, the Valuing People Support Team, the Department and the Department for Education and Skills have commissioned good practice guidance on how adult and children's services can work together in the interest of parents with learning disabilities and their children. This suggestion came out of a national gathering of parents with learning disabilities in January 2005.

Local Government Ombudsman

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the rationale is for restricting the Local Government Ombudsman's scope to considering matters from the previous 12 months only; and what consideration she has given to introducing measures to extend that scope. [91254]

Mr. Woolas: Section 26(4) of the Local Government Act 1974 provides that the Local Government Ombudsman may conduct an investigation into a complaint which has not been made within the 12 month period specified if he considers that it is reasonable to do so.

Local Government Targets

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local government targets the Government has *(a)* introduced and *(b)* abolished in each of the last nine years. [91039]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Performance indicators and targets are currently set for local government by a number of different Government Departments under separate performance management regimes. The number of centrally-set performance indicators and targets applicable to any individual local authority varies and will depend on the type of local authority (for example county council, district council, unitary authority or London borough) and the individual grant or funding regimes it accesses. Not all indicators have targets set against them.

Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) were introduced in 2000-01 in order to enable central Government to monitor progress over a period of time, allow authorities to compare their performance against that of their peers and provide residents with information about the performance of their local authority. BVPIs are also a key component of the framework developed by the Audit Commission to inform Comprehensive Performance Assessment judgments.

The Government set targets against 3 BVPIs. Local authorities are expected to set their own targets for improvement against the remaining 87 BVPIs.

There are also a number of 'floor' targets, setting minimum standards that every area should meet, which have been set by central Government as part of each Spending Review since 2000. These floor targets now cover six thematic areas: crime, education, housing, employment, health and liveability, and are designed to help reduce the gap between the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest.

Property Market

Michael Gove: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what basis the Government estimated the cost of abortive property transactions in the residential property market at £350 million per annum; and how many transactions were assessed to arrive at this figure. [64948]

Yvette Cooper: The Department's 1998 research study, "Key research on easier home buying and selling", reported that 28 per cent. of transactions fail between offer acceptance and completion, or the equivalent of 467,000 failures at current transaction rates. The tracking surveys in the 1998 study also recorded details, where known, of the costs incurred by people whose purchase or sale had fallen through. The research found that the average cost of a failed transaction was £906 (£680 for buyers and £206 for sellers). Over a thousand respondents provided these details. However to take account of the relatively small sample size, the estimate of the total cost of transaction failure was adjusted downwards. The estimate of £350 million assumes a cost of £750 per transaction failure—i.e. the total loss for buyer and seller at 1998 prices. The baseline research due to start shortly will provide more up to date and comprehensive data on the cost of transaction failure to consumers.

Rebranding

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rebranding costs have been incurred by each of the agencies affiliated to her Department as a consequence of the transfer of responsibilities from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [86828]

Angela E. Smith: Three of the four Executive Agencies affiliated to the Department incurred no material costs associated with the change of Department.

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) had to make changes both to its publicity material, which it would have had to do in the normal course of business as such material is regularly updated and revised, and to the electronic templates that Inspectors and others use for the issuing of decision letters. The estimated total cost of carrying out the necessary changes is £11,000.

Retail Developments

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure that the presumption is that large shops should be built in town centres rather than out of town continues; and if she will make a statement. [91253]

Yvette Cooper: The Government remain committed to promoting the vitality and viability of town centres and a town-centre first policy approach. "Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for town centres", published in March 2005, applies to all main town centre uses, including large retail development.

Supporting People Strategy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the cost of administering Supporting People payments for older people living in sheltered housing; and if she will make a statement. [86117]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) does not have a specific estimate for the administrative costs of Supporting People with regard to older people living in sheltered housing.

DCLG provides a grant to top-tier local authorities as a contribution to their costs in administering the Supporting People programme; this grant totals £40 million for England in the current year. Administrative costs to service providers of supported housing will be covered within the contracts they hold with local authorities, and are not therefore identifiable within the information held by central Government.

Tenant Deposit Scheme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of the tenant deposit scheme on smaller residential landlords. [91271]

Yvette Cooper: The regulatory impact assessment for the Tenancy Deposit Protection Scheme was published in September 2004. The assessment took account of the views of stakeholders including the small residential landlords. The Department subsequently established a stakeholder steering group, which includes landlord representatives, to progress the development and introduction of the scheme.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Payments

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many methods of calculation are available to decision makers in his Department making decisions on overpayment of benefits; and if he will make a statement. [91118]

Mr. Plaskitt: There is one method of calculation that can occur at a number of stages throughout the decision making process.

There are two elements to a decision on an overpayment of benefit.

Initially, where it becomes apparent to the Department that the information on which entitlement to a benefit is based is incorrect, a review of that entitlement is carried out. A calculation is then made comparing what the entitlement should have been based on the correct facts, and compared with what was actually paid.

If an overpayment has occurred, a decision maker then determines whether that overpayment can be recovered under Social Security legislation. When reaching that decision, the decision maker must be satisfied that the customer or their representative has failed to disclose or has misrepresented a material fact, including a change in their circumstances. Where an overpayment has arisen as a result of a customer's misrepresentation or failure to disclose, Section 71 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 allows the recovery of that overpayment.

The decision can be disputed by the customer and automatically provides a right of appeal on the grounds of whether there has been misrepresentation or failure to disclose and the amount determined. Where a decision is disputed, a decision maker can review a decision and make a fresh decision, either on the amount of the overpayment, or on the basis of its recoverability. A fresh decision is then issued against which further rights of appeal are provided.

This legislation covers the vast majority of overpayments that are determined to be recoverable under Social Security legislation.

Citizens Advice Bureaux

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding his Department provides to citizens advice bureaux. [91139]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions does not provide core funding to citizens advice bureaux. We do however, on occasion, provide funding for specific initiatives that support the Department's aims and objectives. Most recently, £1.65 million in funding has been provided to 24 bureaux, for the period March 2005 to February 2007, from the Department's Partnership Fund, which is aimed at encouraging initiatives to support the take-up of Pension Credit.

Disability Equality

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* information gathering and *(b)* other actions (i) his Department and (ii) other bodies are taking to inform the production of the report on progress towards disability equality within the work and pensions policy sector. [91184]

Mr. Plaskitt: All relevant areas of DWP policy will be considered in the report on progress. We will seek an assessment of progress from the principal authorities which deliver services funded or regulated by the Secretary of State including local authorities administering housing benefit, as well as the executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies of the Department for Work and Pensions.

We are considering what specific information needs to be collected to be able to publish our report on 1 December 2008.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the single room rent restriction on housing benefit was in each locality in *(a)* Wyre, *(b)* Lancaster, *(c)* Eastbourne, *(d)* Hastings, (e) Flintshire, *(f)* Leicester, *(g)* Sheffield, *(h)* Greenwich, *(i)* Southwark, *(j)* North Lincolnshire, *(k)* Kingston-upon-Hull and *(l)* East Devon in each year between 1996-97 and 2004-05. [85604]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Single room rents in each of the specified local authorities

£

Local authority	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Wyre	41	41	45	45	46	50	50	53
Lancaster	37.50	37.50	40	40	42.50	45	45	50
Eastbourne	42.50	45	49	52	55	55	56.50	60
Hastings	41	41.50	49	52	55	55	56	56.50
Flintshire	42.50	40	40	38	38.50	40	45	50
Leicester	30	33.50	37.75	43.75	46.50	51.38	52.75	55
Sheffield	40	37.50	40	40	42.50	45	47.50	50
Greenwich	50	57.50	57.50	82.50	77.50	77.50	80	80
Southwark	62	65	65	77.50	85	83.75	82.50	87.50
North Lines	38	33	38.50	37.50	38	40	40	40
Kingston upon Hull	32	31	34	35	35	41	42	42
East Devon	41.50	40.50	45	46.50	52.50	57.50	57.50	60

Notes

1. Information source: The Rent Service except Flintshire which was provided by Rent Officer service Wales.
2. No central records of single room rents exist for the years prior to the establishment of The Rent Service on 1 October 1999.
3. The figures shown are the average of single room rents, of all localities within the local authorities, as at 31 December in each year.

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many solvent companies have starting winding up pension schemes since 1997. [66483]

James Purnell: The information is not available.

Pensions schemes that start to wind up are required to advise the pensions regulator, as it maintains a register of pension schemes. However, the status of the employer that sponsors an occupational pension scheme is not registrable information, which means that the regulator is unable to identify how many schemes in the process of winding up have a solvent employer.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* male pensioners currently aged over 65 years and *(b)* female pensioners currently aged over 60 years who will be claiming (i) the guarantee credit only, (ii) savings credit and guarantee credit and (iii) savings credit only in *(A)* 2010 and *(B)* 2012 under the proposals in the White Paper Security in Retirement, Towards a New Pensions System; and what estimate he has made of what these numbers would be under the current system. [77995]

James Purnell: Under our reforms, more people will be receiving state pensions based on their national insurance records, and there will be a more generous basic state pension due to the restoration of the earnings link. This provides a solid foundation for private saving. Incentives are further enhanced by reducing the growth of the savings credit.

Table 1 shows the estimates of the number of males and females that may receive pension credit by component in the years 2010 and 2012 assuming that the standard guarantee credit is uprated in line with prices from 2008.

Table 2 shows the projected numbers under the proposals contained in the White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system."

Table 1: Projected number of males and females that may be in receipt of pension credit in selected years assuming the standard guarantee credit is uprated in line with prices from 2008

	GC only	*GC+SC*	*SC only*
Males currently aged 65 or over			
2010	50,000	450,000	400,000
2012	50,000	350,000	350,000
Females currently aged 60 or over			
2010	550,000	1,000,000	600,000
2012	450,000	900,000	550,000

Table 2: Projected number of males and females that may be in receipt of pension credit in selected years under the White Paper proposals

	GC only	*GC+SC*	*SC only*
Males currently aged 65 or over			
2010	150,000	400,000	450,000
2012	100,000	350,000	400,000
Females currently aged 60 or over			
2010	700,000	900,000	650,000
2012	650,000	800,000	650,000

Notes:
1. Projections of numbers receiving pension credit in the future are subject to a range of uncertainties and a number of factors including policies on uprating different benefits and assumptions on rates of take-up. The assumptions applied here are consistent with those that underpin published long-run expenditure projections, and are applied to projections of the number of pensioner households estimated to be eligible for pension credit.
2. Care should be taken when interpreting these projections. In particular data deficiencies make it difficult to be confident in the split between the number of people who may be in receipt of only the guarantee credit and those who may be in receipt of both the guarantee credit and the savings credit. Also the projections are sensitive to the assumed take-up rates (the same assumptions on the rate of take-up are applied to the current and reform projections).
3. Estimates of the proportion of pensioners eligible for pension credit are the mid-points of projections taken from two separate micro-simulation models.
4. The projections of the number of pensioners eligible for pension credit are sensitive to modelling assumptions and to projected changes in the distribution of pensioner incomes.
5. The projections of the number of male pensioners currently aged over 65 years who may be eligible for pension credit in 2010 have been derived from projections of the proportion of males aged 69+ in 2010 who may be eligible and projections of the number of males aged 69+ in Great Britain in 2010. A similar procedure was followed in estimating the number who may be eligible in 2012 and the number of females currently aged over 60 years who may be eligible in 2010 and 2012.
6. The reform projections assume: continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee credit; the savings credit maximum is uprated by earnings from 2008 and then by prices from 2015; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension described in the White Paper.
7. The projections in Table 1 assume that basic state pension is uprated in line with prices and the standard guarantee credit with prices each year after 2008. It should be noted that there is a Government commitment to uprate the standard guarantee credit with earnings until 2008. Treasury projections for the current system assume price uprating of the standard guarantee credit beyond 2008.
8. Estimates are calibrated to the mid-points of the 2004-5 National Statistics range estimates of non-eligibility to pension credit, which adjust 2004-5 Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. Although the estimates here are not presented as ranges, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
9. The projections are rounded to the nearest 50,000.
10. Qualifying age for the guarantee credit will increase with women's state pension age between 2010 and 2020, from 60 to 65.

Post Office Card Accounts

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who use post office card accounts to receive benefits and pensions are aged *(a)* under 60, *(b)* 60 to 69, *(c)* 70 to 79 and *(d)* 80 and above. [57785]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the number of DWP benefit and pension payment accounts being paid by direct payment into a Post Office card account at 10 June 2006.

These figures do not include Post Office card accounts used by other Government Departments to pay benefits and tax credits.

Age	*Benefit and pension accounts*
Under 60	1,271,360
60-69	925,300
70-79	1,286,220
80 and over	954,090

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures refer to benefit and pension payment accounts live and in payment on the specified date. People in receipt of more than one benefit/pension have been counted for each separate benefit/pension in payment. People who have their benefit/pension combined and paid at the same time have only been counted through the paying benefit.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure that pensioners whose pension credit is paid via a Post Office card account are not advised that they must have a bank account to receive their awards in the future. [87948]

Mr. Plaskitt: Pensioners do not have to have a bank account to receive pension credit. However, we have always made it clear that payment into a bank account is the best option for the overwhelming majority of customers, and so it is only right that we alert customers to the fact that there are accounts that may better meet their needs. For example, many are missing out on the savings that direct debits can bring and on interest paid on balances. Around 25 different bank accounts can be accessed at Post Office branches now. The Post Office has already introduced one new account—the Instant Saver—and plans to introduce more new accounts in the future.

Redundancies

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average redundancy payment has been made to staff declared redundant within his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible since 6 April 2004. [82517]

Mrs. McGuire: As part of its Efficiency Programme the Department has run a number of staff early release schemes since April 2004. All but one early release under these schemes has been on a voluntary basis.

To the end of March 2006, the average full cost of early releases under all these schemes was around £56,000.

Welfare Reform Bill

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice he has received from the Health Professionals Advisory Group on the likely effect of sanctions proposed in the Welfare Reform Bill which could result in disabled people losing benefit. [90608]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The Health Professionals Advisory Group is a body of senior healthcare professionals, set up to advise Ministers and officials on the Department's work to help people with health conditions or disabilities to enter, remain in or return to work.

The Group has not discussed benefit sanctions or the likely impact of any such sanctions.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to ratify Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Treaty prior to the Review Conference to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in November. [91191]

Dr. Howells: The UK aims to complete ratification of Protocol V, concerning explosive remnants of war, of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) by the CCW Review Conference in November.

EU Maritime Policy

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the EU Commission Green Paper, Towards a Future Maritime Policy for the Union, what her policy is on the applicability of EU policy and legislation to the territorial waters of overseas territories of member states. [91179]

Mr. McCartney: The EC Treaty, other than Part IV on the Association of Overseas Countries and Territories, does not apply to the Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom, except to Gibraltar to which it applies by virtue of Article 299 (4) EC Treaty. As the legal base for any legislation arising out of the Maritime Green Paper would be likely to be under Article 175 (1), an environmental legal base, it would not apply to the majority of the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories. However, the Government and the Governments of the other Overseas Territories would want to consider whether it would be appropriate and feasible to apply similar measures based on EC legislation through the Territories' domestic legislation.

European Parliament

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her policy is on the maintenance of a seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. [91180]

Mr. Hoon: The splitting of the European Parliament site between Strasbourg and Brussels is far from ideal. However, there is an historical and legal basis for the siting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, as agreed at the Edinburgh summit 1992, and any changes would require the unanimous support of all 25 EU member states. Unfortunately, we do not believe that the necessary political unanimity for such a change currently exists.

International Criminal Court

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will review the operating procedures of the International Criminal Court following the pleas by some Governments and organisations to seek clemency in the case of those Lords Resistance Army bodies who have been indicted. [91204]

Dr. Howells: The UK has long worked for a peaceful solution to the long running conflict in Northern Uganda. The recent cessation of hostilities and ongoing negotiations relating to Northern Uganda are a promising step. However, it is clear that there is much work still to be done to bring a sustainable peace to the region.

The UK, along with the rest of the EU, is a strong supporter—in principle and in practice—of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was established to prosecute the most serious crimes of international concern. In July 2004, the ICC launched an investigation into the situation in Northern Uganda, following referral of the situation by the Government of Uganda. In October 2005, the ICC unsealed warrants for the arrest of five senior members of the Lord's Resistance Army.

The operating procedures of the ICC, including the issue of warrants, are a matter for the Court and we respect its independence. We urge all parties to fulfil their obligations under the Statute of the Court. The ICC has made clear that it is following developments closely and remains in close contact with the Government of Uganda and the wider international community.

Iran

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her *(a)* United Nations, *(b)* European Union and *(c)* United States counterparts on the Iranian nuclear dispute; whether the issue of possible United Nations sanctions against Iran was raised during these discussions; and whether the UK Government will support the application of such sanctions if Iran fails to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1690. [91048]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* I have discussed Iran many times with my counterparts in the EU, US and other countries, both in the run-up to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1696 on 31 July and subsequently.

Resolution 1696 called on Iran to take the steps required by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors and made mandatory on Iran a full suspension of all uranium enrichment related and reprocessing activities. The Security Council asked the IAEA Director-General, Dr. Mohammed El-Baradei, to report on Iranian compliance by 31 August. The Council expressed its intention to "adopt appropriate measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations" if Iran did not comply.

Dr. El-Baradei's report makes clear that Iran has not suspended its enrichment related and reprocessing activities, nor taken the other steps required by the IAEA Board. We are now discussing next steps with our EU and Security Council partners.

We remain committed to a diplomatic solution, and continue to urge Iran to take the steps required by the Security Council and the IAEA Board, reinstate a full suspension and return to negotiations on the basis of the proposals presented by the "E3+3" (France, Germany, UK + China, Russia, US) on 6 June.

Middle East

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance she *(a)* has given and *(b)* plans to offer to the state of Israel to assist that country in fighting (i) Hezbollah terrorists and (ii) other terrorism; and if she will make a statement. [87101]

Dr. Howells: The Government are engaged in building bilateral and multilateral relationships and work closely with a wide range of countries on counter-terrorism. There is close co-operation between many UK organisations, including the police, security and intelligence agencies and Whitehall Departments, with many other countries. It is not the normal practice of the Government to comment on the specifics of such matters. To do so can harm operational effectiveness, assist the terrorists and damage co-operative relationships beneficial to the UK's own security.

UN General Assembly

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which officials from her Department will be attending the opening session of the 61st UN General Assembly in New York on 12 September. [91193]

Dr. Howells: Officials from the UK Permanent Mission to the UN attended the first meeting of the 61st UN General Assembly on 12 September.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe and I plan to attend UN General Assembly (UNGA) Ministerial Week (19-22 September). Most of the UN's 192 member states are sending their Head of Government, State or Foreign Minister. As the largest annual gathering of senior foreign policy makers, it is an important opportunity to take forward the Government's foreign policy priorities.

There will be a large number of multilateral events in the margins of the main UNGA Plenary. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers will participate in all the major events, and will also hold more than 60 separate bilateral meetings with key UN partners. As is usual, Ministers will be supported by FCO officials from the UK Permanent Mission to the UN and from London.

UN Human Rights Council

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a draft of the next report by the UK to UN Human Rights Council. [91078]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The new UN Human Rights Council is in the early stages of discussing a new system of Universal Periodic Review. The details of this Review—including whether and how states might submit reports—are still under discussion.

The UK's next periodic report to the UN Human Rights Committee, under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, is due in November 2006. Following its submission to the Committee, the Department for Constitutional Affairs will make the report available on its website: http://www.dca.gov.uk/peoples-rights/hunian-rights/int-human-rights.htm.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

CFC Recovery Rates

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will publish the figures for CFC recovery from domestic and commercial appliances for each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of performance in 2006; [91144]

(2) how many tonnes of the CFCs recovered by UK licensed facilities have been *(a)* destroyed and *(b)* processed to render them harmless to the environment in each year since 1990. [91145]

Ian Pearson: The following information is available on the recovery of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) from all equipment:

	Tonnes
2002	387
2003	494
2004	427
2005	467

Figures for 2006 are unavailable at present.

The following information is available on the destruction of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) from all equipment:

	Tonnes
2002	387
2003	494
2004	583
2005	476

Figures for 2006 are unavailable at present.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 20 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 750W, which provides further information on CFC recovery rates.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of his Department's guidance on the recovery of controlled substances in refrigerators and freezers; and what assessment he has made of its impact on falling CFC recovery rates in the UK. [91146]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 20 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 751W.

Discovering Lost Ways Project

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many lost ways have been identified under the Discovering Lost Ways project; and how many of these go through private property; [91248]

(2) what the cost to date is of the Discovering Lost Ways project. [91250]

Barry Gardiner: The Discovering Lost Ways project is currently in its pilot phase. Research methods are being tested in Cheshire, Wiltshire, Dorset and Shropshire, with a view to determining whether the approach works well, and can be rolled out across the country. Because no lost ways will be identified until the pilot phase is complete, I cannot advise on the number passing through private property. If a lost way were to prove problematic for a landowner, a process already exists whereby the local authority may effect a suitable diversion or extinguish the right of way.

The results for Cheshire and Shropshire, which will provide strong documentary evidence, will be available in spring and autumn 2007 respectively.

The estimated total cost of the project over 19 years is £15 million, including the additional resources needed to facilitate the process of recording the rights of way on the definitive map and statement (the local authorities' legal record of rights of way).

English Nature

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much English Nature spent on *(a)* conservation and nature management programmes and *(b)* salaries in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; and what estimates have been made of expenditure in each category in 2006-07. [91120]

Barry Gardiner: English Nature's entire expenditure effectively supports conservation and nature management, including salary costs, so it is not possible to meaningfully separate out an amount spent on conservation and nature management. The Grant in Aid paid to English Nature over the period concerned was £68.6 million in 2004-05, £73.1 million in 2005-06 and the planned amount for 2006-07 is £74.4 million.

English Nature advises that its salary costs for each year are £30.6 million for 2004-05, £34.9 million for 2005-06 and £34.7 million expected for 2006-07.

The 2006-07 figures are subject to change following the transition to Natural England in mid-year.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on the profitability of the power generation sector in Phase 1 of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [91147]

Ian Pearson: A report, "Implications of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme for the UK Power Generation Sector", commissioned by the Government, was published in 2005 by IPA Energy Consulting Ltd on the DTI website: http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file33199.pdf

Further analysis conducted by the DTI has suggested that this report may overestimate the profits to electricity generators. This is because some power suppliers have not been passing the full costs of the EU ETS on to retail industrial and domestic customers, indicating that generators who have both wholesale and retail customers could be using some of their windfall profits to subsidise their retail customers.

Flood Defences (Essex)

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what special measures will be taken during the extraordinary high tides expected in autumn 2006 to protect low lying areas of the Essex coastline and islands lying off Essex. [91245]

Ian Pearson: This autumn, the lunar effect on the tides will be greater than average. However, this does not mean that there will be flooding. Weather conditions are critical in determining whether potential flood risk generated by high tides actually results in a flood.

Defences in Essex are already prepared for high tides. Tidal surges in the North Sea can lead to flooding throughout the year and the maintenance regime and operational procedures take this into account.

The Flood Warning system sends warnings to those at risk of flooding along the Essex coast and has recently been upgraded with the introduction of new technology. This allows flood warnings to be sent out in a timely and efficient manner to everyone in a flood risk area who has registered for this free service.

The Flood Warning system also links into the emergency planning and resilience structure for Essex. Regular meetings are held between the major response parties to ensure that, in a flooding situation, the response is co-ordinated and seamless. Extra meetings and briefings have taken place in Essex before the flood season to ensure that flood plans and procedures are in place to deal with any flooding that may occur.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will undertake research to estimate whether there has been a change in the level of protection afforded by Canvey Island sea defences since they were first established; and if he will make a statement. [91246]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency has initiated a project, "Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100)", to address the impacts of future climate change and sea level rise on the Thames estuary (including Canvey Island).

More accurate assessments of the standards of sea walls in the Thames estuary are being undertaken as part of this overall project. Once this work has been completed, the need for any greater protection can be assessed. The consultation document on the final TE2100 Plan should be available in 2008.

GM Organisms

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last reviewed procedures to protect against unauthorised genetically modified organisms entering the UK; and if he will make a statement. [91158]

Ian Pearson: Importers of materials for use in food and animal feed are obliged to ensure that they do not place unauthorised genetically modified organisms on the market. The regulatory controls on GM food and feed, which are the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency, came into force in 2004 and are currently under review.

Pending the establishment of legislative thresholds at European Community level, DEFRA has contracted with the Central Science Laboratory to carry out voluntary audits of seed companies to monitor the steps they are taking to minimise the risk of adventitious GM presence in conventional seed. Procedures were reviewed earlier this year and a decision taken to augment the audit programme with improved risk assessment procedures. The new procedures are due to take effect from November this year.

Central Science Laboratory audit results are published annually and can be accessed at:

http://www.csl.gov.uk/prodserv/cons/gm_inspectorate.cfm

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times unauthorised genetically modified organisms *(a)* entered the UK and *(b)* entered the food chain in the UK in each year since 1997; and what the (i) substance and (ii) country of origin was in each case. [91159]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

Relevant cases since 1997 are as follows:

In 2000, a batch of rape seed from Canada supplied to United Kingdom farmers was found to contain a proportion of a genetically modified (GM) variety called GT73. The growing of GT73 rape was not authorised, although food ingredients derived from the rapeseed were permitted.

In 2000, a small sample of 25 tomato seeds from the United States was imported and grown in the UK but not for food or feed use. In 2003 it was discovered that this batch of seeds had been mislabelled by the US supplier and were of an unidentified GM variety. No GM tomato varieties are authorised to be grown in the UK.

In 2000 it was reported that UK field trials with GM sugar beet contained approximately 0.5 per cent. of a second, unauthorised, line of GM beet. None of the affected beet entered the food chain. The company concerned indicated that the unauthorised event was likely to be present due to cross-contamination during the production of beet seed in Germany.

In August 2006, the US Department of Agriculture announced that some commercial long grain rice on the US market had been found to contain traces of the unauthorised variety LLRICE601. This genetically modified rice could therefore have been present in imports of US rice to the UK. This incident is still under investigation in the US. Recent reports of rice products from China containing GM rice are under investigation.

Water Companies (Sewage)

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers his Department has to require water companies to take action to prevent repeated instances of sewage flooding in residential areas. [91176]

Ian Pearson: Water and sewerage companies are under a statutory duty to ensure effectual drainage of their respective areas, but this does not extend to an absolute duty to prevent sewer flooding under all circumstances. This would not be practicable. Ensuring compliance with the duty on companies is a matter for the economic regulator, Ofwat.

If a company fails to comply with this duty, Ofwat is required, with certain exceptions, to issue an enforcement order requiring the company to put matters right.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Royal Navy not including Royal Marines are serving in Afghanistan, broken down by unit. [90730]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* As at 29 August 2006 there were 35 Royal Navy personnel serving in Afghanistan. I am withholding information relating to individual units because to publish such information could compromise operational security as it would also reveal information on force capability and force laydown.

Aircraft

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the availability of components for the Harrier jets deployed in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [90927]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The equipment support for the Harrier aircraft in Afghanistan is routinely reviewed to ensure an effective supply chain and to maximise aircraft availability. The supply of equipment is afforded priority status and robust procedures are in place to ensure operational tempo is met. The latest review has confirmed that there is sufficient equipment support in theatre for our Harrier aircraft.

First World War Soldiers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the executed first world war soldiers' records he has personally reviewed. [90936]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* I have considered the issue of pardons for world war one soldiers in the round, taking into account the difficult circumstances of that war and the spectrum of cases

involved. Given the lack of information in many cases, I believe that it would not be fair to consider each case on an individual basis. However, it is now appropriate to show compassion by seeking a statutory group pardon for those individuals executed for cowardice, desertion and similar offences.

Military Losses

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on UK military losses in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [90826]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* As at 12 September 2006, 40 British forces personnel have died serving on Operation Herrick, the UK military operation in Afghanistan, which began in November 2001 and 118 British forces personnel have died serving on Operation Telic, the UK military operation in Iraq, which began in March 2003.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the Government will take urgent action to provide additional protection to Land Rovers being operated by the armed forces. [91015]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The electronic counter-measures fitted to Land Rovers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the tactics employed in the use of the vehicles are updated as appropriate as the threat evolves. Weight constraints mean it is not possible to provide additional armour. I announced in my statement on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 74WS the procurement of almost 400 vehicles with improved protection for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, including Mastiff (also known as Cougar), Vector and up-armoured FV430. These will provide commanders with a range of vehicles of varying protection, mobility and profile, to be used according to operational circumstances.

Nuclear Deterrent

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral answer of 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 587, on the nuclear deterrent, whether his Department has completed its assessment relating to the future of Trident including non-replacement; and whether he expects to issue a White Paper on the future of the nuclear deterrent. [90839]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* I have nothing further to add to the answers I gave on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 586, to the hon. Member for Cheadle (Mark Hunter), and to my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins), *Official Report*, column 592.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to initiate a public consultation regarding the future of the Trident weapons system. [91011]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 592-93, to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) and my hon. Friend the Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins).

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest estimate is of the cost of the replacement of the Trident nuclear missile system. [91076]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 586W, to the hon. Member for Cheadle (Mark Hunter).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum/Immigration

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Department will reach a decision on the immigration application of Fouzia Ilyas, ref. no. J1071072668. [90546]

Mr. Byrne: *[holding answer 12 September 2006]:* I refer to my written answer on 5 September 2006 confirming that Ms Ilyas was notified of a decision on her application on 18 January 2005 when at the same time her documents were returned to her home address.

British Crime Survey

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of crimes which may be omitted from the British Crime Survey due to crimes defined as victimless being excluded; and if he will make a statement. [90570]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September 2006]:* The recorded crime statistics collect details of certain victimless crimes which come to the attention of the police and are recorded by them but which are not included in the British Crime Survey. Specific examples of offences are possession of weapons, threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage and Drug offences. In addition, there are certain victimless crimes in various offence classifications but they cannot be separately identified from other crimes where there is a victim. For example, a breach of a sex offender order can be deemed to be victimless but cannot be separately identified from other offences involving a victim which are also recorded under the crime classification 'Offences against the State and Public Order'. For this reason, it is not possible to provide an estimate of victimless crimes.

Correspondence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Woking concerning Mr. B. Fensome, ref M27866/5. [91165]

Joan Ryan: A reply was sent to the hon. Member for Woking on 14 September 2006 from Kevin Sheehan, deputy director of service delivery for the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) under delegated authority. Mr. Sheehan has apologised for this lengthy delay.

The original correspondence dated 14 November 2005 was received in the Home Office on 16 November but was then mislaid due to an administrative error.

Departmental Staff

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the senior civil service in his Department in pay band *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three were (i) women and (ii) from ethnic minorities in each of the last five years. [88912]

Mr. Byrne: The percentage of senior civil service in the Department in pay band *(a)* one *(b)* two and *(c)* three were women (i) women and (ii) from ethnic minorities in the last five years is given in the following tables.

Recorded female staff in the SCS

As at:	Pay band 1	Pay band 2	Percentage Pay band 3
1 April 2006	30.70	25.50	54.50
16 March 2005	28.50	24.50	30
19 April 2004	28.10	27.50	40
15 January 2003	27.80	25	40
17 April 2002	25.40	27.30	40

Breakdown for staff from ethnic minorities in the SCS

Area[1]	Year	(a) Pay band 1	(b) Pay band 2	Percentage (c) Pay band 3
Central HO—including Immigration and Nationality Directorate	31 March 2006	3.06	4.30	25
	31 March 2005	4.48	11.50	0
	31 March 2004		[4]10	
	31 March 2003		[4]2.74	
	31 March 2002		[4]1.32	
	31 March 2001		[4]0.84	
HM Prison Service	30 June 2006	8	0	0
	30 June 2005	5	0	0
	30 June 2004	0	8	0
	30 June 2003	5	7	0
	30 June 2002	[2]5	[3]7	0
	20 June 2002	[2]—	[3]—	0

[1] Ethnicity data is calculated in different ways for the two areas of the Home Office.
[2] Total 5 per cent.
[3] Total 7 per cent. *Note:* The scope of Prison Service data includes all staff in the pay band the rest of the Home Office includes only staff whose ethnicity is known. Ethnicity data is not available for SCS staff in Identity and Passport Service or the Criminal Records Bureau.
[4] This figure is based on all 3 Pay Bands.

Parliamentary Questions

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he will reply to Question 73534, on holding in open prisons of those awaiting deportation, tabled by the hon. Member for Ashford for answer on 24 May 2006; [88267]

(2) when he will reply to Question *(a)* 73532, on those awaiting deportation, *(b)* 73533, on people awaiting deportation in open prisons, *(c)* 73531, on deportation of asylum seekers and *(d)* 73526 on the costs of tracking and detaining foreign criminals tabled by the hon. Member for Ashford for answer on 24 May 2006. [88239]

Mr. Byrne: The hon. Member has received replies to all of these questions.

Police

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government would permit the voluntary amalgamation of two police forces located in different English regions. [90589]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced on 19 June that we would not be proceeding with the mergers of police forces planned by my predecessor and this position has not changed. On 31 July, I invited police forces and police authorities, in the absence of plans to create strategic forces through amalgamation, to investigate further opportunities for greater collaboration and he made it clear that Government regional office boundaries should be respected but they should not be seen as inviolate in that context.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs were incurred by West Mercia Police Authority (WMPA) in its work on the proposed amalgamation of West Mercia into a West Midlands Regional Force; and if he will reimburse WMPA for the costs incurred. [90664]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September 2006]:* West Mercia Police Authority has submitted a claim to the Home Office for £89,060.59 for the additional expenditure it incurred in relation to the consideration of the options for restructuring in the West Midlands region. We are currently considering this claim, and those received from other forces and authorities, and will respond as soon as possible.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers transferred to the Metropolitan police from each other police force in each of the last three years; and how many transferred from the Metropolitan police force to other police forces in each year. [91208]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is provided in the following table.

It is not possible to identify from which forces officers have transferred from or which forces they transfer to once they leave the Metropolitan police.

Police officers (full-time equivalent) transfers into and out of the Metropolitan police service by year, 2004 to 2006

As at 31 March	Transferring in[1]	Transferring out[2]
2004	319	388
2005	351	257
2006	182	475

[1] Includes transfers from NCIS/NCS and from non-Home Office forces e.g. BTP.
[2] Includes transfers to NCIS/NCS and to non-Home Office forces in England, Wales or abroad.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time police officers there were serving in the northern division of Cambridgeshire constabulary on 31 March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [91086]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The information requested is set out in the following table. It additionally shows the number of police community support officers for the northern division. The deployment to divisions and to other specialist operational units is a matter for the chief constable of Cambridgeshire. I understand from the chief constable that in 2004-05 the force established a major investigations team and officers reporting lines were transferred from northern division to the investigations directorate. Also due to boundary changes officers transferred from the northern division to the central division with the realignment of Yaxley.

Cambridgeshire constabulary—northern division

As at 31 March	Number of police officers	Number of police community support officers
2004	356	Not available
2005	308	28
2006	317	36

Prisons

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places at *(a)* closed prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions will be temporarily unavailable for accommodation during the 2006-07 financial year because of maintenance and refurbishment works; and if he will make a statement. [74795]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Offender Management Service plans a rolling refurbishment and maintenance programme for the whole prison estate. This results in between 1,500 and 2,000 places being taken out of use at any one time across the estate as individual projects are initiated and completed. This also includes open prisons.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young offenders he plans to release early from young offender institutions following the request from the Youth Justice Board; which offences those to be released early have committed; and what plans he has to ease overcrowding in the long-term. [90857]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 7 September 2006]:* The Youth Justice Board has not requested any change in the early release arrangements for young offenders under 18. Jointly with the Prison Service, the Board wrote to governors of young offender institutions on 27 July, asking them to ensure that young people who qualify for early release under the existing guidance are considered and approved as quickly as possible.

The Youth Justice Board is working with sentencers and youth offending teams to achieve greater consistency in sentencing practice across the country, which should reduce the number of young people sentenced to custody.

Public Enquiry Office (Croydon)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice he received from *(a)* officials and *(b)* Government Ministers on the terms of reference for the Report on Investigation into Allegations about the Public Enquiry Office in Croydon. [73697]

John Reid: The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality set out the terms of reference for the investigation on 9 January 2006 following advice from officials.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the investigation by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's Security and Anti-Corruption Unit into allegations made by Mr. Anthony Pamnani will report; and whether the report will be published. [73699]

John Reid: I refer the right hon. Member to Mr. Gbedemah's report on the investigation into allegations about practices within the Public Enquiry Office in Croydon, which was published on 14 March.

Recruitment (Police and Community Support Officers)

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the recruitment process for police community support officers; and if he will make a statement. [90951]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* We have consulted widely on the recruitment process for police community support officers, including the following organisations: the Association of Chief Police Officers, police forces, police staff associations, the central police training and development authority (Centrex), and the Association of Police Authorities. We have taken their comments into account in designing a national assessment process and agreeing national recruitment standards for PCSOs. These are being rolled out across forces during 2006-07.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the recruitment campaigns by the Metropolitan Police of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers on staffing levels in neighbouring police authorities. [90955]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The Home Office has not made any such assessments.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time is for consideration of *(a)* police community support officer and *(b)* police officer applications. [90981]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* This information is not held centrally.

Sudbury Open Prison

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of *(a)* stay and *(b)* sentence was of detainees in Sudbury Open Prison in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [91027]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Information on the average length of stay at Sudbury prison is not centrally available, and providing information based on manually stored records could be achieved only at disproportionate cost. The following table gives the population in Sudbury prison by sentence length band at 30 June in each year since 2002. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system and although shown to the last individual the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Sentence lengths of prisoners in Sudbury open prison as at 30 June each year

	< 12 months	*12 months <4 years*	*4 years +*	*Total*
2002	14	124	369	507
2003	2	117	396	515
2004	5	106	438	549
2005	28	123	374	525
2006	7	113	425	545

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detained in Sudbury Open Prison on the latest date for which figures are available; how many had been convicted of *(a)* murder, *(b)* grievous bodily harm, *(c)* sexual offences and *(d)* rape; and if he will make a statement. [91028]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* From data held on the prison IT system, there were 531 prisoners detained in Sudbury Open Prison on 31 July 2006, of whom 172 were held for offences of violence against the person. Information by individual category of offence is not available because the figures are small and the accuracy at this level of detail cannot be guaranteed. There were no prisoners held in Sudbury Open Prison for sexual offences including rape on that date. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system and although shown to the last individual may not be accurate to that level.

Terrorism

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested in the UK under anti-terrorism legislation in each year since 1 January 2001; how many were charged; for which offences; under which legislation; on which day into the period of their detention each of those charged were charged; how many of those arrested were released without charge; and on which day into the period of their detention of those released without charge were released. [90558]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 September 2006]:* Statistics compiled from police records show that between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2006, 997 people were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT). Of these people, 154 were charged with offences under TACT and 79 of these were also charged under other legislation.

A further 175 were charged with offences under other legislation. During this period 570 people were released without charge. The Home Office does not collate information on the length of time an individual is detained prior to being charged or released and this could not be obtained without disproportionate cost.

Yarl's Wood

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* nationality, *(b)* sex, *(c)* date of birth and *(d)* immigration status is of each of the seven detainees who escaped from Yarl's Wood following the fire on 14 February 2002 and whose whereabouts remain uncertain and what their current status within the UK is. [79191]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the information requested about the seven detainees who escaped and who remain out of touch with IND from Yarl's Wood, following the fire on the night of 14 February 2002 is set out in the following table.

Nationality	*Sex*	*DOB*	*Status at time of escape*	*Current status*
Sri Lanka	M	27 April 1982	Illegal entrant. Appeal rights exhausted 19 April 2001	Appeal rights exhausted
Yugoslavia/Serbia	M	1 February 1971	Asylum refused 11 January 2001	Asylum refused
Ukraine	M	22 May 1976	Asylum pending	Asylum refused 14 February 2005
Algeria	M	15 July 1974	Illegal entrant. Appeal rights exhausted 9 February 2001	Appeal rights exhausted
India	M	9 February 1966	Overstayer-Asylum refused 19 August 2001—appeal pending	Appeal rights exhausted on 12 April 2002
Yugoslavia/Albania	M	18 June 1983	Illegal entrant—Asylum refused 21 June 2001	Asylum refused
Bulgaria	M	21 April 1979	No details available	No details available

HEALTH

Acute Hospital Budgets

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of the overall budget for acute hospital expenditure for each primary care trust has been spent purchasing *(a)* procedures and treatment from independent providers operating within the UK and *(b)* for patients who have travelled outside the UK for treatment in the last five years. [87659]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The expenditure is not separately identified from the annual financial returns of primary care trusts.

Advertising Campaigns

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advertising campaigns the Department has run between 2000 and June 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [87062]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following tables set out the advertising campaigns commissioned by the Department's Communications Directorate for the financial years 2000-01 to 2003-04, showing the date and cost.

2000-01

Campaign	*Date*	*Advertising cost (£ million)*
Antibiotics		—
CALM		—
Drugs (Joint campaign with HO)	February 2001	0.5
Flu	September 2000	2.01
Immunisation		—
Mind Out		—
NHS Careers including nurse recruitment	February 2001	4.90
NHS Direct	September 2000	0.11

2000-01

Campaign	*Date*	*Advertising cost (£ million)*
Organ donation	February 2001	0.43
Sexwise/teenage pregnancy	March 2001	1.5
Sexual Health	—	—
Social Care/Worker Recruitment	—	—
Smoking	June 2000	8.97
TB Awareness	—	—
Winter(Get the Right Treatment, Ask about Medicines Day)	October 2000	2.03

2001-02

Campaign	*Date*	*Advertising cost (£ million)*
Antibiotics	January 2003	0.44
CALM	March 2002	0.05
Drugs (Joint campaign with HO)	—	—
Flu	October 2001	1.45
Immunisation	July 2001	0.67
Mind Out	March 2002	0.13
NHS Careers including nurse recruitment	February 2002	5.0
NHS Direct	September 2001	1.08
Organ donation	March 2002	0.18
Sexwise/teenage pregnancy	September 2001	2.0
Sexual Health	December 2001	0.3
Social Care/Worker Recruitment	October 2001	0.832
Smoking	July 2001	7.79
TB Awareness	March 2002	0.30
Winter(Get the Right Treatment, Ask about Medicines Day)	October 2001	0.16

2002-03

Campaign	*Date*	*Advertising cost (£ million)*
Antibiotics	February 2003	0.44
CALM	March 2003	0.13
Drugs (Joint campaign with HO)	May 2002	1.52
Flu	October 2002	2.0
Immunisation	May 2002	1.0
Mind Out	Mar 03	0.16
NHS Careers including nurse recruitment	March 2003	4.225
NHS Direct	September 2002	0.58
Organ donation	April 2002	0.22
Sexwise/teenage pregnancy	April 2002	1.6
Sexual Health	December 2002	1.5
Social Care/Worker Recruitment	May 2002	1.24
Smoking	June 2002	7.87
TB Awareness	April 2003	0.09
Winter(Get the Right Treatment, Ask about Medicines Day)	July 2002	0.25

2003-04

Campaign	*Date*	*Advertising cost (£ million)*
Antibiotics	March 2004	0.42
CALM	—	—
Drugs (Joint campaign with HO)	February 2004	1.5
Flu	October 2003	1.6
Immunisation	April 2003	2.0
Mind Out	—	—
NHS Careers including nurse recruitment	April 2003	4.9
NHS Direct	September 2003	0.75
Organ donation	—	—
Sexwise/teenage pregnancy	April 2003	2.0
Sexual Health	May 2003	1.5
Social Care/Worker Recruitment	May 2003	4.62
Smoking	April 2003	17.34
TB Awareness	—	—
Winter(Get the Right Treatment, Ask about Medicines Day)	November 2003	1.75

Ambulance Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulances are employed by the Sussex Ambulance Service; and what projections she has made about the number of ambulances which will be required if Worthing hospital accident and emergency department were to close. [91169]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Care Homes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes *(a)* exceeded, *(b)* met, *(c)* almost met and *(d)* failed to meet (i) the national minimum standard for complaints procedures and (ii) Regulation (A) 5 and (B) 6 of the Care Homes Regulations 2001 in 2005-06. [88511]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I am informed by the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that data are collected on how care homes are meeting national minimum standards (NMS). CSCI inspects homes against the NMS to determine compliance with the Care Homes Regulations. Where the NMS are not met, this could indicate a breach of regulations and trigger a proportionate response from CSCI to ensure compliance.

CSCI has a range of enforcement powers it can use against homes that fail to meet the regulations. Ultimately, it can bring about the closure of homes that continually provide poor care.

Care Homes Regulations 5 and 6 set out requirements on information to be provided to people who use care homes. Regulation 22 sets out the requirements for complaints procedures. Compliance with these regulations is enforceable, subject to the following NMS being taken into account.

NMS—Care homes for Older People

Standard 1 (Information)

Standard 2 (Contracts)

Standard 16 (Complaints)

NMS—Care homes for Younger Adults (18-65)

Standard 1 (Information)

Standard 5 (Contracts)

Standard 22 (Concerns and Complaints)

The following table shows the performance of care homes against the relevant standards in 2005-06.

	Exceeded		*Met*		*Almost met*		*Failed to meet*	
2005-06	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Care homes for older people								
Standard 1—Information	217	2	7769	76	1922	19	277	3
Standard 2—Contact	60	1	8440	84	1306	13	188	2
Standard 16—Complaints	111	1	9054	86	1228	12	162	2

2005-06	Exceeded		Met		Almost met		Failed to meet	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Care homes for younger adults								
Standard 1—Information	213	3	5275	74	1427	20	188	3
Standard 5—Needs Assessment	90	1	5383	77	1265	18	261	4
Standard 22—Concerns and Complaints	131	2	6181	84	936	13	85	1

Note:
The information in the table does not cover all care homes, as not all care homes are inspected against every standard in a given year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1210W, on care homes, where the work of the organisations mentioned overlaps. [88543]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) inspects services against the national minimum standards (NMS) and regulations under the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Care Homes Regulations 2001. There is no overlap of CSCI inspections against these regulations with any other organisation.

However, the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 allows for joint working between CSCI and the Audit Commission and requires that CSCI co-operates and consults with the Healthcare Commission.

The Care Homes Regulations and NMS include requirements relating to the health and safety of residents, staff and visitors. Some of these requirements may complement those in other regulations, for example, those governing fire safety and environmental health inspections. These requirements are clearly set out in guidance under each respective organisation responsible for making inspections.

If there is concern over a particular service, CSCI may plan a joint inspection with another agency. However, inspection against and enforcement of other regulations is the statutory duty of the organisations responsible for them, not CSCI.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes for older people *(a)* exceeded, *(b)* met, *(c)* almost met and *(d)* failed to meet (i) Standard 12 and (ii) Standard 15 of the National Minimum Standards in 2005-06. [88836]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I understand from the Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection that the number of care homes for older people that exceeded, met, almost met and failed to meet Standard 12 and Standard 15 of the National Minimum Standards—Care Homes for Older People in 2005-06, is as shown in the following table.

2005-06	Standard 12—contact and activities	Standard 15—meals and mealtimes
Exceeded		
Number	987	956
Percentage	9	9
Met		
Number	7,349	8,025
Percentage	70	76
Almost met		
Number	1,945	1,415
Percentage	18	13
Failed to meet		
Number	270	133
Percentage	3	1

Note:
The information in the table does not cover all care homes for older people, as not all care homes are inspected against every standard in a given year.

Child Behavioural Problems (Treatment)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the early intervention procedures for children with challenging behavioural problems at Bedfordshire and Luton Community NHS Trust learning disability service. [88024]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for primary care trusts to assess and commission services to meet the needs of the population that they serve.

Choose and Book

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, on the Choose and Book system, what budget has been set to cover the administrative costs of the *(a)* Choose and Book, *(b)* Choice and *(c)* whole direct enhanced service system for (i) its introduction and (ii) each projected year it is planned to operate; [75198]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 634W, on the Choose and Book system, what central departmental budget has been set for the *(a)* Choice and *(b)* Choose and Book expected costs (i) for administrative and other staff, (ii) incurred

by consultants and acute trusts, (iii) for other computer software and hardware not directly associated with the NHS Connecting for Health Agency and (iv) for other administrative infrastructure for each year the programme is budgeted to operate. [85217]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No such budgets have been set by the Department. The setting of local budgets for the administration of Choose and Book, Choice and the direct enhanced service system is a matter for local decision making.

Colchester General Hospital

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals she has to fund the planned expansion of Colchester general hospital; and if she will make a statement. [90996]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Essex Rivers Hospital NHS Trust Board considered revised proposals for the development of the Colchester general hospital site when it met on 11 September. The Department has not yet been approached by the Trust with any revised plans.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hon. Members have made representations to her about the decision not to proceed with the proposed private finance initiative expansion of Colchester general hospital. [90997]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Representations have been received from the hon. Member for Colchester in the form of parliamentary questions.

Computing Equipment

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* USB (i) flash drives and (ii) memory sticks, *(b)* compact discs, *(c)* DVD-ROM discs, *(d)* laptop computers, *(e)* external computer hard drives, *(f)* internal computer hard drives and *(g)* desktop computers were purchased for use in her Department in each month since March 2005. [88759]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information provided does not cover executive agencies, other arms length bodies or NHS Connecting for Health.

The information requested is contained in the following table.

	Universal serial bus Memory stick/flash drives	*(d) Laptop computers*	*(e) External computer hard drives*	*(f) Internal computer hard drives*	*(g) Desktop computers*
March 2005	32	50	0	0	313
April 2005	133	9	0	0	4
May 2005	15	37	0	15	5
June 2005	38	59	0	30	6
July 2005	11	43	0	6	18
August 2005	38	23	0	22	0
September 2005	45	56	0	0	5
October 2005	76	4	2	20	17
November 2005	33	6	0	0	3
December 2005	36	15	0	62	2
January 2006	31	16	0	96	60
February 2006	63	16	6	30	31
March 2006	272	712	1	10	754
April 2006	10	2	0	8	1
May 2006	27	1	0	8	30
June 2006	5	0	0	18	4

The Department's purchasing records do not differentiate between flash drives and memory sticks and therefore the figures provided are a combination of both.

Purchases of Compact Discs (CD) and DVD-ROM discs are made from stationery suppliers and are regarded as consumable items and not as assets. Therefore these figures are not available.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many criminal offences her Department has created by Orders in Council in each year since 1997. [88471]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is power in section 60 of the Health Act 1999 to make provision in relation to the regulation of the health care professions by Order in Council, including an implicit power, under paragraph 6 of Schedule 3 to that Act, to create a criminal offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding the amount specified as level 5 on the standard scale. However, such an Order may only be made after a draft of the Order has been subject to a period of three months public consultation and then approved by a vote of each House of Parliament and, if the Order covers matters within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, of the Scottish Parliament.

This power has been exercised, using the procedure described above, to create 13 new criminal offences. The years in which this was done are shown as follows:

	Number
1997-98	[1]0
1999	0
2000	0
2001	0
2002	[2]10
2003	0
2004	0
2005	3
2006	0

[1] The power was not in existence
[2] One of which is not yet in force

Of the 13 provisions containing new offences, seven were expressed in similar terms to earlier offences in legislation that the Orders in Council revoked. In addition, the Orders in Council under section 60 contained a further eight modifications to existing offences.

Dentistry

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received regarding the availability of NHS dentists in Wirral South. [91142]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has received 11 letters from hon. Members and members of the public relating to access to NHS dental services in the Wirral in the last 12 months.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received regarding the role of Denplan in relation to the availability of NHS dentists in *(a)* Wirral South, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* England. [91143]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not keep data on the precise number of representations received on a specific issue.

Departmental Initiatives

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the departmental initiatives for each year since 2000 which required bids for funding from *(a)* voluntary organisations and *(b)* local authorities together with the total resource allocated to each initiative in each year; how many successful bids there were in each year; what proportion this figure represents of the total bids received; and what assessment she has made of the costs of (i) preparing bids for each initiative and (ii) assessing those bids. [66018]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: For 2006-07, the Department will make available a total of just over £1,590 million of revenue funding through specific formula grants. Of this, £1,583 million will be allocated directly by the Department, and £7.5 million by other Government Departments.

The vast majority of personal social services grants are allocated on a formula basis to local authorities. The table sets out those revenue grants for which the Department has responsibility which have required bids for funding from local authorities with social service responsibilities. There are only two, both of which started in 2006-07:

£ million

	Grant	
	Partnerships for Older People Projects (POPP)	*Individual budget pilots*
2000-01	—	—
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	—	—
2003-04	—	—
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	—
2006-07	[1]20	[2]6
2007-08	[3, 4]40	[4]6

[1] 144 applicants, 19 successful.
[2] 75 applicants, 13 successful.
[3] Of which £21,291,195 already announced to be allocated to the 19 round 1 POPP local authorities for the second year of 2-year projects.
[4] Allocation tbc.

Note:
No formal assessment has been made of either the cost of submitting or assessment of these bids.

The information for the voluntary sector is not readily available and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs. The only information that is readily available since 2000 is the annual total value of approved section 64 General Scheme of Grants and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) on 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1710W.

Departmental Staff (Criminal Activity)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of her Department's employees have been *(a)* dismissed, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* subject to disciplinary action for criminal activity in each year since 1997. [88462]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Disability Equality

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* information gathering and *(b)* other actions (i) her Department and (ii) other bodies are taking to inform the production of the report on progress towards disability equality within the health policy sector; [91181]

(2) whether she has made an assessment of which policy areas will be considered in her report on progress towards disability equality within the health policy sector due to be published in December 2008; [91182]

(3) what steps were taken to involve disabled people in the production of her Department's disability equality scheme. [91183]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will publish its disability equality scheme in December this year, and disabled members of staff will be involved as it is

prepared. We are considering the policy areas that will be considered in the report on progress towards disability equality that will be published in 2008, and the information-gathering and other actions the Department or other bodies will take to inform the content of that report.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid to her Department from the access to work scheme for adjustments for disabled staff in the last year for which figures are available; from what budget she plans to meet the costs of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff following withdrawal of access to work funding for central Government Departments; and if she will make a statement. [89007]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect the numbers of disabled staff receiving adaptations and equipment paid for by access to work.

Experimental Treatments

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trust hospitals have rented *(a)* all and *(b)* part of their wards to pharmaceutical companies for experimental treatments in the last 12 months. [91226]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trust hospitals have taken part in Phase III trials of pharmaceuticals; which *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* pharmaceutical companies were involved; and what income was received by each trust. [91227]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: For the period from September 2004 to September 2006, 260 United Kingdom hospitals have taken part in Phase III clinical trials of medicinal products. A table listing these hospitals has been placed in the Library. The number of pharmaceutical companies sponsoring Phase III clinical trials in the same time period is 215. These include companies based in the UK, other European Union member states and in non-European countries. A table listing these companies has been placed in the Library. Income accruing from the participation of trust hospitals in commercial clinical trials of medicinal products is not held centrally.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what insurance an NHS hospital trust holds for compensation claims incurred by private companies renting NHS wards. [91228]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service hospital trusts do not obtain commercial insurance cover for compensation claims incurred by private companies renting NHS wards. However, it is normal for the NHS to ask private companies in these circumstances to obtain their own indemnity cover.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost to the NHS was of treating patients at Northwick Park who took part in the experimental testing set up by Parexel. [91280]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

General Hospitals

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of each county's largest town or city does not have a general hospital. [91201]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All of the largest towns for each county in England, as defined by their urban population, have a general acute hospital locally with the exception of Rutland which has access to one close by in the neighbouring county.

The location of all health care services depends on many factors including population density, service need, value for money, geography and transport links. Any decisions on the location of health care services will be taken locally and will be reviewed over time to ensure they remain optimal.

Health Care Procedures

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was of health care procedures in *(a)* independent sector treatment centres and *(b)* on the NHS tariff in 2005-06. [79677]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national tariff is a price indicator to be paid to national health service organisations for health care procedures and not a cost indicator. The national tariff is published on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk.

Across the full period of the wave one independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) contracts, the average percentage cost above the NHS equivalent cost of all wave one ISTCs is 11.2 per cent. and compares favourably with the historical cost of the NHS of spot purchasing from the independent sector.

Health Information Campaigns

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department has spent on public health information campaigns on *(a)* sexual health and *(b)* safe alcohol consumption in each year from 1997 to 2005. [89090]

Caroline Flint: The following table sets out the cost of public health information campaigns and publicity on sexual health, teenage pregnancy and alcohol in each year from 1997 to 2005.

£ million

	Sexual Health	*Teenage Pregnancy*	*Alcohol*
1997-98	0	0.79	—
1998-99	0	0.84	—
1999-2000	0	1.18	—
2000-01	0	5.35	—
2001-02	0.3	2.74	—

£ million

	Sexual Health	Teenage Pregnancy	Alcohol[1]
2002-03	1.5	1.97	0.097
2003-04	1.6	2.15	0.045
2004-05	1.27	0	0.342
2005-06	0.62	0	0.064

[1] There has been no major campaign expenditure on alcohol consumption in the financial years 1997-2005, so costs given relate to literature and website activity only. However the Department of Health and Home Office are developing a joint alcohol communications campaign for launch in October 2006. The Department is contributing £2 million to the cost of this campaign.

We only have financial information on alcohol expenditure for the last four years, as figures pre-2002-03 were held on an old financial system, which is no longer accessible.

Home Oxygen Provision

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the provision of home oxygen cylinders in Kent. [91041]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 September 2006]*: Following difficulties experienced in meeting the demand for home oxygen cylinders, especially standard and lightweight ambulatory cylinders, arrangements have now been made to make more cylinders available. The majority of patients in the two regions in the South East of England serviced by Allied Respiratory have transferred to the new supplier. Remaining patients are continuing to receive their oxygen cylinders through community pharmacies and are expected to transfer to Allied Respiratory over the next few weeks. Strategic health authorities and primary care trusts continue to monitor the situation and work with the supplier and clinicians to ensure patient's needs are met.

Hospital Meals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital meals were left untouched in each year since 2001-02; and what this figure represents as a percentage of the total number of patient main meals in each year. [91116]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total number of patient meals reported untouched in each year since 2001-02 together with the percentage of the total number of patient meals are as follows:

	Untouched meals (Number)	Untouched meals (Percentage of total meals)
2001-02	12,498,786	8.86
2002-03	15,501,471	10.44
2003-04	17,396,869	10.71
2004-05	13,128,964	10.21
2005-06	13,622,984	9.75

These data are derived from the estates return information collection returns provided by trusts in England.

The percentage of untouched meals is defined as:

plated meal systems: the number (calculated over the full menu cycle or seven days where no menu cycle is used) of untouched/unserved patient meals remaining at the end of the meals service period expressed as a percentage of the total number of meals provided and available at the commencement of the meal service period; and

bulk systems: an apportionment of remaining meals based on visual inspection expressed as percentage of the total number of meals able to be served.

A patient meal is defined as either a breakfast, midday or evening meal order (or any substitute or alternative for any such meals) received from a patient (wards and departments) or the number of similar meals provided to wards and departments as an estimate of need where order systems are not in use.

The data provided have not been amended centrally and the accuracy of the data is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Hospitality Expenses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by her Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77265]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect this information at present, and has no need to do so. All expenditure by the Department is conducted in accordance with the principles of the Treasury manual "Government Accounting".

Intravenous Adrenaline

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on supplies to the NHS of intravenous adrenaline; what the content of these representations was; which companies supply intravenous adrenaline to the NHS; and if she will make a statement on the supply of intravenous adrenaline to NHS organisations. [91114]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department and National Health Service Purchasing and Supply Agency are aware that there have been problems with the supply of adrenaline injection in pre-filled syringes, and have had representations from NHS pharmacists alerting them to the problem.

Adrenaline injection in pre-filled syringes is available from Cardinal Health and UCB Pharma Ltd., and in ampoules from Cardinal Health, Hameln Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Goldshield Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

The shortage of adrenaline in pre-filled syringes arose due to a packaging problem with one of Cardinal's other products, which had a knock-on effect. The problem has been resolved, and Cardinal say that stocks of adrenaline in pre-filled syringes will be fully replenished within the next two months. Adrenaline in pre-filled syringes is also available from UCB Pharma Ltd. There is no shortage of adrenaline injection in ampoules.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value was of each IT contract awarded by her Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88988]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information provided does not cover executive agencies, other arm's length bodies or NHS Connecting for Health.

The names of the contractors and value of each information technology contract awarded by the Department in each of the last five years are:

1. Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC)—The information management services agreement, outsourced support for the Department's IT desktop services and infrastructure

	Value (£ million)
2002-03	7.65
2003-04	8.85
2004-05	8.77
2005-06	7.47
2006-07	[1]7.60

[1] Forecast charges

Transformation of the infrastructure formed a separate part of the agreement. The outturn cost was a further £12.6 million.

CSC also undertake IT infrastructure project work in support of the integrity, enhancement and resilience of the infrastructure in line with changing technologies. They also administer expenditure for IT services on behalf of the Department, for example British Telecom costs for the wide area network and business ports, and audio conferencing and mobile telephone costs. These project and pass-through costs are listed as follows.

	Value (£ million)
2002-03	12.88
2003-04	18.32
2004-05	20.06
2005-06	21.82
2006-07	[1]21

[1] Forecast charges

2. Cap Gemini—Finance system agreement

2004-05: £5.6 million.

3. IBM—Corporate software agreement

2004-05: A three year contract with three annual payments totalling £1.4 million.

4. Xansa—Web content management and hosting service

2006-07: The value of this contract over the next five years is £6 million.

5. BT—External applications hosting

This annually renewable contract is for an application hosting provision designed to be scaleable to meet the requirements of the Department. The charges represent the fluctuation in these requirements. The annual charges were:

	Value (£ million)
2002-03	0.306
2003-04	0.5
2004-05	0.374
2005-06	0.3
2006-07	0.3

6. EDS—Web and application hosting services

	Value (£000)
2002-03	162
2003-04	202
2004-05	229

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which IT contracts awarded by her Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88989]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not abandoned any IT contracts in the last five years.

Maternity Services

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospitals had more than 4,000 births in the last year for which figures are available; [91198]

(2) whether it is her policy that maternity hospitals should plan for over 4,000 births a year. [91199]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service maternity statistics for the year 2004-05 indicate that there were 51 hospitals with over 4,000 deliveries registered.

It is for local NHS trusts to decide on the best pattern of maternity service provision, taking into account their local population needs, evidence of effectiveness and available resources, and having followed appropriate procedures including consultation locally.

Mental Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by her Department on providing information and literature to patients suffering from mental illness about the linked dangers of drugs in the last period for which figures are available. [88013]

Caroline Flint: The cross-government drugs information campaign, FRANK, funded by the Department, Home Office and Department for Education and Skills communicates, primarily to young people aged 11-24, all the known harmful effects of illegal drugs including potential effects on mental health.

The FRANK helpline, website www.talktofrank.com, television and radio advertising and information literature all include reference to substances for which there is evidence that mental health could be adversely affected, although the campaign does not specifically target people suffering from mental health problems. We are therefore

unable to isolate and provide specific costings for delivery of mental health messages within the totality of FRANK messaging.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she last met her Scottish counterpart; and what subjects were discussed. [88766]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers have regular dialogues with ministerial colleagues in the Scottish Executive, discussing a wide range of issues of mutual interest. It is not our practice to disclose details of such meetings, however, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State last met the Scottish Health Minister on 11 October 2005.

New Hospitals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's press release of 18 August 2006, "Go-ahead for billion pound-plus wave of new NHS Hospitals", when she expects each of the schemes mentioned in the press release to reach financial close. [90990]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 September 2006]*: It is currently anticipated that the schemes announced on 18 August will reach financial close by the following time periods:

University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust, spring 2007

South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, autumn 2008

Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust, spring 2007

Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust, spring 2007

Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust, autumn 2007

University Hospital Leicester NHS Trust, spring 2008

Dates for financial close cannot be predicted with absolute certainty and the estimates given here may change as the projects develop.

NHS Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department received earlier estimates from each strategic health authority (SHA) regarding the forecast year-end financial position of each SHA's health community in 2006-07 as at month three of 2006-07, which were different from those which were published in the quarter one financial data for 2006-07 on 11 August 2006. [91186]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 2006-07 quarter one report published the estimated forecast year-end position for the national health service, as at the end of June 2006.

Reflecting both good financial practice and our performance management regime, NHS financial data are subject to review and quality assurance as part of the normal data collection process.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total budgeted spend of each NHS trust was for *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* the latest proposed budgeted spend for 2007-08. [91239]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect budget information from national health service trusts. On the basis of information that is available, we have provided the following tables which have been placed in the Library:

Table 1: NHS trusts' final accounts surplus/deficit position for 2004-05;

Table 2: NHS trusts' provisional outturn for 2005-06; and,

Table 3: NHS trusts' forecast outturn for 2006-07 as at quarter 1 (end of June 2006).

No data are available for 2007-08.

NHS Outsourcing

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations outsource administrative services to overseas providers; from where such services are provided; what their total cost was in 2005-06; what steps her Department has taken to promote quality controls in respect of those that involve the inputting of patient data and the drafting of letters to patients; and if she will review the operation of such contracts. [91266]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected centrally in the form requested. However, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey (Derek Wyatt) on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 620W.

NHS Service Provision (Changes)

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received regarding proposed service provision changes at *(a)* Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth hospital, Woolwich and *(c)* Bexley Care Trust. [87767]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last six months, two letters have been received by the Department about the future of paediatric diabetes services at Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup. No other representations have been received about proposed service provision changes at Queen Elizabeth hospital or Bexley Care Trust.

Nurses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses completed their training in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and how many have not been able to find jobs. [91249]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Parliamentary Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to make copies of deposited papers available in the *(a)* Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [81178]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W.

PCT (Leeds)

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ensure that savings released by the amalgamation of primary care trusts (PCT) in Leeds are reinvested in services in the new Leeds PCT area. [91265]

Ms Rosie Winterton: After completion, the reconfiguration is expected to deliver savings of £250 million every year for reinvestment in frontline services. Primary care trusts are likely to prioritise investments in the manifesto commitments such as additional palliative care services, improving access to cancer services and developments in mental health services.

The savings are expected to be realised by the end of 2007 and then every year for reinvestment beginning in 2008-09. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) have been asked to oversee the generation of the savings locally. Each SHA has a cost envelope that it should realise but it is for local determination to work out the best way of achieving these savings.

Pharmacies

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Department is taking in conjunction with the medicines and health regulatory authority to introduce risk-based regulation for *(a)* wholesale and *(b)* dispensing pharmacies. [90987]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The European Commission in conjunction with the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union regulate the production and distribution of medicinal products within the European Economic Area with measures contained in Directive 2001/83/EC as amended relating to medicinal products for human use and their guidelines on good practices.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the Government body responsible for the safety and licensing of medicines in the United Kingdom has transposed the regulatory measures contained in Directive 2001/83/EC as amended in respect of the wholesale distribution of medicinal products for human use into the United Kingdom's national legislation for medicines for human use.

The MHRA inspects the facilities of licensed wholesale dealers of medicines to confirm compliance with the European Commission's guideline on good distribution practice and the United Kingdom's medicines regulations. As the risks associated with the distribution of some categories of medicines are significantly higher than others, different inspection frequencies are applied.

The approach taken to the regulation and inspection of pharmacies and the dispensing of medicines under the Medicines Act 1968 as amended, including the extent to which it is risk based, is the responsibility of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

Prescription Charges

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the cost of extending the list of medical conditions which are exempt from prescription charges to include mental illness. [91277]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No such assessment has been made. Many people suffering from mental illness will already be entitled to free prescriptions through the extensive exemption arrangements. Patients who are not exempt may purchase a prescription pre-payment certificate.

The charging arrangements have recently been examined by the Health Select Committee which has made a number of recommendations. We are considering these and will respond formally in due course.

Residential Rehabilitation (Drug Treatment)

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was provided to each London borough for the purpose of funding drug residential rehabilitation places in each of the last five years. [91164]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Residential drug rehabilitation is one of a number of different structured drug treatment interventions provided to meet the range of needs of drug users, with the remainder being: community-based general practitioner prescribing; community-based specialist prescribing; structured psychosocial interventions; structured day programmes; in-patient drug treatment; and other structured treatment. Drug Action Teams (DATs), have responsibility for commissioning drug treatment services based on assessment of local need. Drug treatment funding available to local DATs, including funding provided via the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB), is not divided between treatment types. Therefore, we are not able to provide the information requested.

Details of PTB allocations to all London boroughs between 2002-03 and 2006-07 are in the table.

£000

	PTB channelled through PCT				
DAT	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	777	1,019	1,149	1,430	1,849
Barnet	955	1,205	1,309	1,576	2,030
Bexley	600	759	827	997	1,287
Brent	1,417	1,909	2,201	2,795	3,605
Bromley	716	901	978	1,175	1,510

£000

DAT	PTB channelled through PCT				
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Camden	2,017	2,466	2,599	3,033	3,914
City of London	14	23	31	44	58
Croydon	1,212	1,565	1,738	2,135	2,753
Ealing	1,794	2,135	2,188	2,480	3,195
Enfield	1,093	1,458	1,669	2,104	2,704
Greenwich	1,449	1,867	2,070	2,538	3,261
Hackney	2,112	2,749	3,077	3,806	4,920
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,340	1,616	1,679	1,931	2,500
Haringey	1,547	2,096	2,430	3,099	3,988
Harrow	542	689	754	914	1,185
Havering	566	711	770	924	1,192
Hillingdon	888	1,038	1,043	1,157	1,494
Hounslow	861	1,041	1,084	1,250	1,612
Islington	2,451	2,950	3,059	3,511	4,507
Kensington and Chelsea	1,817	1,999	1,999	2,099	2,699
Kingston upon Thames	658	725	725	761	977
Lambeth	2,439	3,266	3,748	4,739	6,083
Lewisham	2,023	2,586	2,847	3,468	4,469
Merton	804	949	964	1,081	1,389
Newham	2,164	2,984	3,509	4,529	5,801
Redbridge	678	929	1,087	1,398	1,798
Richmond upon Thames	687	756	756	793	1,021
Southwark	2,274	3,052	3,510	4,446	5,739
Sutton	568	662	664	733	940
Tower Hamlets	1,988	2,731	3,202	4,124	5,272
Waltham Forest	958	1,357	1,630	2,141	2,733
Wandsworth	1,663	2,000	2,073	2,378	3,063
Westminster	2,729	3,002	3,002	3,152	4,042
London total[1]	43,801	55,195	60,371	72,741	93,590

[1] These figures do not include funding from local authority community care budgets, which fund many of the drug residential rehabilitation places. Local funding allocations are not collected at a national level so we are not able to provide a breakdown of this spend.

Security Passes

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in her Department by year since February 2004. [88564]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the Department, the following number of security passes have been reported lost or stolen:

2004-05: nil

2005-06: lost totalling 56, and

stolen totalling: 13.

St. Helier Hospital

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what inquiries her Department made concerning the *(a)* town and country planning advice on, *(b)* legal obstacles to and *(c)* affordability of the St. Helier option for siting a critical care hospital in coming to her decision set out in her letters of (i) 19 December 2005 and (ii) 16 August 2006; and if she will make a statement. [91125]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State considered advice from the local NHS and from officials, including from the solicitor's branch.

In August 2006 the chief executive of NHS London wrote to the Secretary of State outlining developments affecting the proposals for the new hospital at St. Helier. These included the financial position of the local primary care trusts and planning and legal restrictions affecting land at St. Helier. As a consequence, the Secretary of State withdrew her decision of 19 December 2005 and replied asking for a review of the proposals for the new critical care hospital, including the model of care and issues of affordability.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made following her decision in December 2005 to site a new hospital at St. Helier, Carshalton; and if she will make a statement. [91187]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In August 2006 the chief executive of NHS London wrote to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State outlining developments affecting the proposals for the new hospital at St. Helier. These included a change to the financial position of local primary care trusts and planning and legal restrictions affecting land at St. Helier. In consequence of these developments, the Secretary of State has withdrawn her decision of 19 December 2005 and has written to the chief executive of the London strategic health authority accepting his request for a review of the proposals for a new critical care hospital and the model of care for the area, including issues of affordability.

Staff Bonuses

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many performance-related bonuses were paid to staff in her Department in each year since 1997; and how much was spent by her Department on performance-related bonuses in each year. [91126]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has spent £1,065,069 on performance bonus payments to 690 staff in 2004-05. For 2005-06, the Department spent £1,065,759 on 589 employees and in 2006-07 £1,108,586 has been paid to 262 members of staff to the end of August.

Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will visit the Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust. [91200]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An invitation inviting the Secretary of State for Health to Worthing was received by the Department's ministerial visits unit on 14 September and is currently being processed. The invitation will be duly submitted to the Secretary of State for Health for consideration regarding availability.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business Support

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the 10 largest schemes were in monetary terms on the Small Business Service's Grants and Support Directory in 2005-06; what arrangements are in place to measure each scheme's *(a)* impact and *(b)* effectiveness; and if he will make a statement. [91224]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As part of the last Budget, the Government announced a cross-Government Business Support Simplification Programme to improve the provision of publicly funded business support. The programme will deliver easy-to-access Government support for business—targeted where it will have greatest impact and delivered to get best value for money. Part of the programme's work is to identify the funding across Government from which existing business support schemes flow.

The impact and effectiveness of existing schemes is monitored and evaluated by individual Departments, Agencies and local government. The programme will draw on this evidence, using a screening tool, which is currently being piloted by central Government and regional development agencies, to assess Government business support. This work will allow us to ensure that publicly funded support for small business is easier to access and continues to support the growth in start-ups and improve survival rates which are higher than a decade ago.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what support the Government provide for small businesses in addition to the schemes listed on the Small Business Service's Grants and Support Directory. [91256]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Small Business Service's Grants and Support Directory lists all central Government support schemes for business. It also lists the majority, but not all, of the support that is provided by regional and local government, and support that is available from voluntary and not-for-profit organisations.

The Government announced in this year's Budget statement (March 2006) that it has initiated a Business Support Simplification programme to reduce the number of central, regional and local schemes to less than 100 by 2010 thereby making it easier for small businesses to access the support they need while continuing the Government's commitment to support the entrepreneurial economy.

Cellulosic Ethanol

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what cost analysis he has undertaken on the development of cellulosic ethanol as an alternative fuel source; [91196]

(2) what steps he is taking to further the development of cellulosic ethanol as an alternative fuel source. [91197]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Cellulosic ethanol is a longer term option for transport biofuels.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will provide significant support to the biofuels industry by ensuring a stable, long-term market for the best biofuels. In designing and consulting on the RTFO the Government published supporting evidence on the costs and benefits of the proposed obligation. The obligation will also support innovation and help develop the lowest-carbon biofuels production methods.

In the longer term, we intend the RTFO to be able to encourage and reward the development and use of those biofuels (including cellulosic ethanol) which deliver the maximum carbon savings with the minimum environmental impact.

The Low Carbon Transport Innovations Strategy announced in the Energy Review will also act as a spur to low carbon transport technologies.

The Department's Technology Programme is also supporting next generation transport biofuels and has supported the following projects to date.

Contractor	*Title*	*DTI value (£)*
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	Technology Status Review and Carbon Abatement Potential for Renewable Transport Fuels in the UK	50,731
BLC Leather Technology Centre Ltd.	Hyperthermophilic Proteolytic Fermentation to Generate Ethanol as a Transport Fuel	110,087

Contractor	Title	DTI value (£)
BLC Leather Technology Centre Ltd.	Lipase Alcoholysis of Triglycerides to Produce Biodiesel	93,025
TMO Biotec Ltd.	Biofuel production from plant biomass derived sugars	234,080.00

The Department has also supported two Global Watch Missions on bioenergy and biofuels which have included work on next generation biofuels and been published in 2006. Both are available from the DTI Publications Unit.

Bioenergy: a scoping mission to the USA and Canada. (URN 06/829)

Global watch mission report: an overview of the current status and future trends of technology development in the area of bioenergy in the USA and Canada, and the relationships with the strategic direction of the US and Canadian federal state/ provincial governments

Next generation transport biofuels—a mission to the Netherlands, Germany and Finland. (URN 06/1112)

Global watch mission report to identify and evaluate new process technologies and feedstocks that offer the potential for improvements in the production of biofuels for diesel engine applications.

The UK is also a member of the International Energy Agency's collaboration on liquid biofuels (Task 39 of IEA Bioenergy)—with DTI funding the membership of British Sugar. The task brings together leading international researchers and industry pioneers looking to increase the penetration of biofuels for transportation into the commercial marketplace. The activities include the technical challenges of biofuel production, as well as the policy and regulatory issues that must be addressed in commercialisation.

Companies Bill

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) which *(a)* business and *(b)* trade organisations his Department has met to discuss the Companies Bill in the last 12 months; [91189]

(2) which *(a)* charities, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* non-governmental organisations his Department has met to discuss the Companies Bill in the last 12 months. [91195]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Companies Bill covers a large number of issues, and it would be disproportionate to seek to identify all those organisations with whom the Department has held discussions on different aspects of the Bill over the past 12 months. This has included a very wide range of bodies, including business organisations such as the CBI and Institute of Directors, experts and practitioners such as the Law Society, and other organisations such as the TUC and members of the Corporate Responsibility Coalition.

Default Costs

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish responses received by his Department from industry to the report on default charges relating to credit cards and other contracts; and what action he plans to take in reply to the report. [90925]

Mr. McCartney: The report on default charges is being conducted by the Office of Fair Trading. The OFT has already stated that it believed that credit card default charges had been generally set at a significantly higher level than was considered fair and set a £12 threshold for OFT intervention unless there were exceptional business factors. In response to this, credit card issuers have agreed to reduce their default charges—the majority by almost half.

As a result of subsequent reduction in charges across the market, the OFT is satisfied that no further intervention is warranted in this area at this time and that this change has brought about substantial benefits for consumers. The OFT remains of the view that the broad principles do read across to the retail banking area and has decided to undertake further work on the application of these principles to bank current accounts. This fact-finding exercise is expected to take between three to six months, at which stage the OFT will consider whether a further detailed investigation of the fairness of individual bank default charges is needed.

Design Council

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to ensure an appropriate level of funding for the work of the Design Council. [91175]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Design Council is a non-departmental public body co-sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department for Culture Media and Sport. It is funded by a grant in aid from the Department of Trade and Industry to enable it to deliver on its business plan. Funding under the Spending Review 2004 was set at over £6 million a year for the three years to 2007-08. In addition a further £2.5 million has been provided in the last three years to fund a pilot project on improving business performance through better use of design by businesses. The regional development agencies are contributing towards the roll-out of this programme in some regions. We are also encouraging the council to develop new revenue streams to enhance its income to support its skills, creative industries and design promotion programmes.

Energy Infrastructure

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how often the security of the principal domestic energy infrastructure is reviewed; [90583]

(2) when he last met the Home Secretary to discuss the adequacy of security measures to protect domestic energy infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [90584]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answers 11 September 2006]:* The Government have an ongoing programme of work relating to the protection of the UK's Critical National Infrastructure, including the energy sector. This work is overseen by the Protective Security and Resilience Sub-Committee of the Ministerial Committee on Defence and Overseas Policy (DOP(IT)(PSR)), which meets regularly under the chairmanship of the Home Secretary and is attended by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Export Licences

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the target time is within which decisions on export licences should be reached; and how many, and what proportion of applications were decided upon within the target period in each of the last three years for which information is available. [91260]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government publish information on the number of export licence applications they have processed, and their performance against target in doing so, in their annual reports on Strategic Export Controls. The Government also publish quarterly licensing and performance information on the Export Control Organisation website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/.

Gas Imports

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will require owners of interconnector capacity and of storage facilities to publish planned levels of utilisation of imported gas three months in advance. [90617]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* It is the responsibility of Ofgem, as independent regulator, to determine the information required for the effective operation of the market, working within the legislative framework set by Government.

Against this background, the following information is currently available, which balances the commercial needs of the companies concerned and the needs of the wider market.

Regulations are in place to ensure capacity holders on the interconnector release unutilised capacity to the secondary traded market as and when available. National Grid publishes storage levels with a one day lag. Utilisation of storage facilities, as with other supply sources, is the commercial decision of the capacity holders.

Ofgem also publish National Grid's Winter Outlook Report which contains aggregated supply and demand data, collected in consultation with industry, by supply source. This includes, but is not limited to, imported gas and storage capacities.

Intellectual Property

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Government have plans to introduce a new position of Minister for Intellectual Property. [90995]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Government have no plans, at present, to introduce a new Minister for Intellectual Property. Lord Sainsbury is the Minister with responsibility.

Oil and Gas Reserves

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the latest estimate is for total UK Continental Shelf oil and gas reserves; and what estimate he has made of the value of these reserves at *(a)* Budget forecast and *(b)* current world prices. [90565]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The Department of Trade and Industry publishes estimates of remaining UK Continental Shelf oil and gas reserves on its oil and gas website at http://www.og.dti.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/chapters/reserves_index.htm. The latest published estimate, of total proven plus probable plus possible reserves as at 1 January 2005, was 17.1 billion barrels of oil equivalent. The Department does not produce estimates of the value of these reserves.

Post Office

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Government expect to conclude their review of the future of the Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [91278]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are at present carefully considering options for the network beyond 2008, though we are not working to a fixed timetable.

Private Limited Companies

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many private limited companies there are in the UK with over 1,000 shareholders. [90645]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Companies provide information on their shareholders to Companies House. However, information on the number of shareholders which they have is not held in a form which would allow for an answer to this question to be provided except at disproportionate cost.

UK Accounting Firms

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he has taken to review the governance regime for the four largest UK accounting firms. [91188]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government published their review of the regulatory regime for the accounting profession in January 2003 alongside the report of the Co-ordinating Group on Audit and Accounting Issues. As a result of this review a new system of independent regulation was established under the Financial Reporting Council. Under these reforms, the Professional Oversight Board, a part of the Financial Reporting Council, has responsibility for the oversight of the regulation of the accountancy and audit professions as well as for monitoring the quality of audits of public interest entities, including those by the four largest UK accounting firms.

The new eighth Company Law Directive (2006/43/EC) on statutory audits was adopted on 17 May 2006. The DTI will be consulting in due course on the implementation of the directive.

The Companies Bill currently before Parliament includes a range of new measures relating to statutory auditors and audits.

TREASURY

Arms Imports

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* assault rifles and *(b)* other long-barrelled weapons sharing the same section 5 classifications originating from Bosnia and Herzegovina and entering the UK through the port of Immingham were declared to UK customs in (i) July 2005 and (ii) August 2005. [91113]

Dawn Primarolo: Due to taxpayer confidentiality HM Revenue and Customs cannot provide information about any specific imports.

Capital Gains Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Treasury of extending capital gains tax rollover relief to residential landlords; [91268]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of extending capital gains tax rollover relief to residential landlords; [91269]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of capital gains tax rollover relief being available for holiday lets but not residential landlords in areas where there is high demand for holiday accommodation as well as residential letting; [91270]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost of extending capital gains tax rollover relief to residential landlords as well as to those owning holiday lets. [91276]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government keep all aspects of the tax system under review.

There have been no estimates produced of the cost of extending capital gains tax rollover relief to residential landlords, or the impact of capital gains tax rollover relief being available for holiday lets but not residential landlords. Estimates could be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

Carbon Emissions Tax

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will veto the European Parliament proposal for an EU-wide tax on cars according to their carbon emissions. [91178]

John Healey: The Government will not agree to the proposal on passenger car related taxes, as amended by the European Parliament.

Cash Machines

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fee-charging cash machines were installed in Wirral in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [91140]

John Healey: According to data from LINK, an additional 21 fee-charging cash machines were installed in the Wirral over the 12 months to August 2006. However, an additional 26 free cash machines were also installed in the Wirral during the same period.

Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people from the new EU accession countries *(a)* have claimed and *(b)* are claiming tax credits at the latest available date. [91131]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 September 2006 to question 90547 from the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois).

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of fraudulent tax credits paid in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [91209]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1281-82, and to the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits: Error and fraud statistics 2003-04" and "Tackling error and fraud in the Child and Working Tax Credits" available on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/menus/techmenu.htm

TRANSPORT

Aircraft Hand Luggage

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department is making to the Civil Aviation Authority on the application to the instruments of professional musicians of the recent security restrictions on aircraft hand luggage. [91138]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport regulates aviation security in the UK. My officials have met representatives of professional musicians with the aim of working together to identify a way forward on this specific matter.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why musicians are not permitted to take their instruments on to aeroplanes. [91257]

Gillian Merron: My officials have met representatives of professional musicians to discuss their concerns and will be presenting new proposals to representatives of the aviation industry later this week aimed at lessening the burden on both passengers and operators.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the normal hand luggage rules for aeroplanes to be restored. [91258]

Gillian Merron: We continue to discuss with the aviation industry at all levels the operational implications of the current security measures and are working to identify as quickly as possible any practical steps that can be taken to lessen the operational burden while not compromising security. We will be presenting new proposals to industry representatives this week with the aim of lessening the burden on both passengers and operators.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the effect of the ban on normal size hand luggage from aeroplanes. [91259]

Gillian Merron: All measures are under constant review and we are gathering data on the current measures through our ongoing compliance activity. This is informing our urgent consideration of how the present arrangements might be adjusted.

Channel Tunnel (Freight Trains)

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of jobs that would be lost in freight yards at Crewe and Dollands Moor if subsidies for freight operating companies using the Channel Tunnel are withdrawn; what the cost for freight trains using the Channel Tunnel *(a)* is until 30 November and *(b)* will be after 30 November; and if he will make a statement on the plan to withdraw their subsidies. [91229]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has made no estimate of the number of jobs that would be lost at Crewe and Dollands Moor rail freight yards if subsidies for freight operating companies using the Channel Tunnel are withdrawn.

Under agreements signed between 1994 and 1996 and extended in June 2005 until 30 November 2006, the British Railways Board is responsible for paying Eurotunnel approximately £26 million per year on behalf of the rail freight company English Welsh and Scottish Railway International (EWSI) for guaranteed Minimum Usage Charges in respect of rail freight flows through the Channel Tunnel.

If EWSI continues to run freight trains through the Channel Tunnel under the terms of the existing usage contract after the funding agreement expires on 30 November 2006 it will be obliged to pay Eurotunnel usage tolls and operating expenses for the trains it operates. The charges for this will vary according to the number and type of services run each year.

Cycling

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to make it compulsory for children to wear safety helmets when riding bicycles. [91214]

Dr. Ladyman: We believe that it is sensible for cyclists, and especially children, to protect themselves by wearing a cycle helmet and it is our policy to encourage helmet wearing on a voluntary basis.

At current helmet wearing rates, making them compulsory would cause enforcement difficulties and, without greater public acceptance, could have an adverse effect on the levels of cycling. However, compulsion remains an option that we keep under review.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* adult and *(b)* child cyclists were (i) injured and (ii) killed in each of the last 10 years. [91217]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of adult and child cyclists, injured and killed, in the years up to 2004 are published in table 8.2 of Transport Statistics Great Britain: 2005. Cyclist casualties for 2005 are published in table 2 of Road Casualties Great Britain: Main results 2005.

Copies of these publications are in the Libraries of the House.

Disused Railways

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what feasibility studies he has carried out to investigate whether any stretch of disused railway could be utilised as a highway to reduce congestion; and if he will make a statement; [91161]

(2) how many miles of disused railway track bed are undeveloped and available for sale or for an alternative use; [91162]

(3) what trials *(a)* have taken place and *(b)* are scheduled to take place on the feasibility of allowing cars to use disused rail lines; where such trials are taking place; and when he expects an evaluation to be carried out. [91163]

Mr. Tom Harris: We estimate that there are fewer than 100 miles of redundant trackbed that has not been either retained for possible future use or sold. Much of what remains comprises small parcels of land unsuitable for conversion into roads. The Department has not therefore carried out any recent studies into the possibility of using any of this land in this way.

Rail Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold an inquiry into *(a)* incidents in (i) late August and (ii) early September involving lengthy delays for passengers using rail services between London Liverpool Street and Colchester and *(b)* the condition and maintenance of the railway track between London Liverpool Street and Colchester; and if he will make a statement. [91210]

Mr. Tom Harris: One, the Train Operator concerned, and Network Rail have advised that investigations so far indicate the delays were caused by failures of the overhead power lines. They have taken a number of immediate steps to ensure the failures do not recur. Meanwhile they are continuing their investigations with a view to identifying any further measures necessary to achieve a permanent solution.

Road Schemes

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will meet *(a)* the Transport Chair of the East Midlands Regional Assembly, *(b)* the hon. Member for Kettering and *(c)* a small delegation of other interested parties from Northamptonshire to discuss the prioritisation of major road schemes and the working of the Regional Funding Allocation Mechanism. [91108]

Dr. Ladyman: The hon. Member should contact my office and a meeting will be arranged.

Rural Speed Limits

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to reduce maximum speeds on rural roads. [91205]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no plans to reduce the national maximum speed limit on rural roads. However the Department published new guidance on setting local speed limits on 8 August 2006. This asks local traffic authorities to review speed limits on their A and B roads, and implement any necessary changes by 2011.

Lower speed limits are encouraged where the safety evidence or characteristics of the road warrant them. But equally local traffic authorities should consider increasing limits if it is warranted and can be done safely.

Taxi/Private Vehicle Licensing

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the guidance will be published in response to the taxi and private vehicle licensing consultation which closed in October 2005. [91106]

Gillian Merron: Best practice guidance will be issued to taxi and private hire vehicle licensing authorities in due course, following completion of consideration of the results of last year's consultation.

Traffic Accidents

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of all traffic accidents in England and Wales involved foreign registered lorries in each of the last three years. [91117]

Dr. Ladyman: In England and Wales in 2005 the proportion of personal injury road accidents reported to the police involving foreign registered lorries is 0.58 per cent. Data on foreign registered vehicles were not collected prior to 2005.

Vehicle Insurance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of uninsured vehicles in the United Kingdom since May *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [91085]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 13 September 2006]*: Our latest estimate (2005) is based on a comparison of the Vehicle register, maintained by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), and the Motor Insurance Database. It is that there are about 2 million vehicles (about 6 per cent. of the UK vehicle fleet) being driven by uninsured drivers. There are no similar comparisons for earlier years.

In order to strengthen enforcement activity to tackle motor insurance evaders we introduced two new measures last year. First, to give the police improved access to the Motor Insurance Database to enhance their capability to detect uninsured driving by using Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipment.

Second, powers to allow the police to seize vehicles being driven uninsured. Both these measures are proving effective with the police seizing nearly 600 uninsured vehicles a week.

In addition we are seeking powers in the Road Safety Bill to introduce a scheme of Continuous Insurance Enforcement which would enable us to enforce the requirement for motor insurance from the record. This means that rather than having to rely on spotting an uninsured vehicle on-road we can identify, from the database, vehicles where insurance policies have lapsed and not been renewed. This will enable us to target all such evaders, rather than just the necessarily smaller numbers that it is possible to identify on-road.

Yorkshire and Humber Regional Transport Board

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he next expects to meet members of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Transport Board; and what matters he plans to discuss. [91160]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State has no plans to meet members of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Transport Board.

Written Answers to Questions

The following answers were received between Tuesday 19 September and Friday 29 September 2006

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her NATO counterparts on the situation in Afghanistan; and what requests have been made for additional support from NATO allies for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. [91222]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had regular and wide ranging discussion with colleagues from a number of NATO member states. These discussions have included the situation in Afghanistan. As a NATO-led operation, it is for the Alliance to find collectively the forces the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) needs. As the NATO Secretary-General has said, nations should deliver what they have all agreed ISAF ought to have. Work is of course ongoing to ensure that the necessary capabilities are in place.

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether officials from her Department will be seeking agreement on a mandate for future negotiations on cluster munitions at the Review Conference to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in November. [91192]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* No. The UK's priority for the 3rd Review Conference to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in November is to finalise a Protocol on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines (Anti-vehicle mines). We believe that the work on Explosive Remnants of War should continue on the basis of the current mandate. If achieved, progress on these two areas should ensure the continued success of the CCW. On cluster munitions, a recent study commissioned by CCW member states concluded that International Humanitarian Law is adequate.

Falkland Islands

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to meet its commitment under article 5 of the Mine Ban treaty to clear minefields in the Falkland Islands by 1 March 2009. [91190]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* The UK is committed to its obligations under the Ottawa convention (Mine Ban treaty). In 1999 the United Kingdom and Argentine Governments agreed as a confidence-building measure to

"work together to evaluate the feasibility and cost of clearing the land mines still present in the Falkland Islands".

This co-operation has been welcomed by other states parties to the treaty. The feasibility study is largely to be funded by Argentina, on the principle that almost all the mines are theirs. Against the background of the sovereignty dispute and the Argentine financial crisis in 2001, the negotiations have been long and complex. After much hard work they resulted in July 2006 in agreement on the modalities for completing a survey of the Falkland Islands and the final report of the feasibility study during the next austral summer. Only when the feasibility study has been completed will we be in a position to decide on the best option available to enable us to meet our Ottawa obligations.

Iraq

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has *(a)* made and *(b)* received from coalition partners of the likelihood of a civil war in Iraq. [91219]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* The potential danger of a slide into civil war in Iraq is something that concerns us all, but while there is a high level of sectarian conflict in the country, civil war is neither imminent nor inevitable. Our coalition partners and the Government of Iraq agree with this assessment.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of progress in the political, economic and social conditions in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basra, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan. [91220]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Progress is being made on the political, economic and social fronts in the four southern provinces but is inevitably linked to and dependent on progress in security.

The handover of security responsibility to Iraqi security forces has started in the South, demonstrating Iraq's progress in building up its political institutions, its security capacity and its commitment to economic development and delivery of basic services. Transition to Provincial Iraqi control took place in Al Muthanna on 13 July 2006, and the Governor and elected local authorities in Dhi Qar will take over responsibility for security before the end of this month. The political situation in Maysan has improved, with the Governor and Provincial Council working with the multi-national force to ensure the province is ready to transition as soon as possible.

In Basra, despite some difficulties in relations with the Governor, co-operation with the Provincial Council and the Governor himself has continued, particularly in building the capacity of the security forces and the civil authorities. We are working with the Iraqi security forces to implement Prime Minister Maliki's Basra

Security Plan, led by General Ali Hammadi. The training and mentoring of the Iraqi Police Service remains a priority in Basra with a focus on developing better leadership capacity, Command and Control structures, and specialist skills. The Basra Provincial Reconstruction Team is working with the Basra authorities to develop and implement economic, governance and reconstruction projects. Improved security would help deliver a range of investment, employment and economic opportunities.

Data on social conditions in Iraq are patchy and often only available at a national level. Major surveys due shortly from the UN and from the World Bank will add to our understanding. However the UK is working closely with the Government of Iraq and international organisations to improve the infrastructure, including electricity and water supply. Further information can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1057782556187.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1267W, on Iraq, what further progress has been made by the Joint Committee to transfer security responsibility in Iraq; and what discussions the Government have had with *(a)* United States and *(b)* Iraqi counterparts on the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq. [91221]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* Following the transfer of security of Al Muthanna province to Iraqi control on 13 July, the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility recommended to the Prime Minister of Iraq and the Iraqi Ministerial Committee on National Security, that the Province of Dhi Qar transfer to Iraqi security responsibility. On 31 August 2006, the Government of Iraq announced that this transfer would go ahead. We expect a formal handover ceremony before the end of this month. The assessment process continues and the committee makes regular recommendations in respect of the transfer of further areas to Iraqi provincial control.

The UK has regular discussions with all coalition partners in the Multinational Force (MNF), including the US, and meets regularly to discuss all aspects of MNF issues with the Iraqi Government. UK troops will remain in Iraq until the conditions for drawdown are right.

Israel

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the *(a)* Israeli Government and *(b)* US Administration about the use of (i) cluster munitions and (ii) other weapons, components and military equipment in the (A) recent conflict in Israel and Lebanon and (B) Occupied Territories over the past three months. [91194]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had discussions with the Israeli or US Governments about the use of cluster munitions or other military equipment in Lebanon, Israel or the Occupied Territories. Our embassy in Tel Aviv has recently sought clarification from the Israeli Government about their current policy on the use of cluster munitions. All countries must ensure their usage of all weapons is consistent with International Humanitarian Law.

Sudan

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her *(a)* United Nations, *(b)* European Union and *(c)* United States counterparts on the situation in Darfur; what assistance the UK has offered in support of the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1706; what representations she has made to the Sudanese authorities on accepting resolution 1706; and if she will make a statement. [91047]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The UK played a leading role in the UN Security Council's decision to adopt UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1706 on 31 August. A UK military officer has been seconded to the UN Secretariat to assist in planning for the deployment of a UN force. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, has spoken to the Sudanese Foreign Minister and publicly called on the Sudanese Government to accept UNSCR 1706. Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and our ambassador in Khartoum have met with representatives from the Sudanese Government to press them to accept a UN force for Darfur. We have discussed the situation in Darfur with other members of the Security Council, the EU, the African Union, the Arab League and other key international actors, and urge all those with influence over the Sudanese Government to help persuade Khartoum to accept UNSCR 1706. I raised this personally with the Egyptian Government and the Secretary-General of the Arab League during my recent visit to Cairo.

UN Small Arms & Light Weapons Review Conference

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives from the Canadian Government regarding an inter-sessional meeting of states next year following this year's UN Small Arms and Light Weapons Review conference. [87175]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussion with the Canadian Government about their proposal for an informal inter-sessional meeting of states next year on Small Arms and Light Weapons transfer controls. However, we are ready to consider proposals that strengthen implementation of the UN Programme of Action.

HEALTH

Civil Servants

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many civil servants are employed by the Department *(a)* in and *(b)* outside London. [73186]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table, as at 1 April 2005.

Full-time equivalent

	Number
London	1,460
Outside	840

Road Accidents (Compensation)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money was recovered by hospitals from insurers towards the cost of treatment of persons injured in road accidents in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [83767]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[pursuant to the reply, 24 July 2006, Official Report, c. 1122W]:* I regret the costs of providing treatment to victims of road traffic accidents recovered in 2005-06 given in my previous reply is incorrect. It should read £121,500,568 not £121,500.

Letter from Rosie Winterton, dated 23 September 2006:

I regret that the information in my reply to your Parliamentary Question on 24 July 2006 (UIN 83767) about the costs of providing treatment to victims of road traffic accidents (Official Report Volume 449 Column 1122W - copy attached) was incorrect. This was due to an administrative error.

The table in the answer indicated that the amount recovered for the cost of providing treatment to victims of road traffic accidents for 2005-06 was £121,500. This figure should read £121,500,568.

I attach the correct table and am arranging for the Official Report to be amended.

I apologise for the inconvenience caused.

	Amount recovered (£)
1999-2000	30,046,572
2000-01	75,847,629
2001-02	98,278,603
2002-03	105,025,336
2003-04	105,654,936
2004-05	117,504,738
2005-06	121,500,568

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* HIV, *(b)* chlamydia, *(c)* gonorrhoea, *(d)* syphilis, *(e)* genital warts and *(f)* genital herpes there have been in England in each year since 1979. [90991]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer September 2006]:* The number of cases of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, genital warts and genital herpes diagnosed in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England from 1979 to 2005, are shown in table one. The numbers of individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in England, by year of diagnosis, are shown in table two. HIV diagnoses include those made in GUM clinics as well as other settings such as infectious disease units and general practice. The following documents have also been placed in the Library:

Communicable Disease Report: Sexually transmitted diseases in England and Wales: 1981-1990;

Trends in sexually transmitted infections in the United Kingdom 1990-1999: New episodes seen at genitourinary medicine clinics; and

Sexually Transmitted Infections in the UK: New episodes seen at Genitourinary Medicine Clinics 1991-2001.

Table 1: Number of diagnoses for selected conditions made at genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England: 1979-2005

	Condition				
	Syphilis[1]	Gonorrhoea	Chlamydia[2]	Herpes[3]	Warts[3]
1979	*2,488	54,466			
1980	*2,512	53,783			
1981	*2,279	51,663			
1982	*2,145	51,615			
1983	*1,934	47,911			
1984	*1,702	47,168			
1985	*1,229	45,849			
1986	*887	40,319			
1987	*589	25,254			
1988	*397	17,062	30,145	11,273	52,063
1989	*391	17,694	30,446	12,403	50,954
1990	*335	17,054	30,364	12,547	49,517
1991	*348	16,483	30,504	13,274	52,674
1992	*338	12,369	28,554	14,017	51,124
1993	*337	9,926	26,381	14,621	48,893
1994	*304	9,644	27,698	15,347	49,052
1995	132	9,962	29,286	15,044	51,289
1996	116	11,929	32,521	15,192	54,652
1997	147	12,399	38,839	15,079	58,711
1998	131	12,535	43,912	15,815	59,681
1999	211	15,549	50,960	15,880	61,157
2000	322	20,494	61,370	16,147	60,661
2001	717	22,398	68,180	17,054	62,423
2002	1,196	24,357	78,117	17,510	63,938
2003	1,532	23,489	85,399	17,127	65,185
2004	2,033	20,779	92,948	16,952	68,217
2005	2,578	17,880	96,204	17,589	68,824

[1] Data for 1979 to 1994, marked with * are for primary, secondary and early latent syphilis and cannot be separated. From 1995, data are for primary and secondary syphilis only.
[2] Data for chlamydia is available from 1988 onwards. Prior to 1988, chlamydia was recorded as part of the non-specific genital infections
[3] The numbers for genital warts and herpes infections from 1988 are for first attack cases. Prior to 1988 data was collected for first attack and recurrent cases together.

Source:
Health Protection Agency, 1979 to 1987: SBH60 return, 1988 to 2005: KC60 return

Table 2: Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in England by year of diagnosis

	Number
1990[1]	14,934
1991	2,496
1992	2,550
1993	2,406
1994	2,363
1995	2,449
1996	2,489

Table 2: Individuals newly diagnosed with HIV in England by year of diagnosis

	Number
1997	2,536
1998	2,642
1999	2,933
2000	3,643
2001	4,807
2002	5,900
2003	6,853
2004	6,964
2005[2]	6,682
Total	72,647

[1] Up to 1990. Due to an increased likelihood of inaccuracy in reporting of year of first UK HIV diagnoses during the early years of surveillance, data prior to 1991 are presented cumulatively.
[2] Data are based on reports received by the end of June 2006 and numbers may rise as further reports are received.
Note:
Data includes duplicates for the same individual where records with different information could not be reconciled.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Vaccines (Sleeping Contracts)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the placing of sleeping contracts for vaccines for use in the event of an influenza pandemic since her Department's chief medical officer issued tenders for the sleeping contracts on 19 October 2005. [91115]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 18 September 2006]*: Considerable progress has been made on the subject of sleeping contracts, and the Department is still within the time available to us. Under the procurement directives, before negotiations are required to be completed.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83908]

Meg Munn: Since being appointed in May 2006 the Minister for Women and Equality has visited Yorkshire and the Humber once, the east of England once and the south west once.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of each of the grants for arm's length management organisations has been spent. [71026]

Yvette Cooper: Funding under the arm's length management organisation (ALMO) programme is allocated in the form of borrowing approvals to enable local authorities to bring their housing stock up to the decent homes standard. This funding is additional to the local authority's existing resources and is allocated in two year tranches. An ALMO must attain a 2* inspection rating from the Housing Inspectorate in order to qualify for funding.

Since 2001 there have been five bidding rounds for ALMO funding. Funding is confirmed in two year tranches. Most ALMOs accepted onto the first bidding round have received and spent all their allocations. ALMOs on subsequent bidding rounds have yet to receive all their allocations. ALMOs on the most recent bidding round are not yet in receipt of funding as they have hitherto not been inspected by the Housing Inspectorate.

The following table sets out how much ALMO funding each ALMO has spent up to the end of the last financial year and total funding confirmed to date.

Arms length management of local authority housing

£

Authority	Total spend to March 2006	Funding confirmed to March 2006
Ashfield	55,320,000	55,320,000
Derby	97,176,000	97,176,000
Hounslow	99,650,000	99,650,000
Rochdale	106,300,000	106,300,000
Stockton	63,000,000	63,000,000
Westminster	74,000,000	74,000,000
Wigan	137,300,000	137,300,000
Total	632,746,000	632,746,000

£

Authority	Total spend to March 2006	Funding confirmed to March 2007
Kirklees	140,351,274	149,800,000
Barnsley	114,220,283	141,600,000
Blyth Valley	31,429,000	48,358,000
Bolton	92,762,000	132,523,000
Brent	67,997,000	67,997,000
Carrick	15,160,000	23,060,000
Cheltenham	22,500,000	31,440,000
Colchester	24,605,000	35,710,000
Hillingdon	32,259,000	48,000,000
Kensington and Chelsea	33,644,000	43,439,000
Leeds—East	28,951,123	46,782,049
Leeds—North East	21,463,000	33,085,000
Leeds—North West	24,117,000	44,117,000
Leeds—South East	21,929,000	32,539,000
Leeds—South	42,081,000	67,583,000
Leeds—West	37,855,000	58,158,000
Oldham	61,200,000	86,400,000
Total	812,523,680	1,090,591,049

Authority	Total spend to March 2006	£ Funding confirmed to March 2008
Barnet	19,099,200	48,783,400
Easington	—	26,200,300
Gateshead	13,000,000	104,140,000
High Peak	4,700,000	9,306,000
Islington	24,900,000	84,523,200
Newcastle	84,000,000	190,820,000
Poole	8,686,850	23,792,120
Sheffield	96,361,000	211,851,060
Solihull	20,600,000	50,245,000
South Lakeland	3,450,000	14,132,000
Warrington	18,278,000	30,200,680
Total	293,075,050	793,993,760

Authority	Total spend to March 2006	£ Funding confirmed to March 2007
Bassetlaw	—	12,500,000
Bury	2,120,000	8,640,000
Ealing	20,448,000	63,548,000
Eastbourne	—	3,000,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	21,938,000	66,347,000
Manchester	—	17,570,000
Newark and Sherwood	6,500,000	15,500,000
Nottingham	—	13,000,000
Rotherham	7,500,000	52,500,000
Sandwell	8,800,000	62,600,000
Slough	—	3,101,000
Wolverhampton	—	42,200,000
Total	67,306,000	360,506,000

Authority	Total spend to March 2006	£ Funding confirmed to March 2008
Doncaster	—	72,671,000
Gloucester	—	19,323,000
Hackney	—	88,980,000
Lambeth (part)	—	8,589,000
Newham	—	78,113,000
Sheffield (part)	—	67,513,000
South Tyneside	—	55,812,000
Southend	—	22,073,000
Stockport	—	40,360,000
Wear Valley	—	11,817,000
Total	—	465,251,000
Programme total	1,805,650,730	3,343,087,809

Brownfield Sites (London)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many brownfield sites there are in each London borough. [87243]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land provides estimates of total amounts of previously-developed land. The local authorities which provide the data make an allowance for small sites but these are not recorded individually, so that it is not possible to give an estimate of the total number of sites.

Business Rates

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* second and *(b)* holiday homes were liable for business rates in each collecting local authority area in (i) 1995, (ii) 2000, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2006. [71604]

Mr. Woolas: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the number of properties in the rating lists described as "self catering holiday accommodation" at March each year from 2000 to 2005. Equivalent data for the period before 2000 are not readily available and figures for 2006 are not yet available.

Empty Dwellings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice her Department has taken on whether Empty Dwelling Management Orders would breach Article 1 of the First Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights. [83027]

Yvette Cooper: During the drafting of all legislation the Government has available to it legal resources and the Housing Bill was no different. The Bill was scrutinised by the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the appendix to that Committee's 20th report published on 20 October 2004 contains a memorandum at appendix 2a from the right hon. Lord Rooker in which he explains how the Government consider the provisions on empty dwelling management orders are consistent with the European Convention on Human Rights, and in particular, to Article 1 of the First Protocol and to Article 6. The Government are satisfied that the provisions on empty dwelling management orders are fully compatible with the Convention. A statement as to compatibility was made in both Houses and the Government's view has not changed.

Euro-preparation Group

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the local authorities' euro preparation group of 21 February 2006. [70590]

Mr. Woolas: The meeting of the local authorities' euro preparation group held on 21 February 2006 was a private meeting arranged jointly by HM Treasury and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Euro Advisory Service. The minutes are only available to the attendees and the local authority subscribers to the CIPFA Euro Advisory Service.

High Bickington Community Property Trust

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account she took of the Government's declared aim in respect of affordable housing in rejecting the application of High Bickington Community Property Trust for consent to build affordable homes in that village. [74635]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State's decision letter of 9 May sets out in detail the reasoning behind the decision. I know that the hon. Member already has a copy of this letter—I have also placed a copy in the House Libraries. Now that this decision has been issued, the Secretary of State has no further jurisdiction in the matter and it would not be appropriate to comment further on the particular merits of the proposal.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the penalty will be for marketing a home without a home information pack. [83075]

Yvette Cooper: Where enforcement officers decide to take action following a breach of the home information pack duties, they will have the option of serving a penalty charge notice. The penalty charge is set at £200 in the Home Information Pack Regulations 2006 and could be repeated for an on-going breach. Where the breach is committed by an estate agent, the case could be referred to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). The OFT may then consider using existing powers to issue a banning order requiring the agent to cease trading and we regard this as the main deterrent.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the Government has made of the cost of a Home Condition Report in London for a *(a)* three bedroom semi-detached house, *(b)* two bedroom flat and *(c)* four bedroom house (i) including and (ii) excluding VAT. [85713]

Yvette Cooper: The Home Condition Report (HCR) is similar to the existing mid-range survey on the market, The Homebuyers Survey and Valuation. In the current market these cost £400 on average (or £484.85 including VAT). The cost of the HCR will be determined by the market and this will depend, as now, on the size, condition and location of the property. However, we expect competition will push prices down. One provider has said they intend to provide Home Information Packs, including the Home condition Report, free of charge.

Housing

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure high aesthetic standards in new housing developments; and what discussions she had with the Commission on Architecture and the Built Environment on this issue. [72424]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have taken a number of steps to raise design standards, including for new housing developments. Planning policy and guidance has been strengthened to require good design. This has been backed by additional work to encourage innovation, to provide capacity building and support and to promote the take-up of good practice. We are now looking to see better delivery at the local level.

Our policy in "Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development" (PPS1) sets out general principles and policies for planning, and makes it clear that good design is indivisible from good planning. PPS1 needs to be taken into account by all planning authorities in the preparation of development plans and it may also be material to decisions on individual planning applications. The policy is supported by good practice guidance such as "By Design—better places to live and Safer Places—the Planning System and Crime Prevention". We have also tested out new tools to help deliver quality developments, including piloting the use of Design Coding.

On 12 April 2006 I also announced additional measures to encourage good design. Most types of planning application will now have to be accompanied by a design and access statement. This will explain how high quality design and issues such as disabled access have been addressed in the proposal and more importantly help local planning authorities ensure new developments are of a high quality. This will give local communities a greater understanding of what is proposed, what might eventually be built and therefore a greater opportunity to contribute to the planning process.

The Government are also promoting innovation through a series of schemes, such as the Millennium Communities programme and the Design for Manufacture competition which has resulted in practical lessons for the house-building industry, including how to reduce construction costs while retaining high standards of quality as well as how to build houses at a high density. The competition also suggests further opportunities to cut costs and improve design for social housing, making it possible to build more homes.

Work continues to provide support and reward success, particularly through spreading of best practice and improving design skills. The Government support the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). Their work to promote the adoption of design champions within local authorities and at a senior level within the mass house builders, the design training programmes which they deliver, and their advice on specific development proposals are all making an important contribution to raising standards. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Housing Design Awards recognises those partnerships that have delivered exemplary housing developments, large and small.

To overcome skills barriers, the Government have recently established a new Academy for Sustainable Communities. This is working with others to deliver the cutting edge skills and knowledge to make better places for people now and in the future.

CABE is the Government's advisor and champion for improving urban design, and therefore DCLG Ministers and officials meet with CABE for a variety of reasons. I hosted a seminar in February 2006 to discuss improving housing design quality, where CABE presented the findings of their recent Housing Audits. CABE are also closely involved in the development of the Thames Gateway Strategic Framework and presented progress on their work at a meeting I chaired on 13 July 2006.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1214W, on housing, if she will list the funding streams contributing to the figure of £4.1 billion spent on housing capital investment in 2004-05. [73458]

Yvette Cooper: The £4.1 billion includes funding for: Arms Length Management Organisations, Disabled Facilities Grant, Major Repairs Allowance, Private Sector Housing Renewal, Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure, Local Authority Capital Grants, Estate Action, Housing Action Trusts, Gap Funding, Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders and the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many households were registered homeless in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough in 1997; and how many households are registered homeless in (i) Lewisham, Deptford constituency and (ii) Lewisham borough; [79160]

(2) how many households were in temporary accommodation in 1997 in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough; and how many households are currently in temporary accommodation in (i) Lewisham, Deptford constituency and (ii) Lewisham borough; [79161]

(3) how many individuals are sleeping rough in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough. [79162]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly, at local authority level. The constituency of Lewisham, Deptford is wholly contained within the London borough of Lewisham.

Only partial information was reported by Lewisham during 1997-98. The number of households reported as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need between 1998-99, and 2005-06, along with the reported number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by the council under homelessness legislation as the end of those years, is tabled as follows.

Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night. No count was undertaken by Lewisham prior to 1999, but figures for June 1999 and the latest available figures, for 2005, are also presented in the table.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home), until a settled solution becomes available.

Households accepted as homeless during the quarter, and households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter, in the London borough of Lewisham

	Accepted as homeless[1]	*In temporary accommodation*[2]	*Rough sleeping (persons)*[3]
1998-99	1,085	613	Not available
1999-2000	1,248	775	[4]2
2000-01	Not complete	Not available	[5]6
2001-02	1,102	Not available	[6]3
2002-03	1,170	1,243	[7]1
2003-04	1,502	1,640	[8]0
2004-05	1,245	1,847	[8]0
2005-06	1,097	2,284	[9]3

[1] All households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.

[2] Households in accommodation at the end of the year (March) either pending a decision on their homelessness application or awaiting allocation of a settled home following acceptance. Excludes those households designated as "homeless at home" that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable alternative accommodation as those in accommodation arranged by the authority.

[3] Number of persons sleeping rough are based on local authority counts during the year and presented as a mid-year estimate. If no count takes place during the year an estimate is given by the local authority.

[4] Mid-year 1999.

[5] Mid-year 2000.

[6] Mid-year 2001.

[7] Mid-year 2002.

[8] Estimate.

[9] Mid-year 2005.

Source:
DCLG P1E Homelessness (quarterly) and HSSA (annual) returns.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated per head of population by the Housing Corporation to *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the south west in the last period for which figures are available. [82134]

Yvette Cooper: The table shows the funding per head based on allocations through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing programme for 2006 to 2008 in relation to 2004 mid year population estimates for the south west region and Somerset from the Office of National Statistics. Allocating within regions follow the recommendations of the Regional Housing Board as well as reflecting the quality of bids which come in from individual areas.

Region	2004 mid year population estimates (ONS)	Affordable housing programme allocated funding 2006 to 2008 (£ million)	Funding per head (£)
South West	5,038,000	281	55.78
Somerset[1]	512,500	20.8	40.51

[1] Somerset includes Mendip district council, Sedgemoor district council, South Somerset district council, Taunton Deane borough council and West Somerset district council.

Information is not available at constituency level.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many psychiatric patients have been discharged from hospital into *(a)* temporary accommodation and *(b)* council housing in each London borough in each of the last five years. [87245]

Yvette Cooper: Although psychiatric patients should not be discharged as homeless, some may nevertheless self-discharge and not have accommodation available to them. People may be discharged to temporary accommodation as part of a plan agreed between mental health services and housing departments, but this is not recorded as part of routine monitoring.

Information collected by my Department about households accepted by local authorities as unintentionally homeless and in a priority need group identifies those where the applicant or a household member was vulnerable as a result of mental illness or disability. National results for years since 1997 are presented in table 4 of the quarterly Statistical Release on homelessness, first quarter of 2006, published on 12 June. However, information on the number of these who had been former psychiatric patients, and whether they were subsequently allocated temporary accommodation or a settled tenancy, is not available centrally.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to respond to the recommendations of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. [91083]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Government are already taking forward many of the recommendations of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. Its proposals are being fed into a series of progress of work including the Comprehensive Spending Review and the forthcoming planning policy statement on housing. We will also shortly be setting up a website on which we will post progress we are making towards improving access to affordable housing in rural areas and examples of best practice in the light of the Affordable Rural Housing Commissions report.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much the Government has spent on building social housing; and how many new social housing units were completed in each of the last 20 years. [62115]

Yvette Cooper I have been asked to reply.

Government capital provision through local authorities and the Housing Corporation for both new and existing housing since 1986 is as follows:

	£ million
1986-87	2,296
1987-88	2,327
1888-89	2,252
1989-90	2,330
1990-91	3,031
1991-92	3,708
1992-93	4,267
1993-94	3,765
1994-95	3,169
1995-96	2,720
1996-97	2,432
1997-98	1,894
1998-99	2,098
1999-2000	2,173
2000-01	2,866
2001-02	3,312
2002-03	3,598
2003-04	4,685
2004-05	4,767
2005-06	5,213
2006-07	5,266
2007-08	5,628

Of this, expenditure through the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme on the provision of social rented housing is shown in the following table:

Expenditure on Social Rent Provision

	£ million
1992-93	1,492
1993-94	1,395
1994-95	1,106
1995-96	819
1996-97	707
1997-98	458
1998-99	451
1999-2000	525
2000-01	577
2001-02	647
2002-03	762
2003-04	1,175
2004-05	1,045
2005-06 (provisional)	933
2006-08 (estimate)	2,684

Source:
Housing Corporation.

Expenditure on social rent provision includes both new build and additions to the stock which are acquired and refurbished. Information is not available prior to 1992-93.

Information on the provision to local authorities cannot be sub-divided between new supply and other support for housing.

For the number of social housing units made available I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil, on 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 279W (Mr. Laws).

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much has been spent on building new social housing for rent in each year since 1990. [62371]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer to PQ no. 62115.

Sustainable Communities Conference

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budgeted total cost to public funds was of the 2007 Sustainable Communities Conference. [86780]

Yvette Cooper: The 2007 Sustainable Communities Summit was planned as a self funding event. Forecast expenditures and revenues were both £4.3 million. Expenditures were to be recouped through exhibitor and sponsorship revenues and delegate fees.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of affordable housing were provided in rural areas in each year since 1997. [85130]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of units of affordable housing provided to rural areas in each financial year since 1997-98 are in the table. Affordable housing supply data is available at local authority level therefore it is only possible to measure how many dwellings have been built in local authorities classified as rural using the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) rural definitions. This will include dwellings built in towns that are within a local authority classified as rural, but will not include dwellings built in small towns or villages within local authorities classified as urban.

Affordable dwellings provided in rural areas[1]

	Number
1997-98	14,466
1998-99	13,100
1999-2000	11,459
2000-01	11,259
2001-02	10,923
2002-03	11,056
2003-04	12,206
2004-05	11,901

[1] Figures prior to 2000-01 exclude dwellings provided solely through Section 106 'planning' agreements.

Source:
Housing Corporation, returns from local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government (HSSA and P2).

For further information on the DEFRA Rural Definition and Local Authority Classification please see: http://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/rural_resd/rural_definition.asp

Land Classification

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* area of sites designated as derelict land, broken down by region; and what the figures were (i) five and (ii) 10 years ago. [84058]

Yvette Cooper: The information available is from the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land, which was carried out on an experimental basis in 1998 and annually from 2001. The estimates of area are shown in the following table. The local authorities which provide the data make an allowance for small sites but these are not recorded individually, so that it is not possible to give an estimate of the total number of sites.

Trends in amounts of derelict land and buildings

hectares

	1998	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
North East	1,660	1,860	1,630	1,520	1,430
North West	3,400	5,690	5,610	5,700	5,690
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,850	3,720	3,270	3,160	2,960
East Midlands	2,330	2,070	2,470	1,950	2,040
West Midlands	1,560	1,640	1,710	1,730	1,840
East of England	2,460	2,610	1,740	2,420	2,310
London	530	630	460	370	290
South East	1,310	1,310	1,430	1,440	1,410
South West	2,240	1,870	1,630	2,250	1,900
England	19,340	21,410	19,960	20,550	19,870

Source:
National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much land was designated as *(a)* brownfield and *(b)* greenfield site in (i) Rochford district council area, (ii) Southend-on-Sea borough council and (iii) Rochford and Southend East constituency in each year since 1997. [84249]

Yvette Cooper: Information on amounts of brownfield land in each local authority is available from the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land. There were data collections in 1998 and annually from 2001. The amounts of land reported by the local authorities are shown in the table attached. Information for the constituency, which cuts across

local authority boundaries, is not available except at disproportionate cost. Information on greenfield land available for development is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Amount of brownfield land by land type: Southend-on-Sea and Rochford 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004

hectares

Land/building type	*1998*[1]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Rochford					
Vacant and derelict land and buildings	13	[2]	19	16	16
Currently in use with potential for redevelopment	2	[2]	5	3	4
Total	15	[2]	23	20	18
Southend-on-Sea					
Vacant and derelict land and buildings	5	82	79	3	0
Currently in use with potential for redevelopment	23	19	11	12	5
Total	28	101	90	15	5

[1] The 1998 specification of land currently in use allocated in the local plan or with planning permission included only housing sites.
[2] Not available.

Planning

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to consult on reforms to Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 better to protect land threatened with division into small plots; and if she will make a statement. [86275]

Yvette Cooper: The Government issued a consultation paper on this issue on the 1 August.

Relative Need

John Hemming: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the relative need factors are; and what value they have for the financial year 2006-07. [65414]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Relative Needs Formula are, based on the demographic, physical and social characteristics of each area, used in the calculation of Formula Grant. Formula Grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed Business Rates and principal formula Police Grant.

In 2006-07, the total of all the Relative Needs Formula is factor of 0.67811309347259. The total for each of the separate Relative Needs Formula are given in Annex E of the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2006-07.

The Relative Needs Formula for each local authority can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0607/g:rant.htm

Water Conservation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer from the then Minister for the Environment to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1732-3W, on water conservation resources, when a copy of the sustainability impacts study of additional house building scenarios in England will be placed in the Library. [85446]

Yvette Cooper: Copies of the sustainability impacts study of additional housing scenarios in England were placed in the Library on 27 April 2006. The report is also available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162086.

TREASURY

Poverty

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Cumbria, *(c)* Westmorland and Lonsdale, *(d)* urban areas and *(e)* rural areas were below the poverty line in each year since 1997. [88638]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have been asked to reply.

Reliable information is not available below Government Office Region; the available information is in the tables.

Number of households in England and Wales living with less than 60 per cent. of the contemporary median household income, for the years 1996-97 to 2004-05

	Number of households (million)	
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
1996-97	3.8	5.5
1997-98	3.9	5.3
1998-99	3.9	5.4
1999-2000	3.9	5.3
2000-01	3.8	5.2
2000-02	3.8	4.9
2002-03	3.8	4.8

Number of households in England and Wales living with less than 60 per cent. of the contemporary median household income, for the years 1996-97 to 2004-05

	Number of households (million)	
	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
2003-04	3.8	4.7
2004-05	3.7	4.4

Note:
All results shown for England and Wales are single-year values as sample sizes for England and Wales are large enough to support a robust single-year time-series.
Source:
Family Resources Survey

Number of households falling below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income, by urban and rural areas: England, for the years 1996-97 to 2004-05

	Number of households (million)			
	Before housing costs		*Before housing costs*	
	Urban	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*
1996-97	2.7	0.9	3.9	1.2
1997-98	2.7	1.0	3.8	1.2
1998-99	2.7	1.0	3.8	1.3
1999-2000	2.7	1.0	3.8	1.2
2000-01	2.6	1.0	3.6	1.2
2000-02	2.6	1.0	3.5	1.1
2002-03	2.6	0.9	3.4	1.1
2003-04	2.6	1.0	3.2	1.2
2004-05	2.5	0.9	3.1	0.9

Note:
All values presented for urban and rural areas in England are single-year estimates as sample sizes for these areas are large enough to support a robust single-year time-series.
Source:
Family Resources Survey

Scottish Transport Projects

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the current arrangements are regarding the accounting for value added tax by local authorities in Scotland for *(a)* road and *(b)* rail building projects. [91064]

John Healey: Where a local authority has responsibility for building or maintaining a road, any VAT incurred can be reclaimed from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Where the statutory obligations for road building are legally delegated to a local authority by the Scottish Executive, the local authority can recover from HMRC the VAT it pays to a road builder on the cost of the construction of the road, and the local authority does not charge VAT on any funding it receives from the Executive for the project.

However, if the local authority is engaged by the Executive as a contractor to supply the road, this is a service provided by the local authority to the Executive and VAT is chargeable by the local authority to the Executive.

The same principles would apply to railway building projects insofar as these involve local authorities.

VAT

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* reduce and *(b)* remove VAT on fruit drinks. [91206]

John Healey: Most foodstuffs are VAT zero-rated, saving consumers approximately £10.6 billion in the last financial year. This zero rate does not however extend to certain beverages, including fruit drinks, which have been subject to VAT since the decision to apply the standards of VAT in 1993. Under our agreements with our European partners, we are not able to extend existing VAT zero rates or introduce any new ones. It is therefore not possible to remove VAT from fruit drinks and other beverages.

These same agreements do allow the UK to introduce a reduced rate of VAT of not less than 5 per cent. for foodstuffs that are not already VAT zero-rated. While all taxes are kept under review, to date we have been sparing in our use of VAT reduced rates and have only applied them where the tax system offers the most effective and best-targeted support for our social objectives, when compared with other policy instruments. The 2004 Wanless report on public health highlighted difficulties in principle and practice in using the tax system to promote public health. To date, the Government have therefore focused resources to encourage healthy eating choices outside the tax system. This includes action and resources to provide classroom teaching of the benefits of good nutrition and a £235 million package to transform the quality of school meals, reflecting new nutritional standards for primary and secondary schools. Under the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme all 4-6 year olds in LEA schools are entitled to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day. In 2007 a new telephone, online and digital television service is being introduced to support people of all ages in making healthier lifestyle choices.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Angola

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* level of UK public investment and *(b)* plans for support his Department has in respect of the future reconstruction of Angola. [91082]

Hilary Benn *[pursuant to the reply, 13 September 2006, Official Report, c. 2358W]:* DFID was quoted as contributing £3.5 million to a UNICEF £18 million Southern Africa programme. This should have read:

"DFID's £18 million contribution to UNICEF for vulnerable children and orphans affected by HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa (of which Angola will receive around £3 million)."

I apologise for this error in the original answer.

Developing Countries

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the merits of reforming the *(a)* World Trade Organisation and *(b)* International Monetary Fund to give developing countries more influence over the body's decision-making and policy formulation. [88794]

Hilary Benn: The World Trade Organisation (WTO) operates on a "one member, one vote" basis, and takes decisions by consensus. In effect, any country can veto

any decision. Developing countries also make up the majority of the WTO membership. While this gives developing countries more influence over the WTO's decision making process, the negotiating process is more complex in an organisation of just under 150 members.

We support the need to strengthen developing country voice and participation at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). We welcome the current debate on the governance of the IMF in the context of the Managing Director's Report on the Fund's Medium Term Strategy. This recognises the importance of governance reform for the continued effectiveness and credibility of the IMF. We support the central objectives of this reform to adjust the shares of member countries to reflect global economic changes and to strengthen the participation and voice of low income countries. We believe the influence of developing countries within the IMF can be bolstered by measures including strengthening their voting rights, increasing support for their representatives at the IMF Executive Board and by increasing discussion and debate at the international and country level. We look forward to continuing discussion on these issues at the Annual Meetings in Singapore.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Apprenticeships

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people applied for an electrical apprenticeship in the last year for which figures are available; and how many were accepted. [91119]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 18 September 2006]*: Data on numbers of applications for each framework are not held centrally. The following table shows 2004/05 Apprenticeship starts for those frameworks with an electrical component in then

Sector framework title	*Total (starts)*
Electrical & Electronic Servicing	71
Electricity Industry	232
Electrotechnical	6,119
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	992
Plumbing	4,621
Grand Total	12,035

Source:
WBL 2004/05 ILR, Learning & Skills Council.

Disability Equality Scheme

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he plans to publish the disability equality scheme for his Department; and in what formats it will be published. [91185]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 18 September 2006]*: The Government are committed to improving the position of disabled people in society and believes that public bodies should take the lead in promoting equality of opportunity for all. In compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 my Department will publish its Disability Equality Scheme on 4 December 2006. It is our intention to publish the Scheme on our departmental website. Additionally we will provide versions in a range of formats including hard copy, large print, word with minimal tables, and Easyread. We will also respond to requests to reproduce the Scheme in Braille, Audio and other formats.

Identity Fraud

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what internal training courses on tackling identity fraud are provided to departmental staff who have access to members of the public's personal information. [86647]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the Written Answer I gave the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 2 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 680W.

Plimsolls

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will issue advice to schools to enable children with medical needs to use special, rather than standard, plimsoll type footwear while at school; and if he will make a statement; [91242]

(2) if he will carry out research into *(a)* how many schools seek to enforce the use of standard plimsoll type footwear by pupils and *(b)* the impact of such enforcement on children with foot, knee and hip problems; and if he will make a statement; [91243]

(3) what guidance he issues to schools on that duty of care in respect of children with foot, knee and hip problems with regard to the footwear they are allowed to use while in school. [91244]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 18 September 2006]*: Governing bodies determine school uniform and dress codes under powers conferred by the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act. In doing so they must comply with their duties under the Disability Discrimination Acts and consider what reasonable adjustments should be made for disabled pupils, some of whom will have medical conditions.

Schools and employers (either the local authority in the case of community and voluntary controlled schools or the school governing body in the case of a foundation or voluntary aided school) are responsible for developing their own policies on supporting individual children with medical needs. The Department has published a training resource for schools and local authorities "Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings" that provides schools and local authorities with practical tools to improve their effectiveness—both in making reasonable adjustments to include disabled pupils in all aspects of school life, and in reviewing and revising their plans for increasing access for disabled pupils to school premises and facilities, and the curriculum.

Pupil Performance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the local education authorities in England in order of percentage of pupils achieving Level 7 in Key Stage 3 SATS in the 2005-06 academic year, stating in each case whether the local authority is selective, partially selective or comprehensive. [91068]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Student Transport Grants

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum subsidy per student paid was to local education authorities for post-16 student transport grants for each local education authority for each year between 2001-02 and 2006-07; [91240]

(2) for how much each local education authority in England bid in respect of resources for transport grants for school and college students over the age of 16 years; and how much each received for each year between 2001-02 and 2006-07. [91241]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* No specific grants are provided by central Government to fund post 16 transport. Local authorities' responsibilities for transport provision and concessionary fares is funded through formula grant from central government (comprised in the main of Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates) and through income generated by councils, including council tax. Formula grant is not hypothecated to a particular service and councils are free to use the funding in line with the wishes of their electorate and taking into account their statutory responsibilities.

Amendments were made to the Education Act 2002 that placed a duty on local authorities to ensure that transport was not a barrier to students of sixth form age wanting to participate in FE. DfES does not provide direct funding for post 16 transport but has made available a small amount of funding to each local authority to enable them to meet their statutory duties by forming transport partnership groups and developing their local transport policies and transport arrangements. The overall DfES funding for each year is 2003/04 £14 million, 2004/05 £13 million, 2005/06 £12 million, 2006/07 £12 million.

Individual post-16 students are also able to access hardship funds from their school or college to help with costs of further education, including transport, and individual learners who receive education maintenance allowance may use an element of the allowance to contribute towards transport costs.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Avian Influenza

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Department's budget for preparation for an outbreak of avian influenza was in each year since 1997; and what outturn expenditure was in each such year. [91052]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Prior to 2005, preparedness costs for AI were not recorded separately from preparedness costs for other exotic animal health diseases.

For 2005-06 the outturn on AI preparedness was £9 million.

The forecast expenditure for AI preparedness in 2006-07 is currently £18 million.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to control the impact of the spread of bovine tuberculosis on the British dairy and beef industry. [91080]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* In line with the 'Government strategic framework for the sustainable control of bovine tuberculosis in Great Britain', we have made a commitment, to work in partnership with dairy and beef farmers, and with others, to reduce the geographic spread of bovine TB and achieve a sustained reduction in decrease in high incidence areas.

In March we introduced compulsory pre-movement testing of cattle in England to reduce the risk of spreading TB through cattle movements. The current legislation applies to cattle over 15 months of age moving from one and two year tested herds. Farmers are generally complying with the policy and TB reactors are being identified, so there is emerging evidence that the policy is helping to prevent disease spread. The policy is being kept under review to enable modifications, if necessary, prior to the planned implementation of phase 2 in March 2007 which will extend pre-movement testing to movements of cattle over 42 days old. DEFRA will continue to work closely with interested organisations during the introduction of phase 2.

To enhance our existing, and comprehensive, cattle testing programme we recently announced that from October 2006 the gamma interferon test will be used more extensively in England and Wales, alongside the skin test, in certain prescribed circumstances. Using both tests in this way can help to speed up the resolution of confirmed TB breakdowns by identifying as many infected cattle as possible at the earliest opportunity. Compensation is payable for animals which are caused to be slaughtered under section 32 of the Animal Health Act 1981.

We continue to make progress with our research on vaccine development. We have started testing candidate vaccines in naturally infected cattle and badgers, as well as work on developing novel vaccine delivery systems, and we have committed to future funding of approximately £5.5 million per annum for this.

No decisions have yet been made about badger culling to control bovine TB. Any decision needs to have a sound scientific and practical foundation and we do not yet have this. The evidence base is complex and a number of practical delivery issues need to be resolved. The strength of feeling on badger culling, as demonstrated by the 47,000 responses to the recent badger culling consultation, combined with the range of evidence, mean it is crucial that our decision is not rushed. My officials and I have been discussing the issue with interested groups to try to establish a shared understanding of the facts before we can make progress. We are not ruling anything in or out at this stage.

Finally, farmers also have a crucial role to play in preventing bovine TB—not only by complying with statutory policies designed to limit the spread of the disease but by ensuring they apply good biosecurity measures and suitable husbandry practices on their holdings.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in cattle; what research he has conducted on the reasons for the trend; and how this research has been used to develop the strategy for tackling the disease. [90756]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Following a steady increase in the total number of new bovine tuberculosis (bTB) incidents over recent years, there has been a provisional 15 per cent. reduction in the number of new incidents in Great Britain from January to July 2006 compared with the same period in 2005.

The chief veterinary officer (CVO) has undertaken a review of the apparent reduction, drawing on detailed analyses carried out by epidemiologists from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and DEFRA officials, comments from a group of independent experts convened by the chief scientific adviser, and views from farmers, practising vets and the state veterinary service. She concluded that whilst there has been a real reduction in the number of new TB incidents, it is too early to draw firm conclusions as to whether this is a temporary change or the start of a sustained trend. She also recognised that the reduction is likely to be caused by a complex combination of factors.

A summary of the analysis is included in a recent report by the CVO, which is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/pdf/cvo-tbstatement.pdf.

Further analysis will be carried out to try to reduce the level of uncertainty around these conclusions. Emerging findings will be used to inform policy development.

Cattle Valuations

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what means market valuations are derived for the purpose of cattle compensation. [91247]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* Cattle compensation for four notifiable diseases (bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and enzootic bovine leukosis) in England is determined each month. This is done primarily using table valuations based on average sales prices achieved for pre-determined cattle categories, drawn up in consultation with the industry. To support the system, sales data is continuously collected by an independent service provider from a large number and wide range of sources across Great Britain . These sources include 'regular' markets, dispersal sales, and breed sales.

Table valuations are based on real sales prices achieved at market; the compensation payable in respect of an individual animal is the average market price for its category. There are 47 categories in total and these are split into non-pedigree and pedigree. At the end of each month, the average sales figure is determined. For non-pedigree categories the average is calculated from one month's data, and for pedigree categories six month's data are used.

Departmental Budget

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what alterations have been made to the 2006-07 budget allocations to bodies funded by his Department; and what the value of the change was in each case; [91050]

(2) when the last review of the departmental internal budget allocations took place; and if he will publish the budget alterations that were agreed as a result. [91051]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* As a matter of good financial management we keep our budgets and spending under regular review and challenge, and adjust them as new pressures and demands arise. Bodies funded by this Department are included in this process. Following the most recent review Ministers have agreed updated budgets for 2006-07. The financial performance of the Department for this year will be set out in the published departmental report.

Farmer Prosecutions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted in each year since 1997 under laws which have since been repealed, updated or replaced. [88503]

Barry Gardiner: The Cattle Identification Regulations 1998 ("CIR"), the Cattle Database Regulations 1998 ("CDR") and the Eggs (Marketing Standards) Regulations 1995 ("the EMSR") made it an offence to fail to comply with or breach certain EC regulations. These EC Regulations have subsequently been repealed and replaced by new EC regulations.

Neither the CIR, CDR nor the ESMR were updated to reflect this. Each new EC Regulation contained a provision stating that references to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as references to the new Regulation. On this basis Defra believed it was not necessary to update the domestic regulations. The dates of the relevant repeals are 14 August 2000 in respect of the CIR and CDR and 1 January 2004 for the EMSR. Only convictions obtained after these dates will be affected by the failure to up-date the relevant domestic regulations. The Secretary of State made a written ministerial statement about the matter on 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 67WS.

Under the Cattle Identification Regulations 1998 ("CIR"), the Cattle Database Regulations 1998 ("CDR"), 51 prosecutions were carried out which resulted in 45 convictions. The breakdown year by year is as follows (these figures include England and Wales):

	Number
2000	1
2001	5
2002	4
2003	6
2004	9
2005	17
2006	3

Under The Eggs (Marketing Standards) Regulations 1995, nine prosecutions were undertaken which resulted in six convictions. The breakdown year by year is as follows (these figures include England and Wales):

	Number
2004	3
2005	2
2006	1

While all these convictions may be considered to be unsafe because of the technical defect the convictions will have been obtained in respect of actions that breached the EU legislation designed to protect public health. I am satisfied that our enforcement procedures have been, and will continue to be, rigorous. Public and animal health has been protected by the work of our inspectors, and will continue to be so.

Home Composting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage greater home composting; and if he will seek to persuade local authorities to remove putrescible waste from landfill. [91202]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 September 2006]*: Composting is high up the waste hierarchy and is supported by a range of policies that promote sustainable waste management. National and local targets for composting and recycling are currently being reviewed as part of the wider review of the Waste Strategy.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimates that over 34 per cent. of households already participate in home composting schemes, with 23 percent of British households composting both kitchen and garden waste. WRAP is working with local authorities and other partners to increase this further through websites, a dedicated helpline and the distribution of one million home composting bins to households across the country.

Local authorities are strictly limited in the amount of biodegradable waste they can landfill by their allocations under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. A further incentive is provided by the annually increasing landfill tax, which currently stands at £21 per tonne.

IT Expenditure

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* projected budget and *(b)* actual expenditure was on information technology in each Directorate in his Department in each year since 1997. [90652]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 11 September 2006]*: Information technology budgets are managed centrally with only small items of expenditure, such as consumables, delegated to directorates. The overall investment in information technology is published each year in the departmental resource accounts.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which directorates in his Department have overspent on their information technology budgets in each year since 1997; how much in each case; and what the reasons were in each case. [90654]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 11 September 2006]*: Information technology budgets are managed centrally with only small items of expenditure, such as consumables, delegated to directorates. The nature of this control means that overspends are avoided.

Marine Environment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many enforcement actions there were under the powers of the Marine Fisheries Agency concerning the marine environment in each of the last five years; and how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions were attained in each year. [91089]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 September 2006]*: The following table summarises the Marine Fisheries Agency (previously Sea Fisheries Inspectorate) enforcement action under the provisions of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) as at 12 September 2006.

	Inspections of licensed construction and disposal operations	Infringements of FEPA licence requirements	Investigations arising from licensed and unlicensed operations	Official warnings	Prosecutions	Convictions
2006	172	4	1	1	0	0
2005	153	14	5	3	3	3
2004	128	16	4	0	0	0
2003	142	8	2	11	2	2
2002	226	28	25	7	2	2
2001	220	5	10	2	0	0

The following table is a summary of other Marine Fisheries Agency enforcement actions including prosecutions and convictions for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005.

	2003	2004	Number 2005
Inspections of fishing vessels in port by MFA staff	4,137	3,654	2,842
Boardings of fishing vessels at sea	1,704	1,712	1,466
Infringements detected by surveillance aircraft	9	6	1
Infringements investigated[1]	259	218	253
Infringements resulting in official written warnings	69	101	140
Infringements prosecuted, (including Master and Owner combined figures)[2]	84	62	57
Convictions obtained (including Master and Owner combined figures)[2]	82	61	56

[1] Documentation checks, satellite tracking data, transport checks, and market premises inspections will contribute to the number of investigations.

[2] In cases where the Master and Owner of a fishing vessel are different both will usually be prosecuted for the same offences, as required by the legislation. The figures combine these separate infringements for the same offences as one.

Notes

1. Results are based on the date of the offence, there are ongoing investigations yet to be concluded.
2. Inspections may result in the detection of more than one infringement. Each infringement contributes to the results.

Non-human Primates

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps have been taken towards reducing the risks to non-human primates from the *(a)* trade in bushmeat, *(b)* laboratory trade, *(c)* trade in exotic pets and *(d)* use of primates in entertainment; [90837]

(2) what response he has made to the dossier submitted by Animal Defenders International to the Prime Minister's office on 1 September; and if he will publish that response. [90840]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The UK cannot intervene directly in sovereign matters of other countries, and bushmeat has been a legitimate and acceptable food source for domestic consumption in many countries for generations. While some bushmeat may be entering the UK, it is understood not to be in significant quantities. Moreover, of the limited amount which may be entering the country, we consider the endangered-species element, including that of non-human primates, is likely to be at a very low level.

The use of animals in experiments and other scientific procedures is strictly regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, for which the Home Office has the lead responsibility. Non-human primates are afforded special protection under the Act and there are stringent requirements regarding their use in scientific experiments. The use of wild-caught non-human primates is subject to supplementary additional considerations.

The Home Office announced in 1997 that there are no foreseen circumstances under which licences under the 1986 Act for programmes of work involving the use of Great Apes (chimpanzees, pygmy chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans) would be issued. In addition, exceptional justification would be required for the licensed use of other types of non-human primates taken from the wild.

The 1986 Act provides that non-human primates, whether captive bred or wild-caught, can only be used when no other species are suitable for the purposes of the programme to be specified in the licence, or that it is not practicable to obtain animals of any other species that are suitable for those purposes. For the use of wild-caught primates to be exceptionally authorised, there must be no appropriate alternative, no suitable captive-bred animals available and the likely benefits of the programme of work would have to fully justify their use.

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate and the Animal Procedures Committee provide advice on a case-by-case basis on whether, and on what terms, such use should be licensed. Application of these stringent criteria has meant that first time use of wild-caught non-human primates in scientific procedures has not been licensed in the UK for some years.

The import, export and re-export of primates is strictly regulated under Council Regulation 338/97, which implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora within the EU. The Government's view is that primates are not suitable for the general pet trade. We currently limit imports of these species to specialist keepers who must be able to demonstrate that they are sufficiently well equipped and experienced to house and care for them. In July last year, Defra launched a public consultation regarding the use of powers under Article 8.2 of Council Regulation 338/97, which sought

views on proposals designed to further restrict the keeping of certain CITES listed species, including primates.

We propose to introduce a regulation under the Animal Welfare Bill to ban the use, in travelling circuses, of certain non-domesticated species whose welfare needs cannot be satisfactorily met in that environment. A Circus Working Group has been set up to advise on this proposal. We also intend to introduce Codes of Practice to cover all performing animals, not just those in circuses. This will address issues such as training activities, trainer competences and accommodation needs for animals when travelling.

I would like to thank Animal Defenders International for their dossier "Primate Nations." The use of animals, including non-human primates, in research and testing is an issue for which the Home Office has responsibility.

A copy of the dossier will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Packaging

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the non-mandatory status of European Commission Decision 97/129/EC which provides for numbering and abbreviations to identify different packaging materials, including plastics; and if he will make a statement. [91020]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Government have no plans to make the marking of plastic household products mandatory. However, while the marking system is voluntary, we would encourage manufacturers to use the markings where possible, in order to aid the process of sorting and recycling plastic packaging waste.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department or public bodies for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was in each case. [83183]

Barry Gardiner: The Defra website provides information on the type of statistical surveys and research conducted by the Department.

It is intended to start to publish a review of surveys conducted , including the costs . This will begin with the review of surveys conducted in 2005 which is expected to be published on the website shortly.

A full list of Government surveys and other sources of official statistics is available in the Guide to Official Statistics published by the Government Statistical Service (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1551&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422).

Recycling

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to improve the level of recycling of waste electrical and electronic materials. [90963]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Government are in the process of implementing the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive, which aims to reduce the quantity of waste from electrical and electronic equipment and increase re-use, recovery and recycling. The directive requires member states to ensure that producers (or third parties acting on their behalf) set up systems to provide for the collection, treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of WEEE.

The Department of Trade and Industry (the department with the lead responsibility for implementing the directive) is currently carrying out a consultation on draft regulations which transpose the directive into UK legislation, and accompanying guidance. The closing date for the consultation is 17 October 2006.

Single Farm Payments

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he took to ensure all farmers were paid by the June deadline by the Rural Payments Agency. [83719]

Barry Gardiner: Following the announcement by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby South on 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 104WS, a number of measures were put in place to expedite claims.

The House has subsequently been kept informed of these measures on 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 543; 29 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 305WH; 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 13WS; 9 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 10WS; 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1478; and, 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 42WS.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of previously outstanding payments under the single farm payment scheme have been paid in full in North Yorkshire. [91046]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* As of 30 June 2006 the total value of single payment scheme payments made to customers in North Yorkshire amounted to £105,445,055.

The value of payments made to customers in North Yorkshire from 1 July 2006 through to 8 September 2006 amounted to £3,275,952.19.

The payment value includes partial payments made.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects Peter Brown to receive his single payment from the Rural Payments Agency (Holding number 33/186/0003 and single business identification 106326473). [85770]

Barry Gardiner: Mr. Brown received a Single Payment Scheme payment on 8 May 2006.

All work on Mr. Brown's 2005 claim has been completed.

Mr. Brown was paid only flat rate. It has been stated that this is a full payment. After further inspection it appears that his historic entitlements have been omitted from payment.

An emergency change request has now been implemented onto the system and a manual payment was made on 4 August 2006.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requests for *(a)* more helicopters, *(b)* other equipment and *(c)* more personnel from field commanders in Afghanistan have been received by (i) Permanent Joint HQ, (ii) Defence Chiefs of Staff and (iii) Ministers since 25 July 2006. [90949]

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received any requests from British commanders for *(a)* more troops and *(b)* extra munitions or equipment to support the British deployment in Afghanistan. [91171]

Des Browne *[holding answers 13 and 18 September 2006]:* Both the Ministry of Defence and the Permanent Joint Headquarters regularly receive requests from Theatre for changes to the military capabilities and equipment deployed, as part of the routine process of evaluating our force structure. The more substantial changes in personnel levels or equipment are incorporated into periodic Force Level Reviews. I announced the outcome of the most recent such review on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1131-35 and, for its helicopters, on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 74-76WS. More minor changes, such as my recent decision to deploy an additional Harrier GR7a to Kandahar, are made as soon as practicable.

Reports from British commanders in Theatre since 25 July have informed the UK's position towards the NATO Force Generation process: minor adjustments aside, they have not sought to reinforce 16 Air Assault Brigade and its supporting units.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops have been committed by each country to the conflict in Afghanistan; and if he will make statement on the availability of troops from other NATO countries. [91014]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* ISAF currently comprises around 20,000 troops from 37 NATO and non-NATO nations:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

The precise numbers of forces deployed by each nation fluctuates. At present the largest ISAF troop contributors are the following: the UK (around 5,000), Germany (around 2,750), Canada and the Netherlands (around 2,000), Italy (around 1,600), US (around 1,300), and France (almost 1,000); and many nations are also contributing essential enablers and capabilities such as helicopters, air support and medical facilities.

Identification of additional forces and capabilities for deployment is a matter for the NATO force generation process. We are working with NATO Allies and non-NATO troop contributors to ensure that commanders on the ground have access to the resources they need to carry out the ISAF mission.

There are also around 18,600 international troops in and around Afghanistan under the coalition-led Operation Enduring Freedom. The bulk of these are from the US, but this also includes forces from a number of NATO Allies.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* hon. Members and *(c)* Members of the House of Lords visited British troops in Afghanistan in (i) July and (ii) August 2006. [91156]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* In July, the following Members of the House of Commons Defence Committee visited Afghanistan:

James Arbuthnot MP
David Borrow MP
Dai Havard MP
David Hamilton MP
Adam Holloway MP
Brian Jenkins MP
Kevan Jones MP
Mark Lancaster MP
Willie Rennie MP
John Smith MP

The right hon. David Cameron MP, Leader of the Opposition, and Liam Fox MP, also visited in July as did the noble and gallant Lord Boyce.

In August, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development visited British troops.

Aircraft

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Harrier jets are grounded in Afghanistan because they are being used as sources of spare parts. [90918]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* None of the GR7 Harrier Jets deployed on operations in Afghanistan are grounded as a result of being used as a source for spare parts.

Armed Services (Training)

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the topics covered on induction courses for civilian medical staff taking up post at Army initial training establishments; and what advice is given concerning *(a)* the detection of bullying and *(b)* confidential reporting procedures. [26287]

Derek Twigg: Civilian medical staff attend induction training at their respective place of employment within the initial training organisation. They receive further induction training specific to their medical facility and the Army Primary Health Care Service (APHCS). Induction training covers broadly the following topics:

Unit organisation and personalities

Chain of command and lines of communication

Pay and personnel procedures

Health and Safety

Fraud and Theft

Training and development

Equality and diversity

Harassment and how to deal with it

Code of Practice for Instructors, for all military and civilian staff

Practice administration.

Equality and diversity, and harassment and how to deal with it cover advice during the induction process on the detection of bullying. Annual mandatory Equal Opportunities and Diversity Awareness training further enhance this. All staff have a number of MOD publications available to them which include The MOD Harassment Complaints Procedures, The Civil Service Bullying and Harassment Leaflet and the Adjutant General's Joint Equality and Diversity Directive.

Confidential reporting procedures are covered by the Army Primary Health Care Service guide on Confidentiality which refers to the Data Protection Act 1998, Human Rights Act 2000, and Department of Health guidelines on Protecting and Using Patient Information. All civilian medical practitioners are governed by General Medical Council Good Medical Practice, which includes matters of confidentiality and guidance on protecting and providing information.

Army Personnel

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many serving Regular Army personnel have *(a)* left and *(b)* given notice of their intention to leave the army within 12 months of completing service in Iraq since 2003. [91262]

(2) how many serving Territorial Army personnel have *(a)* left and *(b)* given notice of their intention to leave the army within 12 months of completing service in Iraq since 2003. [91263]

Derek Twigg *[holding answers 18 September 2006]:* The data is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people left the army in each of the last five years. [90749]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* Figures for "Outflow from UK Regular Forces" are published monthly in Tri-Service Publication 1 (TSP1), a copy of which is held in the Library of the House.

AWE Aldermaston

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest estimate is of total capital spending on AWE Aldermaston *(a)* in 2006-07 and *(b)* in each of the next three years. [91077]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The currently planned capital expenditure at the two AWE sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield is in the order of £340 million in 2006-07 and £420 million for 2007-08, both at outturn prices. Spending plans for subsequent years have yet to be finalised.

Body Armour

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all serving military personnel in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan are provided with body armour which protects vital organs in addition to the heart; and whether soldiers being sent to each country will be issued with the old body armour which protects the heart only. [91223]

Des Browne: Military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are provided with appropriate body armour for the tasks that they are undertaking. All troops deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan are issued with Enhanced Combat Body Armour (ECBA) as standard. This contains protective ceramic plates at the front and rear, which protect the heart and other organs in the upper thorax of the body. Two other body armour sets are available in theatre: Enhanced Personal Protective Equipment, known as 'Kestrel'; and Improved Performance Body Armour, known as 'Osprey' which provides additional protection, for example to the neck and shoulders.

Osprey sets will shortly replace ECBA as the minimum standard in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Delivery of Osprey to both theatres is expected to be substantially complete by late autumn.

Whether ECBA, Kestrel, Osprey or indeed, whether any body armour is worn, is determined by the commander's assessment of the nature of the task, the current threat, and the environment in which they are operating in.

Christmas Cards

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to his Department of sending Christmas cards in 2005. [45920]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence spent approximately £3,200 on the printing, purchase and posting of Christmas cards in 2005. This excludes a small amount spent by Defence Attachés (for representational purposes) which is not identifiable without disproportionate cost.

Defence Information Infrastructure Project

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the latest estimates are of the savings made by his Department arising from the EDS contract for the Defence Information Infrastructure project for each of the first three years. [90932]

Mr. Ingram: *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The estimate of savings to be made by the Department for each of the first three years of the Defence Information Infrastructure Project is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Savings (£ million)*
2005-06	[1]30
2006-07	[2]31
2007-08	[2]32

[1] Actual
[2] Estimated

Defence Sector Employment

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the degree to which Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) provisions were incorporated into the business case for the End 2 End (E2E) Logistics Review Air Depth Support Recommendation 40; and if he will make a statement; [90919]

(2) what assessment he has made of the application of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) in the awarding of contracts for *(a)* Tornado RB199 Operational Contract for Engine Transformation (ROCET), *(b)* Tornado CMU, *(c)* Harrier Joint Upgrade and Maintenance Programme (JUMP) and *(d)* Tornado Tiger Team 1, VC10 Javelin Red; and what estimate he has made of the costs of TUPE-related activity in each case; [90921]

(3) what provision was made for the cost of the TUPE obligations in the *(a)* Tornado RB199 Operational Contract for Engine Transformation (ROCET) and *(b)* Tornado CMU and Harrier Joint Upgrade and Maintenance Programme; and what the resultant costs were. [91232]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answers 13 September 2006 and 18 September 2006]:* The AMICUS trade union presented a claim against the Ministry of Defence, BAE Systems plc and Rolls Royce plc in the Cardiff employment tribunal on 26 July 2006, seeking, on behalf of affected employees, a declaration and an award for an alleged failure to consult under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981/2006 (TUPE) for certain transfers of work which may be linked to the Tornado ROCET, Tornado Combined Maintenance and Upgrade and Harrier JUMP contracts.

At present, it is not appropriate to comment in detail on the applicability of the aforementioned regulations and related costs to these contracts as we are still considering our response to the employment tribunal to avoid prejudicing the proceedings.

As I made clear in my letter to my hon. Friend of 25 July 2006, now placed in the Library of the House, it is clear that the overall costs of DARA work force restructuring/redundancy would have been broadly comparable irrespective of whether or not the provision of TUPE apply.

We are considering the application of TUPE regulations as it relates to the study carried out by Tornado Tiger Team 1. I will write to my hon. Friend when this work has been completed. Under the 'Red' and 'Amber' phases of the VC10 Javelin programme, no work which had been undertaken by the DARA work force was transferred to either industry or a new owner. TUPE regulations therefore did not apply.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of *(a)* voluntary and compulsory redundancies and *(b)* compulsory early retirement measures were at DARA St. Athan in each financial year between 2002-03 and 2005-06, broken down by contract; and what the estimated costs for 2006-07 are on the same basis. [90920]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The voluntary and compulsory redundancy costs and compulsory early retirement costs for each financial year from 2002-03 at DARA St. Athan were as follows:

	Voluntary/ Compulsory	*£ million Early Retirement*
2002-03	[1]3,040	—
2003-04	[1]4,125	—
2004-05	4,656	1,358
2005-06	6,221	2,071
2006-07 (estimated)	7,663	2,109

[1] Figures for redundancy costs for DARA St. Athan during 2002-03 and 2003-04 were not collected separately and are shown as totals.

The costs broken down by or attributed to the various aircraft contracts are not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Demobilised Reservists (Mental Health Services)

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the planned new mental health provision for demobilised reservists will be located; what services will be provided; how much it is expected to cost; when the service is expected to commence; and if he will make a statement. [91157]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* I refer the Member to the statement made to the House on 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 43-46WS, to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson).

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place to ensure that ex-Territorial Army soldiers who served in Iraq receive assistance from his Department if they become subject to post traumatic stress disorder. [91264]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* The responsibility for the medical care of ex-service personnel, whether regular or reserve, lies with the NHS. This has been the established practice since 1948 under successive Governments. Where an individual is also a war pensioner, he or she is entitled to priority treatment for his or her accepted condition within the NHS. Priority is decided by the clinician in charge and applies to physical and mental health problems. For conditions that are due to service where treatment is not available under the NHS, the Government also funds care at the specialist mental health charity Combat Stress facilities, which last year cost £2.8 million.

The health needs of the majority of veterans will be met by current NHS provisions. However, MOD has work in hand to ensure that there is a coherent response to veterans' mental health issues, co-ordinating inputs from the NHS, Health Departments throughout the UK, the services and ex-service organisations, including Combat Stress. The MOD is also working on a number of further measures for the prevention and management of operational stress, and has work in hand to ensure that service leavers can recognise the signs of stress and know where to go for help, using suitable magazine-style material.

The MOD is currently developing detailed arrangements for the enhanced post-operational mental healthcare programme for recently demobilised reservists. The programme will offer a mental health assessment, conducted by appropriately qualified members of the Defence Medical Services (DMS). This will be available to any member of the reserve forces who has been demobilised since January 2003 following deployment on any operation overseas and who has a concern about their mental health as a result. If individuals are then assessed as having a mental health problem that is categorised primarily as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or a related traumatic adjustment disorder, and that is directly related to their operational deployment and of a nature that can be treated within the resources of the DMS, then they will be offered out-patient treatment by the DMS.

If the assessment identifies cases that fall outside the parameters set out above, such as complex multi-disorder diagnoses or acute cases requiring in-patient care, the DMS will refer them—with our assessment results—back to their civilian GP in order to assist their access to NHS treatment, as well as encouraging contact with the relevant welfare organisations to ensure follow-up.

As my predecessor, the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) said in his statement on 16 May, a further announcement will be made later this year to confirm the details of the programme, including the location(s) at which the assessments will be provided, and the date on which the service will commence.

Departmental Annual Report

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 44 of the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06, what training exercises were cancelled; what the reasons were for cancellation in each case; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the cancellation rate. [90577]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* During the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, a total of 58 training events recorded on the Defence Exercise Programme were cancelled. In summary, 30 exercises were cancelled due to operational commitments, 13 were removed as savings measures and 10 were cancelled by other nations. The remaining five events were cancelled in response to changing priorities or rescheduling.

A number of measures are being taken to reduce exercise cancellations. Chief among these is a rebalancing of the Defence Exercise Programme to enable training to focus on fewer, more comprehensive, exercises.

Deployment

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of the armed forces were engaged in operations overseas and in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion and number were not so engaged in each year. [91017]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The most current figures collected from manual records show that on 5 September 2006 the deployment of UK Service personnel on operations overseas was:

	Number
All Services	14,140
Naval Service	680
Army	11,220
RAF	2,240

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures include mobilised Reservists.

Figures for the number of UK Service personnel deployed overseas are not available in a consistent time series. Percentages of Service personnel undertaking operations and other military tasks are, however, published in the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts.

Figures from 2001-02 to 2005-06 are shown in the following tables, which have been extracted from each annual report. Summary information for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was published in the respective Ministry of Defence Performance Reports (CM4520, CM5000), copies of which can be found in the Library of the House. This information was not compiled on a comparable basis to those set out in the following tables.

Quarterly information for years predating the 1998 Strategic Defence Review is not held centrally.

The following figures report the percentage of Regular Armed Forces undertaking operations and other military tasks. These figures are quarterly averages and are calculated by comparing the number of personnel undertaking operations and other military tasks against the total strength of the Armed Forces. Figures for 2005-06 are collated using a different methodology, and are therefore not comparable.

Percentage of Regular Armed Forces undertaking operations and other military tasks[1] during 2005-06

	April to June	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*
Naval Service	11.6	9.3	12.1	13.5
Army	21.0	22.0	22.8	25.1

Percentage of Regular Armed Forces undertaking operations and other military tasks[1] during 2005-06

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
RAF	13.3	11.9	12.3	13.4

[1] Includes activities such as nuclear deterrence, Military Aid to the Civil Authorities and to the Civil Powers in Northern Ireland, integrity of UK waters and airspace, defence and security of the Overseas Territories and of the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas and Defence Relations, Alliances and support to Wider British Interests.

Notes:

2. These figures are quarterly averages and reflect the burden of activity imposed by the operations and military tasks undertaken by each service. Figures are based on man-day equivalents.

3. Notes 1 and 2 apply to the following four tables.

4. Percentages include personnel in preparation for and recovering from operations (e.g. in the case of the Army it takes account of those on pre-operational training and post-operational leave).

Percentage of trained strength of Regular Forces deployed on operations and other military tasks[1] during 2004-05

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	16.8	13.2	13.3	11.6
Army	23.7	22.1	21.4	21.2
RAF	11.8	12.0	13.5	13.4

Note:

Percentages exclude those either preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

Percentage of trained strength of Regular Forces deployed on operations and other military tasks[1] during 2003-04

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	18.7	12.8	14.0	17.7
Army	46.9	23.2	22.9	22.6
RAF	16.5	13.0	12.9	12.1

Note:

1. Percentages exclude those either preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

Percentage of trained strength of Regular Forces deployed on operations and other military tasks[1] during 2002-03

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	17.5	13.0	16.5	28.5
Army	24.6	23.9	32.5	55.6
RAF	12.6	10.9	19.1	21.8

Note:

1. Percentages exclude those either preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

Percentage of trained strength of Regular Forces deployed on operations and other military tasks[1] during 2001-02

	April to June	July to September	October to December	January to March
Naval Service	9.5	8.4	16.7	15.7
Army	21.8	25.6	26.3	23.9
RAF	11.9	12.2	13.6	13.1

Notes:

1. 2001-02 figures include personnel on Exercise SAIF SAREEA II.

2. Percentages exclude those either preparing for, or recovering from, deployments.

Figures for the number of Service personnel deployed in Northern Ireland at 1 April each year since 1999 are shown in the following table. The figures given for the number of Army personnel differ from those published in Table 7.4 of UK Defence Statistics 2005; during the completion of an in-depth analysis of Northern Ireland Forces Levels for the International Monitoring Commission, certain anomalies became apparent which necessitated a revision of previously published figures. Figures for years prior to 1999 are unavailable.

	All Services	Naval Service	Army[1]	RAF
1999	15,110	180	[3]13,780	1,150
2000	14,310	180	[3]13,070	1,060
2001	13,570	180	12,310	1,080
2002	13,750	180	12,530	1,050
2003	13,690	30	[3]12,270	1,390
2004	12,090	[2]430	[3]10,360	1,300
2005	10,570	30	9,630	900
2006	9,090	10	8,160	920

[1] Army figures include the Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service).

[2] Naval Service figure at April 2004 includes personnel from 45 Commando Royal Marines.

[3] Denotes revised.

Eurofighter Exports

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the possible implications of *(a)* the sale to Saudi Arabia of Eurofighter Typhoon and *(b)* associated training support on the planned dates for Royal Air Force operational declarations; and what level of contribution will be given by his Department in order to facilitate the deal and for training purposes. [91010]

Mr. Ingram: The sale of Typhoon aircraft to the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) and the provision of a training support package will not affect Typhoon's operational employment dates with the RAF. Negotiations are ongoing concerning the training support package for the RSAF.

Explosive Remnants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget he has allocated to dealing with explosive remnants of war in each of the last three years, broken down by theatre of operation. [58612]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 March 2006]:* We do not allocate a discrete budget for dealing with explosive remnants of war. This activity is a routine part of any military operation to ensure that friendly forces are protected and that normality is restored to the local civilian population as quickly as possible. Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams have deployed as an integral part of UK forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

The costs are included in that provided for operations from the Treasury.

Harrier Fleet

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of further extended deployment of Harrier jets in Afghanistan beyond March 2007 on the deep maintenance and upgrade programme of the Harrier fleet. [91234]

Mr. Ingram: The Harrier 'depth' facility at RAF Cottesmore is specifically designed to provide the flexibility to absorb urgent tasking in addition to scheduled maintenance and future upgrade work. It has been assessed that there will be no impact on the joint maintenance and upgrade programme if a further extension to Harrier deployment in Afghanistan beyond March 2007 becomes an approved operational requirement.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the availability rate is of the Harrier jets deployed in Afghanistan. [91235]

Mr. Ingram: The planned availability rate for the six Harrier GR7s currently deployed in Afghanistan has, and continues to be, met. It would not be appropriate to reveal the amount of hours or tasking this includes, as to do so could compromise the safety of coalition forces.

Iraq

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on Iraq, how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* coalition (i) civilian and (ii) military personnel have been (A) killed and (B) injured in each attack in the Iraqi provinces of Al Basrah, Al Muthanna, Dhi Qar and Maysan since January 2006. [85619]

Des Browne: The following table shows the number of Coalition military personnel who have died in Multi-National Division (South East) and been classed as killed in action, including as a result of hostile action, between January and June 2006, broken down by province.

	Basra	*Maysan*	*Muthanna*	*Dhi Qar*
January	1	1	—	—
February	—	2	—	—
March	[1]1	—	—	—
April	1	—	—	[1]4
May	9	—	—	[1]1
June	—	—	—	[1]1

[1] Non-UK fatality.

The following table shows the number of Coalition military and civilian personnel wounded as a result of hostile action and treated at the Shaibah Role 3 facility in Iraq in between January and June 2006. These records are kept for operational medical planning and do not include information on where each injury occurred and in what incident nor on the nationality of non-UK personnel treated.

	UK military	*UK civilian*	*Non-UK military*	*Non-UK civilian*
January	5	—	2	—
February	1	—	—	1
March	2	—	3	5
April	7	2	1	—
May	11	—	1	—
June	2	—	3	—

Information on numbers of UK military and civilian personnel casualties in Iraq is published on the Ministry of Defence website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies applied to run the Occupational Authority's Media Network in Iraq; and what criteria were used in deciding who would be awarded the contract. [87571]

Des Browne: This is a matter for the United States Government.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers who have served in Iraq since 2003 have subsequently resigned from the armed forces in each of the last three years. [90748]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The data is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq/Afghanistan

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans have been made by the Government in case the level of conflict involving British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan escalates. [91013]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* As a matter of course, the Government, with their international partners where appropriate maintains a range of contingency plans for all operational theatres where UK troops are deployed, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

Joint Personnel Administration

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF personnel were affected by pay inaccuracies in June 2006. [88162]

Derek Twigg: In the June 2006 pay run 485 RAF personnel, just over one per cent. of the RAF population were affected by inaccuracies, primarily in respect of specialist pay.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1538W, on Joint Personnel Administration, how many complaints the Armed Forces Joint Personnel Administration Agency's internal complaints system received in each month since March 2006 in regard to mispayment under the system; and how many *(a)* are still outstanding and *(b)* have been resolved. [90950]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The following table contains the number of complaints received, resolved and outstanding, under the Armed Forces Joint Personnel Administration Agency's internal complaints system, for each month since April 2006. There are no figures for March as the first JPA Pay Run was in April. Additional resources have been

allocated to address the outstanding complaints with a target date of 1 October 2006 for their reduction of the backlog to a normal level of work in hand.

Month	Total[1]	Resolved	Outstanding
April	18	18	0
May	48	41	7
June	120	70	50
July	139	46	93
August	78	8	70
September[2]	16	2	14
Total	419	185	234

[1] The vast majority of complaints involve mispayments. At present it is not possible to differentiate between the types of complaint and therefore there may be some included that do not fall into this category.
[2] As at 8 September 2006.

Landing Ships Dock (Auxiliary) Project

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to publish the findings of his Department's lessons learned study following the decision to terminate the contract with Swan Hunter for the Landing Ships Dock (Auxiliary) Project. [90934]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Preparations have begun for the lessons learned review into the Landing Ships Dock (Auxiliary) project. It is intended to make the outcome of the findings publicly available, after the National Audit Office have conducted their value for money study into the project.

Low Flying Aircraft

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints concerning low flying aircraft activity in North Dorset have been recorded in the last 12 months; and what plans he has to minimise the disturbance caused by low flying military aircraft. [90928]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* Over the period 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006, 143 complaints have been recorded with the location given as "Dorset".

Low flying training is always conducted in such a way as to minimise, as far as possible, disturbance to those on the ground. To this end operations by fast jet aircraft in the low flying system are restricted in terms of both minimum height and maximum speed, and transit flying by helicopters is conducted at a minimum of 100 feet, unless specially authorised.

Medals

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation was responsible for deciding that the qualifying period for the award of the Naval General Service Medal and/or clasp for Canal Zone service would not be fulfilled by 30 days' aggregated service; and when that decision was taken; [65386]

(2) for what reasons the criterion for awarding the Suez Canal Zone Naval General Service Medal and/or clasp requires the 30-day qualifying period of service in the zone to have been continuous. [65389]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 27 April 2006]:* A sub-committee of the Committee on the Grant of Honours Decorations and Medals, which is an inter-departmental committee administered on behalf of the Government by the ceremonial Secretariat of the Cabinet Office, took the decision on the qualifying service required for an award of the Naval General Service Medal and/or clasp for Canal Zone service. It is not possible to respond to the detailed questions, as MOD is not the holder of this committee's records.

Middle East

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what categories of military material have been transported from the US to Israel via the UK since 1 January; and whether these included depleted uranium material. [90969]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Government routinely withholds details of Dangerous Air Cargo transported as this would be prejudicial to international relations and UK Defence interests.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the UN on the possibility of the UK providing manpower to the multilateral force in the Lebanon. [91007]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* We have been in continual discussion with the UN regarding UK contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

At a United Nations meeting held in New York on 17 August 2006 to scope support for an expanded UNIFIL, attended by over 50 countries, we identified a range of UK air and maritime assets and other military facilities, which could potentially be called on to support UN operations in Lebanon, depending on the UN's requirements. On 7 September 2006 we received a letter from Kofi Annan formally requesting UK maritime assistance for the interim maritime task force. HMS York is now assisting the Italian-led interim maritime taskforce.

Subject to the approval of the Government of Lebanon, there is strong international support for the UK to lead an interim cell in Lebanon to co-ordinate support to the Lebanese armed forces and Security Sector Reform (SSR). In parallel, there will be a need to work with international partners to establish a longer term international SSR structure.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* nature and *(b)* extent of UK armed forces involvement is in the international peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon. [91021]

Des Browne *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The UK is contributing HMS York to the Temporary Naval Task Force requested by the UN, which is patrolling off the coast of Lebanon. The force, led by the Italians, will remain in place until relieved by a German led UN Task Force in four weeks time.

Subject to the approval of the Government of Lebanon, there is strong international support for the UK to lead an interim cell in Lebanon to co-ordinate support to the Lebanese armed forces and Security Sector Reform.

There are no plans for further contributions.

Military Equipment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment belonging to the UK armed forces was positioned within five miles of the village of Southmoor, Oxfordshire on *(a)* 17 and *(b)* 18 July 2003. [85523]

Des Browne *[holding answer 14 July 2006]:* We do not maintain records of the location of individual pieces of military equipment with a precision sufficient to answer the Question. There are no defence establishments located within a five mile radius of Southmoor, although there is an Army site at Abingdon, around seven miles by road from the village. 612 Volunteer Gliding School is also based at Abingdon and provides cadets with gliding instruction, usually at the weekend; records indicate that flying did not take place on the dates in question.

Military Material (Shipment Costs)

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost is of shipping a given amount of military material in containers to a given United Kingdom destination by *(a)* military train and *(b)* a fleet of container lorries; [91148]

(2) what criteria are used when deciding whether to send military container shipments by *(a)* rail and *(b)* road to destinations within the United Kingdom. [91152]

Mr. Ingram: There is no standard comparable unit cost of transporting military material by road or rail. Actual cost will vary substantially according to the route taken, the distance travelled, the nature of the cargo and the size of the consignment. The choice of movement by rail or road will depend not just on cost but on a number of factors including the priority of the requirement and the availability of suitable road and rail infrastructure.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of military containers shipped from the United Kingdom for Operation Telic were sent to their ports of embarkation by *(a)* rail and *(b)* road; and what the average cost per unit was for these internal United Kingdom journeys. [91149]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* Over the past 12 months, approximately 30 per cent. of military containers for Operation Telic (Op Telic) were moved to the port of embarkation by rail and 70 per cent. by road. Details for the earlier years of Op Telic could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Transportation costs vary substantially according to the route taken, the distance travelled, the nature of the cargo and the size of the consignment. The choice of movement by rail or road depends, however, not just on cost, but also other factors such as the priority of the requirement and the availability of suitable road and rail infrastructure: for example, the majority of journeys in support of Op Telic were to Southampton docks which does not have the network capacity to offer the MOD a rail service.

In simple terms, over the last 12 months, the average price per container for journeys using rail services from the original location to the ports of embarkation was £63 and similarly using road services, £227. However, this cost does not include any allowance for the additional costs of using rail paid by the MOD under its enabling contract with English, Welsh and Scottish Railways.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place to ensure that the internal United Kingdom transportation of military containers by *(a)* rail and *(b)* road is carried out by the most economical means. [91150]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has an enabling contract for the movement of military containers by rail and another for their movement by road. Military containers are also moved using ad-hoc commercial road arrangements. The best value-for-money solution is selected depending on the individual circumstances of each requirement.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on Defence Storage and Distribution Agency rail operations in respect of *(a)* keeping them in-house and *(b)* out-sourcing them to private contractors. [91151]

Mr. Ingram: The Department currently has no plans to outsource rail operations on Defence Storage and Distribution Agency sites to private contractors, although the situation is kept under review to ensure best value for money for the taxpayer.

Operation Telic

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many casualties have been recorded on Operation Telic whilst using *(a)* Warrior and *(b)* Snatch armoured vehicles. [77606]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* Centrally available records on casualties on Operation Telic capture the nature and seriousness of the injuries incurred, but do not always record whether the injuries were incurred while using Snatch or Warrior armoured vehicles. The circumstances surrounding each significant incident involving personnel using Warrior and Snatch armoured vehicles are, however, subject to immediate scrutiny at Unit level. This includes an analysis of the protection offered by the equipment involved and the effectiveness of current tactics, techniques and procedures. Where appropriate, lessons related to equipment are passed to the Chain of Command.

Information on fatalities and casualties incurred by UK forces on Operation Telic is published on the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/InDepth/UkMilitaryOperationsInIraq.htm.

Pardons

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to grant pardons for those First World War soldiers that were convicted of capital crimes, but not executed. [91153]

Derek Twigg: It is intended that the proposed statutory pardon will remove the particular dishonour that execution for crimes such as cowardice and desertion brought to individuals and their families. There are no plans to extend the pardons to those soldiers convicted of capital crimes but not executed or to those executed for crimes such as murder and treason.

Private Military Companies

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidelines have been given to members of UK armed forces in their dealings with private military companies in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan contracted by (i) coalition states and (ii) non-governmental organisations. [88107]

Des Browne: UK armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan are reminded, through the Ministry of Defence in-theatre guidance of the need to regulate, limit and report contact with Private Military Companies (PMCs). We do recognise, however, that a wide range of PMCs operate in Iraq and Afghanistan, including those contracted by members of the coalition and non-governmental organisations, and that their employees are unavoidably encountered by our military personnel during the course of their duties. We also recognise that, to minimise risk, our forces need to be aware of where PMCs operate.

RAF

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average age was of each type of aircraft flown by the RAF in each of the last 10 years. [91215]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned level of trained RAF personnel was in each of the last 10 years; and what the planned levels are for each of the next five years. [91216]

Mr. Ingram: The requirement for trained Royal Air Force personnel in each of the last 10 years was:

As at 1 April	*Number*
1997	56,450
1998	54,530
1999	53,020
2000	51,900
2001	51,360
2002	49,720
2003	49,370
2004	49,570
2005	48,400
2006	46,910

As previously announced to the House, the Royal Air Force is currently drawing down to around 41,000 by April 2008. Future forecast trained manpower requirement figures beyond that date are not published because they are subject to constant change. The figures for each of the next two years are:

As at 1 April	*Number*
2007	44,610
2008	41,440

Notes:
1. Figures are for UK Regular Forces and therefore exclude full-time reservists and mobilised reservists.
2. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Royal Irish Regiment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the troop levels are for each battalion in the Royal Irish Regiment; what the planned numbers are for each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [91155]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* The Royal Irish Regiment (R IRISH) currently has one General Service battalion (1 R IRISH) earmarked for world-wide duties and three Home Service Battalions (2, 3 and 4 R IRISH), which serve only in Northern Ireland.

As at 1 September 2006, there were some 500 personnel in 1 R IRISH, some 880 personnel in 2 R IRISH, some 910 personnel in 3 R IRISH and some 930 personnel in 4 R IRISH. In addition to the Battalions there are also some 290 R IRISH Home Service personnel who work at the Regimental Headquarters, Depot or attached to other units within the Province.

The Home Service battalions were specifically raised for operations in support of the police in Northern Ireland. As announced by the Secretary of State for Defence in August 2005, the Home Service battalions will disband by 31 July 2007, having successfully completed the task for which they were raised. The General Service Battalion (1 R IRISH) is unaffected and they (and the Royal Irish element of the Territorial Army (The Royal Irish Rangers)) will continue the traditions of the Regiment.

Self-harm

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are for his study on the causal factors of self-harm; what tendering process was undertaken to employ independent experts to conduct the study; and what his target dates for *(a)* completion and *(b)* publication of the report are. [26298]

Derek Twigg: The study was split into three consecutive phases, each one dependent on the successful completion of the preceding phase. Phase One, to identify precipitating factors for deliberate

self-harm among soldiers, with an overall objective to provide a structured interview protocol to investigate self-harm in the military community. Phase Two, to retrospectively match each identified case with an appropriately matched control group, and Phase Three, to evaluate the extent to which risk factors and risk profiles identified in Phases One and Two could be used as a marker for deliberate self-harm.

All three phases were to include military community psychiatric workers, under the direction of the Army Suicide Prevention Working Group (ASPWG), supported by suitable external subject matter expertise. The Directorate of Army Personnel Strategy commissioned the provision of external experts from research funds.

The statement of requirement for Phase One of the Study and an invitation to tender for the work was sent to three independent academic experts. Only two bids were received, one from Imperial College and the other from King's College. The bids were assessed in accordance with current MOD competitive tendering guidelines, and the contract was awarded to Imperial College.

Phase One of the study began in April 2004, with an expected completion date of June 2005. However, as there were far fewer cases of deliberate self harm over the period than statistically predicted, this resulted in insufficient numbers of volunteers coming forward to be interviewed, the completion date of Phase One was extended until December 2005. Despite this extension, the numbers of those interviewed was considered to be insufficient for the purpose of the study.

The results were presented to the ASPWG in December 2005 where it was decided that the study could not progress on the basis that there were too few cases of self-harm over the period to provide a credible result for Phase One. Therefore there was insufficient data to inform the subsequent Phases.

A summary of the findings of Phase One was submitted to the British Medical Journal (BMJ) and presented to the Royal Society of Medicine Symposium in January. The BMJ have since declined to publish these findings, due to the size of the sample used.

Special Forces Jump Course

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he plans to provide radio equipment for all students on the Special Forces Jump Course at Brize Norton; [90930]

(2) whether he has received any requests from any members of staff at Integrated Project Teams for the purchase of radios for the students on the Special Forces Jump Course at Brize Norton before November 2005. [90931]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* There are currently no plans to provide military trainees undertaking parachute training at RAF Brize Norton with radio equipment, but my officials are investigating the feasibility of radio use for the transmission of routine information. It is expected that if radios were used, they would not be used in emergency situations due to the risk of confusion when more than one parachutist is involved.

Details of requests made by members of staff at Integrated Project Teams for the purchase of radios are not recorded centrally. I am aware of two working level requests that have been made previously, in July 2000 and November 2003, for the provision of radios to support some early stage parachute training. Competing priorities on the defence equipment budget meant that funding was not available.

Submarines

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration is being given to improving the night vision capabilities of Trafalgar class submarines. [91038]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* There are no current plans to improve the night vision capability of Trafalgar Class submarines, though the requirement is kept under review.

Suez Campaign

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) why *(a)* questions (i) 65386 and (ii) 65389, on the Suez Canal Zone campaign, tabled for named day answer on 27 April and *(b)* question 72193, on those questions, tabled for named day answer on 23 May, has not been substantively answered; [82485]

(2) when he will reply to the question *(a)* 65386 and *(b)* 65389, on the Suez Canal Zone campaign, tabled for named day answer on 27 April 2006. [72193]

Derek Twigg *[holding answers 4 July 2006 and 23 May 2006]:* I replied to the hon. Member earlier. It is regretted that it has taken so long to respond to the hon. Member's questions.

Trident

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it will cost to maintain the Trident weapons system between 2007 and 2020. [61580]

Des Browne: The annual expenditure on capital and running costs of the Trident nuclear deterrent, including costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, is expected to be between 5 and 5.5 per cent. of the Defence budget in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Spending plans for subsequent years will be set as part of the Government's Spending Review process.

TUPE Obligations

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will suspend *(a)* the round of redundancies at the Defence Aviation Repair Agency and *(b)* the transfer of Tornado work to RAF Marham until the implications of compliance with TUPE regulations have been assessed. [91233]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* In my letter of 25 July 2006 I explained to you that CE DARA had temporarily suspended the current redundancy programme pending clarity on the TUPE

issues, and that the drawdown of DARA's Fast jet business at St. Athan would continue as planned. This remains the position. I have now placed a copy of that letter in the Library of the House.

VC Programme

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress there has been on the market testing of the VC10 programme at St. Athan; and whether this took into account the full application of the Two Tier Workforce Regulations. [91231]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* Good progress has been made in work to market test the VC10 operating unit at St. Athan; MOD's intentions, in line with legal requirements and the Government's policy, are that industry will need to consider the implications of the TUPE Regulations and the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters (the Cabinet Office document setting out the policy for addressing the so called "two tier workforce issues") in their purchase proposals.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1345W, on judicial review, where information is held indicating on what occasions individuals and organisations have applied for a judicial review of decisions of her Department; and how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public may have access to that information. [85466]

Ms Harman: The Department does not hold the information referred to centrally. It is contained on individual case files. Those files pre-dating 2000 are likely to have been destroyed in accordance with the Department's policy. The costs of locating and retrieving files would be disproportionate.

The Administrative Court maintains an electronic database of all applications made for judicial review. This may be searched against the name of any party to the proceedings.

Any person may request such information from the Administrative Court and the request will be considered under the Freedom of Information Act.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Payments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* disability living allowance and *(c)* carer's allowance was underpaid due to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* customer error and *(c)* official error in each year for which figures are available. [77990]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available for carer's allowance. The available information is in the following table.

Estimates of underpayments of pension credit and disability living allowance 2004-05

	Fraud		*Customer error*		*Official error*		*Total fraud and error*	
	£ million	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
Pension credit	0	0.0	33	0.5	88	1.4	121	2.0
Disability living allowance	0	0.0	190	2.4	10	0.1	200	2.5

Notes:
1. Figures in brackets are underpayments expressed as a proportion of expenditure for that benefit. They are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent.
2. Pension credit estimates are rounded to the nearest £1 million, and disability living allowance estimates are rounded to the nearest £10 million (to be consistent with how they were originally published).
3. Estimates are based on sampling exercises and so are subject to sampling and other uncertainties. Sampling uncertainty is expressed in the form of confidence intervals—these have not been provided in these tables.
4. The methodology used does not capture underpayments due to an incorrect decision being made that the claimant was not entitled to benefit. Expenditure that would be paid out to people who have not applied to benefit they would be entitled to is not included as underpayments.
5. Pension credit was introduced in October 2003, so 2004-05 is the only complete year for which pension credit figures are currently available.
6. The most recent review for disability living allowance was carried out for 2004-05—estimates from this review are provided in this table. Results from the previous review in 1996 were carried out under a different methodology so are not considered comparable.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much benefit was underpaid in income support to *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* disabled people in each year for which figures are available; and what amount was underpaid due to (i) fraud, (ii) customer error and (iii) official error in each year. [77992]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables.

Estimates of underpayments for income support disabled/sick and others

	Fraud		*Customer error*		*Official error*		*Total fraud and error*	
	£ million	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
2004-05	1	0.0	23	0.4	44	0.8	68	1.2
2003-04	8	0.1	24	0.4	51	0.9	83	1.5

Estimates of underpayments for income support disabled/sick and others

	Fraud		Customer error		Official error		Total fraud and error	
	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage
2002-03	12	0.2	24	0.5	41	0.8	77	1.5
2001-02	12	0.2	25	0.5	41	0.8	79	1.5

Estimates of underpayments for income support lone parents

	Fraud		Customer error		Official error		Total fraud and error	
	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage	£ million	Percentage
2004-05	1	0.0	18	0.4	23	0.5	42	0.9
2003-04	3	0.1	23	0.5	29	0.6	54	1.1
2002-03	2	0.0	20	0.4	20	0.4	42	0.9
2001-02	3	0.1	17	0.4	18	0.4	38	0.8

Notes:

1. All figures are underpayments rounded to the nearest £1 million or nearest 0.1 per cent. of expenditure. They are based on sampling exercises and so are subject to sampling and other uncertainties. Sampling uncertainty is expressed in the form of confidence intervals—these have not been provided in these tables.
2. The methodology used does not capture underpayments due to an incorrect decision being made that the claimant was not entitled to benefit. Expenditure that would be paid out to people who have not applied to benefit they would be entitled to is not included as underpayments.
3. Figures are unavailable for disabled people in income support on their own. Figures presented here cover all income support claimants who are not lone parents (mostly disabled and sick claimants).
4. Figures earlier than 2001-02 were not published in the same format as they were produced from two separate samples—one for official error checks, and one for fraud and customer error checks. These have not been provided.

Child Support

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed by the Child Support Agency; and how many were employed as of 1 July *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2005. [83427]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff are employed by the Child Support Agency; and how many were employed as of 1st July (a) 1997 (b) 2000 and (c) 2005.

The information requested can be seen in the attached table.

I hope this information is helpful.

Number of people employed by the Child Support Agency

Date	Number of people in post[1]
1997-98	[2]8,445
1 July	
2000	9,460
2005	10,285
2006	11,545

[1] The figures provided show the actual number of people in post, some of whom may be part-time.

[2] Data is not held for 1 July 1997. The figure provided is taken from the 1997-98 Annual Report and Accounts, which shows the average number of employees over the financial year using DATAVIEW method of counting. This method shows the actual numbers of people in post but excludes those on special leave without pay (including career break, maternity leave and other reasons).

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what proportion of Child Support Agency cases *(a)* the non-resident parent is not paying maintenance and has no know current address and *(b)* a maintenance decision has not been made as the non-resident has not been traced. [87546]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what conditions and requirements apply to existing *(a)* Child Support Agency (CSA) claimants and *(b)* parents making payments migrating to the new rules for CSA payments. [86569]

Mr. Plaskitt: Child Support legislation allows an old scheme case to transfer to the new scheme where there are prescribed links to a new scheme application. A prescribed link is one in which:

the non-resident parent or parent with care in a new scheme application is the non-resident parent or parent with care in an old scheme maintenance assessment; or

in benefit cases: where the partner of a non-resident parent in a new scheme application is a non-resident parent in an old scheme maintenance assessment; or

the partner of a parent with care in a new scheme application is a parent with care in an old scheme maintenance assessment.

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will arrange for a reply to the letter dated 5 July 2006 to the Child Support Agency from the hon. Member for Walsall North, reference 1002609585. [90635]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he would arrange for a reply to the letter dated 5th July 2006 to the Child Support Agency from the hon. Member for Walsall North, reference 1002609585.

Jackie Laughton, Head of Client Relations for the Child Support Agency replied to your letter dated 5 July 2006 on 31 August 2006. For ease of reference I have sent copy of her recent letter to you separately and hope you found this response helpful.

Disability Equality

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of which policy areas will be considered in his report on progress towards disability equality within the work and pensions policy sectors due to be published in December 2008. [90982]

Mrs. McGuire: All relevant areas of DWP policy will be considered in the report on progress. We will seek an assessment of progress from the principal authorities which deliver services funded or regulated by the Secretary of State including local authorities administering housing benefit, as well as the executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies of the Department for Work and Pensions.

To inform the report we will gather evidence from survey data, performance indicators and statistics and from further research.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps were taken to involve disabled people in the production of his Department's disability equality scheme. [90983]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department has involved disabled people and organisations representing disabled people in the production of its disability equality scheme. Officials in my Department invited seven major organisations (Leonard Cheshire Foundation, MENCAP, MIND, RADAR, RNIB, RNID, SCOPE) to help develop our disability equality scheme. DWP, at both a corporate and agency level, has used existing customer channels and specific events to consult individual customers and organisations, and has a representative from the Disability Rights Commission on its Equality Schemes Working Group. In relation to its employees, DWP has consulted them through internal communications, its staff network group and the departmental trade union.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in the Sunderland City Council area include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate. [85422]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Vivien Hopkins:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many households in the Sunderland City Council area include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the (a) highest (b) middle and (c) lowest rate.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service. In his absence, I am replying.

The information available is in the following table:

Recipients of disability living allowance with learning difficulties by rate of care award as at November 2005 in the Sunderland local authority

Care component	*Number*
Total with care component	1,210
Highest rate	410
Middle rate	200
Lowest rate	610

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Sunderland city council is the same as Sunderland local authority.
3. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
4. Figures are based on the care component condition only.
5. The number of claimants does not equate to the number of households as there may be more than one person in a household with learning difficulties claiming DLA.
6. Figures include cases where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. Data.

Identity Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce identity fraud in the benefits system; and what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Home Office and *(b)* related Government agencies on the subject. [73449]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) overall aim is to always establish the correct identity of a person prior to providing a benefit or service.

Before entitlement to benefit can be considered, an individual and their partner need to satisfy Section 1(1b) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. This requires the customer to provide enough information and evidence to confirm that a national insurance number (NINO) quoted on the claim is their own. Where a customer does not know their NINO, they are required to provide enough information and evidence in order that the correct NINO can be traced. If the customer does not have a NINO, they are required to verify their identity and provide enough information in order that a NINO can be issued.

We have established secure procedures for the allocation of national insurance numbers to adults, conducting rigorous checks to ensure that adult national insurance numbers are only issued to those who have undergone an evidence of identity interview.

DWP staff are trained in preventing identity fraud and refer any suspected cases for investigation. DWP prosecutes for identity fraud offences, including

attempts to obtain national insurance numbers using false documentation. This forms a useful deterrence against those fraudsters who attempt to infiltrate DWP systems.

DWP expects to maximise the use of the proposed Identity Card across its businesses when ascertaining an individual's right to benefit and we are working with the Home Office to develop such future applications.

DWP is represented on the Home Office Identity Fraud Steering Committee which has a remit to implement measures to counter identity fraud. Other representatives of this group include the private sector and other Government Departments such as HMRC with whom we work closely.

Work is ongoing through this Committee to implement measures against identity fraud that can be put in place in advance of the proposed National Identity Scheme.

Identity Verification

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are in place to verify an individual's identity *(a)* before he or she is allocated a national insurance number and *(b)* before he or she has access to the benefit system. [73445]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department follows a robust process to verify the individual's identity prior to the allocation of a national insurance number (NINO). This process includes a check to ensure that the applicant does not already hold a NINO, and if appropriate will be followed by a face-to-face interview designed to build up a picture of the individual's circumstances. This will involve document examination checks to ensure the authenticity of any documentary evidence provided in support of the application; and corroborative checks with third parties (including other Government Departments) to verify information supplied during the interview.

Only when Jobcentre Plus is satisfied as to the individual's identity will a NINO be allocated.

Before entitlement to benefit can be considered an individual and their partner need to satisfy section 1(1B) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 regarding NINO provision. This requires the customer to provide enough information and evidence to confirm that the NINO quoted on the claim is their own. Rigorous checking procedures are built into benefit processes to ensure that the gateway to the benefits system is secure. Anyone who has acquired a NINO does not have automatic access to the benefits system and the use of a NINO in isolation is not sufficient to obtain benefits.

Where a customer does not know their NINO, they are required to provide enough information and evidence in order that the correct NINO can be traced. If the customer does not have a NINO, they are required to verify their identity and provide enough information in order that a NINO can be issued.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of people leaving incapacity benefit began claiming again within a year of leaving the benefit in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what that percentage was *(a)* in Pathways to Work pilot areas and *(b)* in the rest of the country in each year; and what percentage were aged (i) over 50 and (ii) under 50 years in each year. [88001]

Mrs. McGuire: Pathways was launched in October 2003, in three Jobcentre Plus districts and had rolled out to a further four districts by the end of 2004. The table shows the available information on those who reclaimed incapacity benefit within a year of terminating their previous claim.

Incapacity benefit (IB) terminations in years ending November, where a further claim to IB was made within 52 weeks of termination, by age and area and as a percentage of all reclaims

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
All areas	21,700	22,500	21,500	21,100	19,100
Percentage of all areas	100	100	100	10	100
50+	700	700	700	600	[1]400
Percentage of all areas	3	3	3	3	2
Under 50	21,000	21,700	20,800	20,600	18,700
Percentage of all areas	97	96	97	98	98
All Pathways areas	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,400	1,800
Percentage of all areas	11	10	10	11	9
50+	[1]100	[1]100	[2]__	[1]100	[2]__
Percentage of all areas	[2]__	[2]__	[2]__	[2]__	[2]__
Under 50	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,300	1,800
Percentage of all areas	10	10	10	11	9
All other areas	19,400	20,200	19,300	18,700	17,300
Percentage of all areas	89	90	90	89	91
50+	600	600	700	500	[1]400
Percentage of all areas	3	3	3	2	2

Incapacity benefit (IB) terminations in years ending November, where a further claim to IB was made within 52 weeks of termination, by age and area and as a percentage of all reclaims

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Under 50	18,800	19,600	18,700	18,200	16,900
Percentage of all areas	87	87	87	86	88

[1] Numbers are based on very few sample cases and subject to a high degree of sampling variation. These should be used as a guide to the current situation only.
[2] Denotes nil negligible.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Information Centre, five per cent data.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been disqualified from receiving incapacity benefit under section 171 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 in each year between 2000 and 2005, broken down by condition of the claimant. [90971]

Mrs. McGuire: Section 171 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 relates to statutory maternity pay (SMP). Disallowances of incapacity benefit due to receipt of SMP are not recorded centrally and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

IT Contracts

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value was of each IT contract awarded by his Department in each of the last five years; and who the contractor was in each case. [88968]

James Purnell: Over the last five years the IT contracts awarded by the DWP with associated value is as follows:

	Projects	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	£ million Total
Accenture	Customer Information System	17.370	11.600	2.300	—	—	31.270
Accenture	Pensions Transformation Project	75.850	33.920	2.910	—	—	112.680
Atos	Stand Alone Support Applications	2.663	—	—	—	—	2.663
Atos	Debt Management	0.117	5.221	0.227	—	—	5.565
Atos	Working Age Transformation and Change, Benefit Processing Replacement Programme	0.495	—	—	—	—	0.495
Atos	Bank Liaison Automation System	0.658	—	—	—	—	0.658
Energis	Gsi Anti Virus	0.259	1.463	—	—	—	1.722
Fujitsu	Real Time Pensions Forecasting	—	18.051	4.323	—	—	22.374
Fujitsu	Resource Management	—	28.642	—	—	—	28.642
Computacenter	Hardware and Software	8.319	10.297	23.010	66.800	32.900	141.326
IBM	Working Age Transformation and Change Benefit Processing Replacement Programme	79.388	35.337	11.805	26.709	—	153.239
IBM	Customer Management System	—	0.194	32.840	28.460	—	61.494
Oracle	Resource Management	5.302	9.982	14.384	—	—	29.668
Logica	Pensions regulator	—	0.649	—	—	—	0.649
Siemens	Central Payments System	54.065	—	—	—	—	54.065
Xansa	Work Train Project	0.386	1.076	—	—	—	1.462
Total		244.872	156.432	91.799	121.969	32.900	647.972

Jobcentre Plus

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices have reduced their opening hours in each parliamentary constituency in the last 12 months. [78547]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus offices have reduced their opening hours in each parliamentary constituency in the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A total of 73 Jobcentre Plus sites have had a reduction in opening hours since 31 May 2005. For approximately half of these sites, the reduction in hours amounts to less than one day per week. It is not possible to provide information broken down by parliamentary constituency, this information is gathered at a district level. The information available is set out in the attached table, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus Offices will normally open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm every working day with a later opening one day per week to support staff development. The day of the week will vary from office to office depending on local circumstances. (There are a small number of offices, which operate fewer hours meeting local needs, and these are gradually being phased out). Key stakeholders are consulted on how customer services will be delivered when major changes of opening hours are proposed.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what was *(a)* the staffing bill and *(b)* the overtime bill for Jobcentre Plus in each year of its operation to date. [87539]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what was the (a) staffing bill and (b) the overtime bill for Jobcentre Plus in each year of its operation to date. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The figures for total staff costs from 2002-03 to 2004-05 are taken from the published Jobcentre Plus Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons library.

The total staff costs recorded in the annual accounts and the overtime figures in the supporting records for the period 2002-2005 are shown below. The figures for 2005/06 are the unaudited staff and overtime costs from the draft Agency accounts.

£000

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Staff costs	1,712,111	1,669,766	1,757,687	1,878,128
of which:				
Overtime costs	24,373	22,853	18,577	23,583

The total staff costs include the salaries of permanent and casual staff, temporary duties allowance, overtime, superannuation costs and payment for early release schemes. There was an increase in staff costs from 2004-05 to 2005-06 of £120 million despite a headcount reduction of over 3,500 whole time equivalents. The main reasons for this were the increase in employer's pension contributions of £65 million and £60 million to fund early retirements to reduce headcount.

Ministerial Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times his ministerial office has been decorated in each of the last five years. [87639]

Mrs. McGuire: The ministerial office has been redecorated once in the last five years as part of a planned maintenance programme. Part of the ministerial office was redecorated in 2004-05, with the remainder being redecorated in 2005-06. The redecoration covered painting and decorating of the office and did not include replacement of fixtures and fittings.

National Insurance

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much time per applicant is allocated for interviews with applicants for national insurance numbers; and what changes to this time allocation *(a)* have occurred within the last 12 months and *(b)* are planned within the next 12 months. [82626]

Mr. Plaskitt: Jobcentre Plus is currently in the process of rolling out a standard model for the Secure National Insurance Number Allocation Process which allocates 40 minutes per applicant.

Prior to the introduction of this model, there was no fixed allocation of time per applicant.

The whole of Jobcentre Plus will be using this Secure National Insurance Number Allocation process from the end of July 2006.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of applicants for national insurance numbers were called for face-to-face interviews in the last 12 months for which data are available. [82627]

Mr. Plaskitt: Jobcentre Plus conducted face-to-face interviews for 93 per cent. of national insurance number applicants between June 2005 and May 2006, the last 12 months for which data are available

The remaining 7 per cent. were fast path applicants. Fast path is used for HM Forces, NHS professionals, employers with Home Office approved work permits and people who have sought and been granted asylum

in the UK. NINOs are issued to the latter group without interview because the Home Office provide relevant information gathered during IND interviews with asylum seekers to Jobcentre Plus.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the UK are recorded as eligible for a national insurance number; and how many are in issue. [79032]

Mr. Plaskitt: No figures are recorded on the number of people in the UK who are eligible to receive a national insurance number. As at July 2006, there are 76.8 million national insurance numbers (NINOs) held on the Departmental Central Index (DCI) (now the Customer Information System (CIS)).

In order to maintain the integrity of the system (and for benefit purposes) NINOs are not removed. For example, they are retained after a person dies or moves abroad. This is because individuals who move abroad may at some point have a call upon contributions paid while in the UK. In the case of deceased individuals, a partner may make a claim for a contributory benefit, which is dependant on the contribution record of the deceased individual. This means that the number of accounts held on the system accrues as NINOs are allocated each year to all UK children who reach 16 years and persons from abroad requiring a NINO are added.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers are held on the Department's system; how many of these are active; how many of the remainder relate to deceased persons; and what measures are being taken to identify, monitor and close inactive accounts where appropriate. [75337]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at July 2006 there are 76.8 million national insurance numbers (NINOs) held on the Department's Customer Information System (CIS).

In order to maintain the integrity of the system (and for benefit purposes) NINOs are not removed. For example, they are retained after a person dies or moves abroad. This is because individuals who move abroad may at some point have a call upon contributions paid while in the UK. In the case of deceased individuals, a partner may make a claim for a contributory benefit, which is dependant on the contribution record of the deceased individual. This means that the number of accounts held on the system accrues as NINOs are allocated each year to all UK children who reach 16 years and persons from abroad requiring a NINO are added.

Deceased persons accounts and those of people aged over 82 years where there has been no activity on the account for the previous three years are classified as inactive and "flagged" so that any activity on those accounts will automatically prompt internal checks to ensure legitimate access.

The latest available information in respect of deceased persons is for 2003 and was estimated to be 16.5 million.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of suspected illegal immigrants granted national insurance numbers were passed to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each quarter since April 1997; and if he will make a statement. [75799]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The requested information is only available from April 2005 and is unavailable broken down by quarter. From April 2005 to March 2006, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) notified the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of 2,537 cases where national insurance numbers were allocated to suspected immigration offenders. In addition, 772 cases involving suspect documents that have been refused a NINO were notified to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate by DWP.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers there have been on *(a)* the Departmental Central Index and *(b)* National Insurance Recording Systems 1 and 2 in each year since 1997. [77524]

Mr. Plaskitt: The National Insurance Recording Systems are administered by HM Revenue and Customs, and are a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As at July 2006, there are 76.8 million national insurance numbers (NINOs) held on the Departmental Central Index (DCI) (now the Customer Information System (CIS)). Prior to this, only approximate figures can be provided. The available information is in the following table.

Approximate number of NINOs held on DCI/CIS

	million
	Number
1997	66
1998	67
1999	68
2000	69
2001	70
2002	71
2003	72
2004	73
2005	74.5

Note:
DCI/CIS holds both NINOs and Child Reference Numbers (CRNs). The proportion of NINOs to CRNs is not available in precise detail for those years. However, a recent scan of CIS has shown that the precise number of NINOs is 76.8 million (July 2006). The precise number of CRNs is 11.7 million. The figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Mr. Marshall-Andrews: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers are in operation for persons over 16 years old in England and Wales. [77928]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at July 2006, there are 76.8 million national insurance numbers (NINOs) held on the Departmental Central Index (DCI) (now the Customer Information System (CIS)). These figures relate to the UK, as we are unable to specify separately the numbers for England and Wales.

In order to maintain the integrity of the system (and for benefit purposes) NINOs are not removed. For example, they are retained after a person dies or moves abroad. This is because individuals who move abroad may at some point have a call upon contributions paid while in the UK. In the case of deceased individuals, a partner may make a claim for a contributory benefit, which is dependant on the contribution record of the deceased individual. This means that the number of accounts held on the system accrues as NINOs are allocated each year to all UK children who reach 16 years and persons from abroad requiring a NINO are added.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many temporary national insurance numbers have been issued in each *(a)* month and *(b)* quarter since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [78393]

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government have taken to ensure that temporary national insurance numbers are not used to gain access to *(a)* services, *(b)* benefits and *(c)* forms of identification to which the holder is not entitled; and if he will make a statement. [79034]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not issue temporary national insurance numbers (NINO).

There are exceptional situations where DWP use internal reference numbers in the same format as a NINO to facilitate benefit administration prior to the allocation of a NINO. However, such numbers are not issued to customers. They cannot be used to enter the benefits system, or be used for identification purposes or to gain access to any other services.

Neurological Conditions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the progression into work of people with neurological conditions and the progression into work of incapacity benefit claimants. [87542]

Mrs. McGuire: 11 per cent. of people with neurological conditions who have joined Pathways to Work between October 2003 and February 2006 have progressed into work.

Information on the number of people with neurological conditions who have progressed into work in the last three years without participating in Pathways is not available.

We know that a large proportion want to work and so we want to ensure that they are given the opportunity to do so. We do not believe in writing anyone off—one of the key principles of our successful Pathways to Work programme is inclusion and support for all.

Personal advisers tailor packages of help and support for individuals with a range of health problems, including neurological conditions. In Pathways to Work areas, Condition Management Programmes aim to help people manage their health condition or disability more effectively, so that they can get the jobs they want.

Notes:

1. The statistics quoted in this response are taken from the Pathways to Work Evaluation Database.
2. Data are to the end of February 2006.
3. Data include information for the extension to existing customers.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement about percentage rates of people with neurological conditions who had been claiming incapacity benefit for over 12 months when starting work-focused interviews, compared to other people claiming incapacity benefit for over 12 months. [87543]

Mrs. McGuire: Mandatory work-focused interviews for incapacity benefit customers occur eight weeks after the start of their benefit claim. Therefore no one who started the mandatory work-focused interview process has been in receipt of incapacity benefits for over 12 months.

The exception to this is participants in the mandatory extension of Pathways to Work. They are identified as those being in receipt of benefit between one and three years at the time the mandatory extension commenced. Therefore they have all been in receipt of incapacity benefits for over 12 months.

Only in the first 12 months after roll out would voluntary participants in Pathways to Work have been in receipt of incapacity benefits for less than 12 months. After that period they will all have been in receipt of incapacity benefits for over 12 months as all fresh claims will have been captured by work-focused interviews through Pathways to Work.

Establishing percentage rates of people with neurological conditions who had been claiming incapacity benefit for over 12 months when volunteering for work-focused interviews compared to other people claiming incapacity benefit for over 12 months in that initial period can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

New Deal

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of known job entrants from *(a)* new deal for young people and *(b)* new deal 25 plus started jobs that were not sustained beyond 13 weeks duration in each year since the programmes began. [56972]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

Percentage of known job entrants who started jobs that were not sustained beyond 13 weeks

	Percentage	
	New deal for young people	*New deal 25 plus*
1998	13	21
1999	18	20
2000	17	16
2001	18	17
2002	19	20

Percentage of known job entrants who started jobs that were not sustained beyond 13 weeks

	New deal for young people	Percentage New deal 25 plus
2003	19	20
2004	22	21
2005	24	23

Notes:
1. Annual data refer to January to December each year, except new deal 25 plus data for 1998 which are from July to December. For both programmes data for 2005 are from January to November.
2. A sustained job is measured as one where there is no subsequent jobseeker's allowance claim within 13 weeks of the job start.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP

Pathways to Work

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation there will be on local partnership arrangements in preparation for the start of provider-led Pathways to Work provision in *(a)* Oxfordshire, *(b)* Berkshire and *(c)* Buckinghamshire from April 2008. [86329]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Provider-led Pathways is scheduled to start in the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire district, along with 15 other districts, as part of the final phase of rollout in April 2008.

The Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work team will hold provider events following the publication of the pre-qualification questionnaire and the invitation to tender to promote local partnership working later this year. They will also work with districts to promote Pathways with local strategic partners in order to encourage them to work in partnership with Pathways providers. They will then run a series of joint workshops with providers, local strategic partners and each district. Partnership working will also be encouraged as part of the local start-up arrangements prior to go-live in April 2008.

Post Office Card Account

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many post office card accounts (POCAs) there were in each local authority area in Tyne and Wear in April *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and what percentage of customers receiving (i) non-contributory jobseeker's allowance, (ii) the basic state pension and (iii) pension credit did so via the POCA in each area at each date. [86858]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the information which is available.

	Jobseeker's allowance			State pension			Pension credit		
		Accounts paid by POCA			Accounts paid by POCA			Accounts paid by POCA	
Local authority	Total accounts	Number	Percentage	Total accounts	Number	Percentage	Total accounts	Number	Percentage
April 2004									
Gateshead	3,230	80	2.6	31,030	1,260	4.1	12,280	1,210	9.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	5,530	70	1.2	34,840	1,050	3	15,130	1,180	7.8
North Tyneside	3,340	30	0.8	33,090	960	2.9	10,880	720	6.6
South Tyneside	3,900	100	2.5	24,220	990	4.1	10,180	1,110	10.9
Sunderland	5,280	390	7.4	39,980	1,820	4.6	17,640	2,010	11.4
April 2005									
Gateshead	3,300	480	14.6	31,230	9,020	28.9	13,410	6,010	44.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	5,100	1,130	22.2	34,740	9,260	26.7	16,440	7,260	44.1
North Tyneside	3,120	500	16.1	32,950	8,400	25 5	12,230	4,830	39.5
South Tyneside	4,040	760	18.8	24,030	7,780	32.4	11,260	5,230	46.4
Sunderland	4,900	1,080	22.1	40,570	13,500	33.3	19,290	9,290	48.2
April 2006									
Gateshead	3,360	680	20.2	31,240	8,660	27.7	13,350	6,020	45.1
Newcastle upon Tyne	5,540	1,330	24	34,520	8,990	26	16,350	7,350	45
North Tyneside	3,310	570	17.4	32,870	8,020	24.4	12,340	4,920	39.8
South Tyneside	3,930	810	20.5	23,750	7,360	31	11,320	5,300	46.8
Sunderland	6,070	1,230	20.3	40,380	12,990	32.2	19,410	9,400	48.4

Figures refer to benefit and pension payment accounts live and in payment on the specified date. People in receipt of more than one benefit/pension have been counted for each separate benefit/pension in payment. People who have their benefit/pension combined and paid at the same time have only been counted through the paying benefit.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of Post Office card account holders who are undischarged bankrupts. [91061]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Department for Work and Pensions has made no estimate of the number of Post Office card account holders who are undischarged bankrupts.

Poverty

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* children, *(b)* people and *(c)* elderly people in (i) rural areas and (ii) England live in poverty. [88928]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information for 1996-97 and for 2004-05 is in the following tables.

Proportion of children, all individuals and pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income, in rural areas: England, 1996-97

Percentages

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
Children	19	27
All individuals	16	21
Pensioners	23	27

Proportion of children, all individuals and pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income, in rural areas: England, 2004/05

Percentages

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
Children	13	20
All individuals	13	16
Pensioners	20	17

Notes:
1. A pensioner is a person of state pension age or above (65 for men, 60 for women).
2. The urban/rural marker information is not available on a consistent basis on the data for Scotland and Wales.

Source:
Family Resource Survey

Proportion of children, all individuals and pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income: England, 1996/97

Percentages

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
Children	24	33
All individuals	18	25
Pensioners	22	28

Proportion of children, all individuals and pensioners falling below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median Income: England, 2004/05

Percentages

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
Children	19	28
All individuals	16	20
Pensioners	20	17

Notes:
1. A pensioner is a person of state pension age or above (65 for men, 60 for women).
2. All results shown here are single-year values. Results for England may differ from the published results. Published results are presented as three-year averages to ensure comparability with the other Government office regions.

Source:
Family Resource Survey

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department or public bodies for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83168]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Taxation (Disabled People)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to publish the Tax Benefit Model Tables showing marginal deduction rates for disabled people as part of his Disability Equality Scheme. [90972]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Department for Work and Pensions is due to publish its Disability Equality Scheme on 1 December 2006. We are currently considering the appropriate content of the scheme.

Workless Older People

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people below the state pension age who are not in work who are willing and able to work. [83033]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The most commonly used definition of people who are not in work who are willing and able to work is the International Labour Office (ILO) definition of unemployment. The ILO unemployed are people who are without a job; want a job; have actively sought work in the last four weeks; and are available to start work in the next two weeks.

The latest figures for ILO unemployment (seasonally adjusted) are from the Labour Force Survey and cover the period March to May 2006. This shows that there were 1,623,000 people below state pension age who are not in work who are willing and able to work.

The Government's ambition is to provide employment opportunities for all not only by helping the ILO unemployed get a job but also by helping the

economically inactive—generally those who are not looking for work—to consider work and help them into work.

The combination of macroeconomic stability and welfare to work policies has been successful in achieving high employment rates. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in their re-assessment of their Jobs Strategy, identified the UK as a successful performer. Their latest (2006) Employment Outlook also shows that the UK has the best combination of low ILO unemployment and inactivity rates of all the major G8 countries.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in Bristol since 1 June 2000; and how many are in force. [44136]

Ms Blears: A table giving a breakdown by the criminal justice system area and local government authority area in which prohibitions are imposed within antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) is available on the Crime Reduction website at www.crimereduction.gov.uk. This table gives data by year since ASBOs were introduced up to 30 June 2005 (latest available).

ASBO data are collected centrally on the number of orders issued. Information is not available on the number in force at any given time.

Association for Research (Voluntary & Community)

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding his Department has given to the Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector in each year since 1997; and what plans it has for further such funding. [88410]

Mr. Coaker: The Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector has been a recipient of Home Office core funding since 1997, when it received £44,414 until 2005-06 when it received £42,033. The Active Communities Directorate (ACD) of the Home Office announced a new strategic funding programme in October 2005, for organisations that could provide a representative and effective 'voice' for the VCS at national level. ARVAC were unsuccessful in their bid for new funding, but as they had received funding in 2005-06 they received a transitional package of funding of £27,000 for 2006-07 to support them in managing the transition. Following the Cabinet reshuffle on 5 May, the Active Communities Directorate (ACD) now forms part of the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been evicted from their homes in Coventry South before being deported from the UK in the last 12 months. [39741]

Mr. Byrne: Between 1 January and 31 December 2005, 186 people supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) with addresses within the area of Coventry, South had their support stopped following a final negative decision on their claim for asylum.

The number of main applicants in receipt of section 4 support in Coventry, who had their claims discontinued during this period was 142.

Responsibility for eviction rests with accommodation providers. NASS does not keep a central record showing the number of evictions which are confirmed. However, NASS pays providers for accommodation occupied by asylum seekers only. Consequently providers are not paid for accommodation occupied without authority.

Information of the number of unsuccessful asylum seekers who are removed is provided in the quarterly statistics which can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1/html

The statistics do not show where a person was living prior to removal and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers are detained in HM Prison Armley, Leeds. [49111]

Fiona Mactaggart: From the information available 11 prisoners in Leeds prison have either had an asylum application rejected, or have an asylum application outstanding.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers are in receipt of the National Asylum Support Service section 4 support, broken down by *(a)* nationality, *(b)* accommodation provider, *(c)* region and *(d)* length of time on section 4 support. [65981]

Mr. McNulty: As at the end of December 2005 there were 5,181 failed asylum seekers in receipt of section four support. This figure is based on management information.

The breakdowns are presented in the following tables.

Section 4 support statistics are published on a quarterly basis. Figures relating to the first quarter of 2006 will be published on 23 May 2006. These will be available from the Libraries of the House and on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Nationality breakdown

Nationality field	*Total*
Afghanistan	70
Albania	5
Algeria	30
Angola	30
Armenia	5
Azerbaijan	5
Belarus	*
Bosnia-Herzegovina	*
Burkina Faso	*
Burma (Myanmar)	5

Nationality breakdown

Nationality field	*Total*
Burundi	30
Cambodia (Kampuchea)	*
Cameroon	30
China (People's Republic of China)	55
Congo	170
Congo Democratic Republic (formerly Zaire)	85
Croatia	*
Cuba	5
East Timor	*
Ecuador	5
Egypt	*
Eritrea	460
Estonia	*
Ethiopia	130
Gambia	*
Georgia	5
Ghana	*
Guinea	15
India	15
Iran	305
Iraq	2,960
Israel	*
Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire)	30
Jamaica	5
Kenya	15
Kosovo	*
Kuwait	5
Latvia	*
Lebanon	5
Liberia	15
Libya (Arab Republic)	*
Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of)	*
Malawi	*
Malaysia	*
Mauritania	5
Mauritius	*
Moldova	*
Mongolia	5
Montenegro	*
Morocco	*
Nepal	5
Niger	*
Nigeria	20
Pakistan	20
Palestine	55
Poland	*
Romania	5
Russia	20
Rwanda	15
Senegal	*
Serbia	*
Seychelles	*
Sierra Leone	20
Somalia	155
South Africa	15
Sri Lanka	25
Stateless Person (Article 1 of 1954 Convention)	*
Sudan	120

Nationality breakdown

Nationality field	*Total*
Swaziland	*
Syria	15
Tajikistan	*
Tanzania	*
Togo	5
Turkey	15
Uganda	20
Ukraine	5
Vietnam	5
Yemen	5
Yugoslavia	5
Zimbabwe	105
Total	5,181

Accommodation provider breakdown

Provider field	*Total*
Angel Group	670
Capital	250
Caradon Estates	950
Clearsprings	430
M&Q	2,485
RCA Sheffield	280
Safehaven	30
YMCA Glasgow	80
YMCA West London	5
Total	5,181

Regional breakdown

Region	*Total*
East Midlands	500
East of England	35
London	980
North East	185

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest five, and "*" = 1 or 2

Due to rounding, the total of the numbers in each table may not equate to the figure shown.

Figures provided for the breakdown of accommodation providers are a snapshot and contract provision is under review.

Average number of days in accommodation (rounded to the nearest whole) = 279.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment his Department has made of allegations of persecution of repatriated asylum seekers by the authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo; [71417]

(2) whether his Department continues to regard the Democratic Republic of Congo as a country to which it is suitable to repatriate failed asylum seekers. [71418]

Mr. McNulty: We are aware of allegations such as those raised by the BBC in late 2005 that failed asylum seekers are subject to mistreatment on return. However, we have found that there is no objective evidence to support allegations outside of sources known to be sympathetic to the plight of asylum seekers or who specifically provide assistance to individual Congolese claimants. While it is impossible to rule out the potential for individual officials to act on their own account, we have seen no corroborated evidence that

they do so, nor that the Democratic Republic of Congo authorities have a policy of deliberately targeting failed asylum seekers for special attention.

In early 2006, the UNHCR's Kinshasa Office consulted a number of domestic and international human rights organisations and other relevant NGOs based in the capital about the authorities' treatment of returning failed asylum seekers. The UNHCR inquiries found that apart from encountering questioning and possibly temporary detention, there is no evidence to suggest that returning Congolese nationals face systematic mistreatment or that returning failed asylum seekers are at greater risk of scrutiny by the authorities than any other profile of Congolese national returning home.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers there are in each ward in Hartlepool constituency. [72596]

Mr. McNulty: The number of asylum seekers supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) are published on a quarterly and annual basis, broken down by Government office region and local authority. The next publication covering the first quarter of 2006 will be published on 23 May 2006, and will be available on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers who claim to be fleeing persecution on the grounds of their sexual orientation have been *(a)* refused and *(b)* granted asylum in the UK in the last 10 years. [87967]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claims have been deemed to be unfounded in each of the last five years. [88451]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of asylum claims deemed to be unfounded is available from 2004 and has been published as part of the public performance target: removing more failed asylum seekers than new anticipated unfounded applications. Copies of this report are available at the IND website:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/tippingpointsresults.pdf

The next report covering the second quarter of 2006 will be published on 22 August 2006.

Bail Act

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the Bail Act 1976 in relation to persistent and prolific offenders. [91109]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* There has been no assessment of the operation of the Bail Act 1976 in relation to persistent and prolific offenders.

The Bail Act requires the courts to take into account, among other things, a defendant's previous criminal history when making the remand decision.

As part of the Prolific and other Priority Offender Programme, launched by the Prime Minister in 2004, the criminal justice agencies are all operating a Premium Service to ensure that those offenders are prioritised through every stage of the criminal justice system.

The National Premium Service Specification provides guidance that there should be a presumption against use of police bail for prolific and other priority offenders, and that remand or conditional bail should be sought for all such cases. It is, of course, a matter for the court to decide on the remand status of the defendant, based on all the circumstances of the case.

When a defendant is released on conditional bail, the National Premium Service Specification also requires that the defendant be carefully monitored and that any breach of bail be dealt with robustly.

Biometric Passports

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has considered allowing people to pay for their passport in instalments when biometric passports are introduced. [66897]

Andy Burnham: There are currently no plans to introduce payment by instalments for biometric passports and there has been no pressure from customers to date to do so. In terms of the future fees strategy we will explore all aspects of charging including methods of fee collection but any changes will need to be focussed in terms of efficiency and minimising administrative costs.

British Crime Survey

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of crimes committed against under 16-year-olds which may have been omitted from the British Crime Survey due to it interviewing only those aged 16 years and over; and if he will make statement. [90571]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 7 September 2006]:* Information on the extent and nature of personal victimisation of young people, including those aged 10 to 15, is published in the Home Office Statistical bulletin 20/05 Young people and crime: findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (Appendix D), and in Home Office Findings 246 The victimisation of young people: findings from the 2003 Crime and Justice Survey, copies of which are available from the Library and from the Home Office website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/offending_survey.html

Business Crime Group

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been allocated to the British Retail Consortium to enable it to run the Action Against Business Crime Group beyond August 2006. [70772]

Mr. McNulty: The business crime strategy for 2006-07 has not yet been finalised.

Cannabis

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on cannabis education programmes since the reclassification of cannabis; and if he will make a statement. [88015]

Mr. Coaker: The Government takes an integrated approach to educating young people on the harms of all illegal drugs, for example through the "Frank" campaign. However, since the reclassification of cannabis in 2004 a total of £1.5 million has been spent on specific cannabis communications.

Civil Servants (Overseas Visits)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs were incurred by his Department as a result of sending civil servants on overseas visits in each of the last 10 years. [46282]

John Reid: Overall expenditure figures for overseas travel and subsistence for Home Office civil servants for the years 1996 through 2006, where available, are recorded in the table.

Travel undertaken on Home Office business is compliant with the Civil Service Management Code, the code is available to all staff who undertake an approved visit abroad.

All figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and are presented by Financial Year.

Figures for Financial Year 1996-97 are not available due to a change of accounting system.

Figures for Financial Year 2005-06 are part year to date as at 25 January 2006.

Financial Year	£	*Percentage change*
1997-98	3,209,000	—
1998-99	2,321,000	-28
1999-2000	3,878,000	67
2000-01	2,982,000	-23
2001-02	4,836,000	62
2002-03	5,947,000	23
2003-04	10,147,000	71
2004-05	10,269,000	1.2
2005-06 (to date)	7,765,000	—

Community Orders

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the pilot schemes on withholding benefits from persons who are in breach of a community order; and whether the results will be published. [88308]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Office and DWP jointly undertook to pilot a scheme to apply a benefits sanction to offenders found to be in breach of their community sentence. The scheme was piloted in four probation areas—Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, West Midlands, and Teesside from October 2001. An evaluation report published in February 2004 concluded the policy had a small impact on compliance (1.8 per cent.) suggesting that for every 50 community sentences given, one less resulted in breach initiation as a result of the policy. The results of a further monitoring period proved inconclusive with regards to improvement of offender compliance. This is because the period coincided with other initiatives to improve compliance some of which gave significantly higher improvement than the benefits sanctions pilot.

Consultations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public consultations his Department undertook in 2005; and what the cost was *(a)* in total and *(b)* of each consultation. [72876]

Mr. Byrne: Over the year 2005 the Home Office undertook 18 formal public consultations in order to inform the Department's policy development. Information on the cost of each consultation and the total cost of all consultations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will to reply to the letter to him dated 15 June from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. Faiz Mohamed Choudry. [19509]

John Reid: My Department has no record of receiving your previous correspondence dated 15 June 2005. However, on 10 August 2006 I wrote a full reply to the right hon. Member regarding Mr. Choudry's wife, Ms Nusrat Bibi.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence to *(a)* the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) and *(b)* the IND removals correspondence team was in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [41886]

John Reid: As of the first of January the average response time for letters received from Members during 2005 on immigration and nationality directorate (IND) related matters was 36 working days in respect of correspondence on enforcement and removals matters and 24 days for correspondence on IND matters as a whole. The final figure for the average response time to letters received in 2005 will not be available until all those letters have been answered.

Volumes of Members' letters on IND matters have grown considerably in recent years. In 2003 there were 24,700 letters and in 2004 35,800. The figure for 2005 will be reported shortly by the Cabinet Office in its annual report on performance on correspondence handling by all Government Departments. This will show a further substantial increase in letters for the IND.

The enforcement and removals directorate (ERD) is the business area within the IND which receives the most letters. In early December the ERD introduced

new ways of working which should result in significant improvements in its performance on handling Members' correspondence. This approach, which was already in place across the rest of the IND, draws a distinction between Members' letters which engage substantively with a case and those which are simply inquiring about case progress.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Torbay of 31 October 2005 regarding Dr. Winnie French. [64724]

Mr. McNulty: I wrote to the hon. Member for Torbay on 24 April 2006.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his target time is for responding to hon. Members' letters; how long it took to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Manchester, Central concerning Ruth Kelly (Home Office Reference Number W1000680) of *(a)* 21 July 2005 and *(b)* 16 September 2005; and if he will make a statement. [64803]

John Reid: The target for responding to hon. Members' letters is to send a reply within 20 working days. I responded to my hon. Friend's letters concerning Ruth Kelly of *(a)* 21 July 2005 on 12 September 2005 and *(b)* 16 September 2005 on 14 March 2006.

Volumes of Members' letters on Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) matters have grown considerably in recent years. In 2003 there were 24,700 letters and in 2004 there were 35,800—a year on year increase of 45 per cent. In 2005 IND received 41,200 letters, an increase of a further 15 per cent.

The Enforcement and Removals Directorate (ERD) is the business area within the IND which receives the most letters. In December 2005 the ERD introduced new ways of working which should result in significant improvements in its performance on handling Members' correspondence. This approach, which was already in place across the rest of the IND, draws a distinction between Members' letters which engage substantively with a case and those which are simply inquiring about progress.

Court Production Orders

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what his policy is on police refusing to obtain a court production order on the grounds *(a)* of cost and *(b)* that the victim has suffered small financial loss; [66636]

(2) whether there are Government guidelines on thresholds for the level of financial loss that a victim of crime needs to suffer before the police may pursue a court production order as part of their investigations. [66900]

Ms Blears: It is an operational matter for the police to decide in each case whether to apply to a court for a production order under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 or earlier legislation.

The Home Office published a code of practice in 2003 which includes guidance to the police and other agencies on obtaining production orders. Under the legislation and the code, the police need to ensure that an application for an order is fully and clearly justified. There also must be reasonable grounds for believing that the material or information requested is likely to be of substantial value to a confiscation investigation or money laundering investigation. The level of financial loss to a victim is likely to be one of a number of factors that the police take into account when considering whether to apply for an order.

The courts have powers to make compensation orders against convicted persons in respect of financial loss to victims.

Crime Statistics

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents there have been of violent crime committed by people under 21 years in the Swindon area in each year since 1997. [50614]

Ms Blears: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to identify the age of victim or suspect from the recorded crime statistics.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been convicted of *(a)* (i) racist and (ii) homophobic crimes and *(b)* religiously aggravated crimes in each year since 1997 in (A) each region in England and (B) the Tees Valley; [67192]

(2) how many people have been convicted of crimes against *(a)* Jews, *(b)* Muslims, *(c)* Hindus, *(d)* Sikhs and *(e)* Christians in (i) each region in England and (ii) the Tees Valley in each year since 1997. [67193]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of persons convicted at all courts for offences relating to race, or religion, by region in England, are contained in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify the Tees Valley, as the data are not collected at this level of detail, therefore data for Cleveland police force area have been provided in lieu of Tees Valley. It is not possible to separately identify the specific religion, race, or gender orientation of the victim from the data as information about the victim is not collected.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Sections 4A, 29, 31, 32, and 47, came into effect in late 1998. There were no convictions pre 1999. Offences involving religious aggravation were separately identified in the data collected from the start of 2002.

Statistics for 2005 court proceedings will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of people found guilty at all courts, for offences relating to racism, and religious intolerance, in the north east region of England, 1999 to 2004[1]

North East

Offence Act	Offence description	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec. 20 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec. 29(1)(a),(2)	Racially aggravated malicious wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm	—	—	1	2	1	1
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec. 47 (in part) as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec. 29(1)(b),(2)	Racially Aggravated Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm (malicious wounding)	—	7	7	7	4	7
Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec 29(1)(c) and (3)	Racially Aggravated Common Assault	5	14	10	16	9	31
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec.31 (1)(b),(4)	Racially Aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	—	11	22	19	5	11
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 Sec.2 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec.32(1)(a),(3)	Racially Aggravated Offence of Harassment	3	2	6	1	3	1
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 Sec.4 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec 32(1)(b),(4)	Racially Aggravated Putting people in fear of violence	3	2	2	2	2	—
Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S20 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(1)(a) & (2)	Religiously aggravated malicious wounding of GBH	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S47 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(1)(b) & (2)	Religiously aggravated ABH	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Law & Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(1)(c) & (3)	Religiously aggravated common assault	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec.31 (1)(b),(4)	Religiously aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	—	—	—	—	1	3
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 S.2 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(a) & (3)	Religiously aggravated offence of harassment	—	—	—	—	—	—
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b) & (4)	Religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S20 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(1Xa) & (2)	Racially or religiously aggravated malicious wounding or GBH	—	—	—	—	1	1
Offences Against the Person Act 1861 S47 as amended by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(1)(b) & (2)	Racially or religiously aggravated ABH	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Law & Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S29(1)(c) & (3)	Racially or religiously aggravated common assault	—	—	—	—	—	1
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 4A as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec.31 (1)(b),(4)	Racially or religiously aggravated causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress	—	—	—	3	10	5
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 S.2 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(a)& (3)	Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment	—	—	—	—	1	4
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.32(1)(b)& (4)	Racially or religiously aggravated putting people in fear of violence	—	—	—	—	1	—
Criminal Damage Act 1970 Sec 1 (1) as added by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.30 (1) & (2)	Racially aggravated other criminal damage (any amount)	3	5	9	13	11	18
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec.1 (1) as added by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec30(1) and (2)	Religiously aggravated other criminal damage (any amount)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal Damage Act 1971 Sec.1(1) as added by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec30(1) and (2)	Racially or religiously aggravated other criminal damage (any amount)	—	—	—	—	1	2
Public Order Act 1986 sec4 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec 31(1)(a),(4)	Racially Aggravated Fear or provocation of violence	8	9	12	16	18	21
Public Order Act 1966 sec4 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act 1998 Sec 31(1)(a),(4)	Religiously Aggravated Fear or provocation of violence	—	—	—	—	—	1
Public Order Act 1986 S.4 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.31(1)(a) and (4)	Racially or religiously aggravated fear or provocation of violence	—	—	—	1	2	1

Offence Act	Offence description	North East 1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5 as amended by Crime & Disorder Act Sec 31 (1)(b),(5)	Racially Aggravated Harassment, alarm or distress	1	13	29	38	79	82
Public Order Act 1986 S.5 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.31 (1)(c) & (5)	Religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Order Act 1986 S.5 as amended by Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.31(1)(c) & (5)	Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress	—	—	—	—	11	6

Criminal Justice System (Employer Coalitions)

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the role of employer coalitions in the criminal justice system. [62771]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Developing on the proposal in the Government's Green Paper on Reducing Re-offending Through Skills and Employment, the National Employment Panel will be piloting the role of Job Developers in up to six major cities. Job Developers will be recruited in the Autumn and will work with the National Offender Management Service's Regional Offender Managers, and employment and training agencies, to identify suitable jobs for offenders. Getting offenders into sustainable employment will contribute to the Home Office aim of reducing re-offending.

Criminal Records Bureau

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time between the receipt of an application for a Criminal Records Bureau check and the full formal response was in each year from 2000 to 2005; and what the average time was for applications submitted since the beginning of 2006. [91238]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1025W. It is important to note that the Published Service Standards are measured from receipt of a fully and correctly completed application form to the despatch of the completed Disclosure.

Departmental Staff

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department are paid on a performance-related basis. [50493]

John Reid: All staff in the Home Department are paid on a performance related basis. Staff must meet a minimum acceptable standard to receive a pay award. In Prison Service and non-agency Home Office, staff who achieve an exceptional standard will in addition receive a performance bonus. In UKPS, a corporate bonus is awarded to all staff depending on the targets achieved by their local office / HQ.

Deportation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects Misha Goravoy, reference TA4581, who completed his prison sentence at Bullingdon Prison three months ago, to be deported. [76125]

Mr. Byrne: It is not the policy of the Department to comment on the specific details of individual cases in the public domain. However, if the hon. Gentleman wishes to write to me with detailed representations on this matter and sets out the basis of his interest in this case I will consider these further.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each Commonwealth country have been deported in each of the last five years. [89063]

Mr. Byrne: Up until 2002, published information is available on the total number of persons against whom deportation action was initiated, in the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom Command Paper. Published editions of this Command Paper and other information on immigration and asylum are available on the Home Office's Research Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Information on deportation action was not available for 2003 due to data quality issues in this area. Information for 2004 has been published provisionally and may be revised in the 2005 Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom Command Paper publication. The Immigration and Nationality Directorate is currently putting in place new processes to improve its data collection systems for the future in this area.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 18 July to question 68798, what role his Department plays in setting the contractor's operating procedures for the treatment of foreign nationals being deported; how many such contractors there are; and if he will place in the Library the operating procedures for each contractor. [87901]

Mr. Byrne: The contractor's operating procedures follow the guidance given in a series of detention service orders, issued by this Department to establish standards for immigration removal centres and escorting. Detention service orders are publicly

available. In addition, we are in the process of developing escorting standards, which when published will also be publicly available. The contract for overseas escorting is held by G4S Justice Services Ltd. Two other companies are also approved to carry out overseas escorts. The operating procedures will be placed in the Library. However, it may be necessary to redact certain sections for the safety and security of detainees and staff.

Detention Estate Population Management Unit

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Detention Estate Population Management Unit plans to introduce a real time electronic database of those immigration offenders currently detained. [91251]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 September 2006]*: The Detention Estate Population Management Unit (DEPMU) maintains a record of all detainees in the custody of the escorting contractor and main Removal Centres. These records are in the process of transferring to the main casework information database (CID) used by the Immigration Nationality Directorate caseholders.

Drug Classification

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department had with *(a)* outside bodies and experts and *(b)* the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs before classifying (i) benzodiazepines, (ii) khat, (iii) ecstasy and (iv) magic mushrooms. [48709]

Paul Goggins: I will address each of the four substances in turn:

(i) Benzodiazepines

(a) The Home Office has not been in discussions with outside bodies other than occasional correspondence with members of the public and the lobby group "Beat the Benzos".

(b) Benzodiazepines were first brought under the controls of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in 1986 following consultation with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of drugs (ACMD). The ACMD considered the classification of these drugs again in 2004 following representations from the "Beat the Benzos" group, but did not recommend any alteration to the classification.

(ii) Khat

(a) The Home Office commissioned two pieces of work on khat, by Turning Point and MACRO, in addition to receiving a number of pieces of correspondence from members of the public and community groups.

(b) The issue of Khat was referred to the ACMD in March 2005. They established a Khat working group to consider the issue in detail and report back to the full council. The council published its report and recommendations in January 2006 and their recommendations were accepted in full.

(iii) Ecstasy

(a) The Home Office as not been in discussions with any outside bodies about ecstasy.

(b) Ecstasy was placed in class A on the recommendation of the ACMD in 1977. In 1996 the ACMD convened a special meeting to discuss ecstasy following a number of deaths. They did not make any recommendation to change the classification.

(iv) Magic mushrooms

(a) The Home Office has not been in discussions with any outside bodies about magic mushrooms.

(b) The recent legal alteration to the position of magic mushrooms under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was primarily a matter of legal clarification. We wrote to the ACMD, and asked for its views on our proposals, before the Drugs Bill was introduced. The ACMD agreed that a clarification of the legal position was necessary. In addition, they approved the associated regulations.

Drug Treatment Programmes

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inmates in prisons in England and Wales have *(a)* successfully completed and *(b)* started but failed to complete a drug treatment programme. [47700]

Fiona Mactaggart: Figures for 2004-05 showed that *(a)* 4,902 prisoners successfully completed a drug treatment programme and *(b)* 2,719 failed to complete—a completion rate of 64.3 per cent. During that year the target for successful completions was 60 per cent. The target for 2005-06 is 65 per cent. completion.

Electronic Borders

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer of 17 May 2006 to the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron), *Official Report*, column 991, what his timescale is for introducing electronic borders; and what proposals he has to introduce identity cards for foreign nationals. [73200]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 23 May 2006]*: The e-Borders programme is currently at the procurement stage. Implementation will take place thereafter with full e-Borders capability by 2014.

As outlined in the Immigration Nationality Directorate Review of 2006, biometric identity management for foreign nationals will be introduced from 2008.

Extreme Pornography

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the terms of reference were of the consultation on the possession of extreme pornography; and when he expects to publish a response to the consultation. [49855]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Consultation on the Possession of Extreme Pornographic Material, which we announced on 30 August, sought views on four options for creating a new offence of simple possession of extreme pornographic material containing explicit actual scenes or realistic depictions of:

i) intercourse or oral sex with an animal;

ii) sexual interference with a human corpse;

iii) serious violence in a sexual context;

iv) serious sexual violence.

By "serious violence" we mean violence in respect of which a prosecution of grievous bodily harm (GBH) could be brought in England and Wales.

One of the purposes of the consultation was to seek views on the categories and definitions which were outlined. The consultation period ended on 2 December 2005 and nearly 400 responses were received covering a wide spectrum of views. A Government response is due in March.

Foreign Nationals (UK Entry)

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals entered the United Kingdom for the purpose of *(a)* business, *(b)* tourism and *(c)* immigration in each year since 1997. [88241]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 July 2006]:* The requested figures are in the table from the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" publication for the years 1997 to 2004. 2005 figures will be published on 22 August 2006 in the Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom 2005", and may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Foreign Prisoners

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals convicted of serious offences and serving sentences in Scottish prisons have been *(a)* recommended for deportation by a court, *(b)* considered for deportation by his Department, *(c)* deported by his Department and *(d)* released without deportation at the end of their sentence since January 1999. [67593]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in this statement the eight priority areas for management action to deliver our long term agenda for change on radically improving the system for deporting foreign national prisoners. The sixth point deals specifically with the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland concerning foreign national prisoners. We shall update the House with our progress on this point shortly.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the released foreign prisoners being sought by the police are on the Sex Offenders Register. [69655]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 9 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Department (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 337W, on prisons, how many cases of *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* dual nationals have been referred to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate by the Prison Service in each of the last three years. [67004]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular statistical updates to the House on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. In particular I refer my right hon. Friend to the most recent written ministerial statements of 15 and 23 May 2006. We will continue to update the House on the 1,019 cases as we work through these and urgently recheck the information we hold to ensure that any further information we provide to the House is as accurate as possible. We aim to provide a further update to the House by the end of June.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Immigration and Nationality Directorate is taking to encourage the voluntary return of failed asylum applicants in detention for criminal offences. [67494]

Mr. Byrne: The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) is the voluntary return programme for all failed asylum seekers and is currently open to convicted prisoners who are subject to control under the Immigration Act, and who have finished serving sentences of less than 12 months.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have been deported *(a)* before their non-parole release date (NPD) and *(b)* on, or shortly after, their NPD, in each of the last five years. [45873]

Fiona Mactaggart: Information in the form requested is not available without disproportionate cost.

Ian Missing

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the conclusion of the review commissioned by Essex Police and Essex Probation Services, on the case of Mr. Ian Missing, that their new enhanced measures of sharing information are in breach of national guidelines; and if he will make the necessary changes to national guidelines to address the situation. [46269]

Fiona Mactaggart: The guidance on information sharing referred to in the review accompanies the national standards for the probation service in the production of pre-sentence reports. It is for use by the Crown Prosecution Service. While it does not specify any police-held information that should be excluded, it only stipulates what must be included. Providing additional information, such as previous arrests, would not, technically, be in breach of agreed guidelines. As a result of the report the NPD will involve the national Police and the CPS in clarifying the guidance.

Identity Cards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department allocated to the London School of Economics for research into identity cards. [68570]

Joan Ryan: The Home Office has not provided funding to the London School of Economics for research into identity cards.

Identity Databases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of people in each ethnic group who will be registered on the national DNA database by January 2007. [42908]

Andy Burnham: The Home Office estimates are based on financial years, running April to March. The estimated numbers of people from England and Wales in each ethnic appearance group recorded on the National DNA Database by April 2007 are shown in the following table.

Estimate at April 2007

Ethnic appearance	*Number*
Afro-Caribbean	257,099
Arab	36,728
Asian	183,642
Dark skinned European	55,093
Oriental	22,037
White skinned European	3,008,063
Other	110,185

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers of the immigration and nationality directorate are stationed permanently at the port of Holyhead. [88324]

Mr. Byrne: As all ferry services to Holyhead are from the Republic of Ireland (within the common travel area), no officers are based permanently there.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what extra resources have been recently allocated to the immigration and nationality directorate security and anti-corruption unit's data mining capability; and when those resources were allocated. [73707]

John Reid: We do not comment on operational security issues.

Immigration Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessments are undertaken at point of entry to the UK to check the performance of *(a)* assistant immigration officers, *(b)* immigration officers and *(c)* chief immigration officers; and if he will make a statement. [91274]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* Managers within the Immigration Service are required to complete performance and development reviews in conjunction with members of their team (including chief immigration officers, immigration officers and assistant immigration officers) in order to assess their competencies and performance. Jobholders are given the opportunity to comment on assessment of their performance and the process is completed by the countersigning manager or head of unit.

Immigration Removal Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Walthamstow, of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1423W, on immigration removal centres, what the average cost was, including overheads, of holding a *(a)* man and *(b)* woman at an immigration removal centre for one week in 2005-06. [88183]

Mr. Byrne: The average estimated cost of holding a person in immigration removal centres, including overheads, for one week in 2005-06 was £1,230. It is not possible to distinguish costs between male, female and family detainees. Overheads include the costs of escorting, Immigration Nationality Directorate (IND) Detention Services staff and an allocation of IND and central Home Office overheads.

This average cost calculation excludes the three centres operated by Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS), as those HMPS/National Offender Management Service overheads which are not relevant to removal centres are not readily discernible.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost was including overheads, of transporting *(a)* a man and *(b)* a woman between immigration removal centres. [88232]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration Report 2004

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 1841W, on the Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Final Report 2004, which of the 20 recommendations he considers to be no longer relevant. [91273]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* The report, "The Review of Resourcing and Management of Immigration Enforcement", made 20 recommendations.

19 of the 20 recommendations have been actioned and one (no further change projects or reviews for at least one year) is no longer considered relevant.

Immigration Stamps

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what processes are undertaken when transferring long-held immigration stamps. [91135]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* Individuals who request the transfer of long-held immigration stamps need to complete a form and pay a fee of £160 for a postal application or £500 for a same day premium service. In certain limited circumstances no fee is payable. Checks for previous grants of leave, proof of identity and any further inquiries are then made.

Provided all criteria are met, IND will place a No Time Limit or Transfer of Conditions stamp into the individual's new passport.

Information Technology

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which IT contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years have been abandoned; and what the value was in each case. [88987]

Mr. Byrne: In the last five years there has been only one IT contract abandoned by the Home Department. This was cancelled in 2006 and was a contract for an Electronic Document Records Management (EDRM) system. The value of this contract was £32 000.

Inmate Information System

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what fields of data are stored in the Inmate Information System (IIS); for what reason information on deportation order recommendations were not stored in the IIS; and if he will ensure that such information is stored in the IIS in the future. [69867]

Mr. Byrne: The Inmate Information System (IIS) records a large number of fields covering personal, offence and sentence details and disciplinary adjudications. It can identify a prisoner as a deportee but only when they are not also serving a custodial sentence. When IIS was introduced, the numbers of foreign national prisoners recommended for deportation were relatively small. IIS is to be replaced by the C-NOMIS system from 2007 and this will record recommendations for deportation.

Lebanese Nationals

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Lebanese nationals are residing in the United Kingdom under tourist visas; and what provisions are in place for their future stay if their visas run out while hostilities in Lebanon continue. [90600]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 September 2006]:* The available, provisional, information is that in the first six months of 2006 around 7,000 Lebanese nationals entered the United Kingdom as visitors. The maximum permissible stay for a visitor is six months.

During the conflict, provision was made for Lebanese nationals to apply to remain on human rights grounds and none were forcibly removed. Those who wish to remain on humanitarian grounds despite the ceasefire of 2 August are still free to apply.

Licensing Act

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much additional funding was made available to police forces specifically to tackle binge drinking and alcohol misuse at the time the Licensing Act 2003 came into force; what the timescale was for such funding; and what the take-up was by each police force, including the Metropolitan Police. [51183]

Ms Blears: During the period from November to January a total of £2.6 million was made available to police forces and Trading Standards Authorities to tackle alcohol binge drinking and alcohol misuse. The breakdown for the individual forces is in the following table:

Force	*Funding allocated[1] by PSU (£)*
Avon and Somerset	62,000
Bedfordshire	30,000
British Transport Police	30,000
Cambridgeshire	30,000
Cumbria	9,000
Cheshire	23,000
Cleveland	20,000
Derbyshire	19,000
Devon and Cornwall	33,000
Dorset	9,000
Durham	13,000
Dyfed-Powys	19,000
Essex	42,000
Gloucestershire	20,000
Greater Manchester	210,000
Gwent	30,000
Hampshire	51,000
Hertfordshire	30,000
Humberside	55,000
Kent	41,000
Lancashire	60,000
Leicestershire	40,000
Lincolnshire	23,000
Merseyside	105,000
Metropolitan Police Service	428,000
Norfolk	9,000
North Wales	23,000
North Yorkshire	16,000
Northamptonshire	34,000
Northumbria	62,000
Nottinghamshire	72,000
South Wales	123,000
South Yorkshire	36,000
Staffordshire	33,000
Suffolk	18,000
Surrey	12,000
Sussex	40,000
Thames Valley	43,000
Warwickshire	13,000
West Mercia	15,000
West Midlands	189,000
West Yorkshire	94,000

Force	Funding allocated[1] by PSU (£)
Wiltshire	6,000
City of London	6,000
Total	[2]2,269,000

[1] Amount actually paid will depend on satisfactory data returns, etc.
[2] In addition to this, £350,000 was allocated to Trading Standards Authorities by PSU, making a total of £2,619,000.

The funding was allocated for activity between 14 November and 8 January.

Methylamphetamine

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the misuse of methylamphetamine. [49293]

Paul Goggins: The Government primarily takes their advice on controlled drugs from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD).

The key evidence commissioned and considered by the Government on Methylamphetamine is the ACMD Methylamphetamine Report published in November 2005 and is available at www.drugs.gov.uk via the ACMD web-pages.

We have not specifically commissioned any other work, although we do take a close interest in other reports that are published.

Motoring Offences (Women)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 10 most common motoring offences were for which women were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted, *(c)* fined and *(d)* sent to prison in England and Wales in 2005-06, broken down by age group. [71078]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not yet available.

Since it takes several months for court proceedings data to be received by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, 2005 motoring offences data will not be available until early in 2007. Data for 2006 will not be available until early in 2008.

Parliamentary Questions

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to Question 78420, on suicide attempts at Colnbrook Detention Centre, tabled by the hon. Member for Ashford for answer on 16 June 2006. [88243]

Mr. Byrne: Between 1 January 2006 and 30 June 2006 there have been 461 cases where detainees at Colnbrook Removal Centre have been placed on Formal Self Harm At Risk procedures. 49 detainees required medical treatment during this period as a result of self-harm incidents. Detainee Custody Officers in all removal centres are trained to the standard delivered within the Prison Service to help identify and prevent suicide and self harm. They are also trained in accordance with their particular centre's own suicide and self-harm prevention strategy and procedures. Additionally, notices in various languages are displayed in all centres setting out that, where a detainee has a concern about a fellow detainee, this should be brought to the attention of a member of staff.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to Question *(a)* 75778 and *(b)* 75781, on biometric cards, tabled by the hon. Member for Ashford for answer on 7 June 2006. [88246]

Joan Ryan: I replied to the hon. Member on 1 August, printed on 4 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 1750W.

Passports (Loss and Theft)

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost per customer is of a call to report a lost or stolen passport. [91093]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) do not accept reports of the loss or theft of a passport by telephone only on submission of the appropriate form. This is to guard against malicious reports of theft, and enables IPS to ensure the report originates from the genuine holder of the document.

A caller to the IPS Adviceline will be advised on how to obtain the appropriate report form. Calls to the Adviceline are charged at a national rate.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been received over the last 12 months about the system for reporting lost or stolen passports; what steps he has taken in response to such complaints; and if he will make a statement. [91094]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) received 34 complaints from 1 September 2005 to 31 August 2006 relating to lost, stolen and recovered passports. A range of issues are recorded within this category; the issue of the system for reporting lost or stolen passports represents a small proportion of this number.

IPS procedure is to send a full response to each complaint received, with a consideration for reimbursement of expenses in accordance with IPS compensation policy, where appropriate. Any identified shortcomings are fed back to the relevant policy area to inform policy reviews and instigate change where necessary.

Police

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average number of hours was expended by police officers in investigating a burglary in 2005-06. [74669]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reimburse the Essex Police Authority for the full costs incurred by the authority in considering proposals for the merger of Essex police with other police forces. [91211]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* We are currently considering the claim from Essex police, and those received from other forces and authorities, and will respond as soon as possible.

Police Community Support Officers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers have been introduced in Coventry, South since the scheme began. [58906]

Ms Blears: Information on the number of police community support officers (PCSOs) is not collected on a constituency basis. The following table sets out the number of PCSOs employed by West Midlands police up to September 2005. Information on PCSO numbers has only been collected at basic command unit (BCD) level since June 2005. In June 2005 there were 24 PCSOs deployed in the three operational command units covering the city of Coventry.

Police community support officers

Strength as at	*West Midlands*
September 2004	40
March 2005	219
September 2005	247

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to collect data routinely on assaults on police community services officers; and if he will make a statement. [91127]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* Assaults on police community support officers (PCSOs) are not identified separately by the Home Office in the recorded crime data. They are recorded under the more general category of common assault if no injury results. If injury is involved they are recorded under the appropriate category of Violence against the Person (defined in terms of sections of the Offences against the Person Act 1861).

Within the police personnel data collection, assaults data are collected on behalf of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC's). Assaults on all police officers and police staff (including PCSOs) are published in HMIC's annual report.

Assaults data from the police personnel data collection are not available by number of assaults per head of population.

Prison/Court Escort Service

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what penalties have been imposed on the companies responsible for prisoner escorts in each of the last five years; and what the reason for the penalty was in each case. [85401]

John Reid: Penalties for the two main performance measures of failing to deliver prisoners to court on time and escapes from contractors responsible for prisoner escorts are set out in the following table. This information dates from 29 August 2004, when the current contract started.

Information on penalties imposed on contractors under the previous court escort contracts could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Court escort contracts—details of penalties imposed

£

	29 August 2004 to 31 March 2005	*1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006*
Total penalties imposed on court escort contractors	1,194,843	2,170,424
Penalties imposed for escapes from the custody of the contractors	222,500	326,000
Penalties imposed for failing to deliver prisoners to court on time	656,225	1,060,505
Other	316,118	783,919

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of ear acupuncture in the high security prison estate; what plans he has to extend the availability of ear acupuncture in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [44374]

Fiona Mactaggart: There has been one study of the effect of ear acupuncture in the high security prison estate. The recent study undertaken in six high security prisons found positive effects associated with auricular acupuncture among prisoners, including reductions in worry, muscle tension, cravings and stress and improved psychological and physical well-being. There are presently no plans to extend the availability of ear acupuncture in prisons.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce overcrowding in prisons. [44960]

Fiona Mactaggart: The Government have introduced credible, intensive community sentences, which courts can tailor to individual offenders who might have otherwise receive ineffective short prison sentences. We have also alerted courts to the availability of electronic monitoring to support a curfew imposed as a condition of bail. Courts are being encouraged to use this option instead of a remand in custody in appropriate cases. We are increasing useable operational capacity in prisons by building additional places as part of an ongoing funded building programme, as well as carefully managing accommodation at existing prisons.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidents of self-harm *(a)* occurred and *(b)* gave rise to the need for resuscitation in each prison in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [45851]

(2) how many self-inflicted deaths occurred during the first *(a)* 24 hours and *(b)* seven days in custody in each prison for each of the last five years; [45852]

(3) what percentage of self-inflicted deaths in prison occurred during the first *(a)* 24 hours in custody, *(b)* seven days, *(c)* 14 days, *(d)* 28 days, *(e)* three months, *(f)* six months and *(g)* year in custody, broken down by (i) males and (ii) females in each of the last five years. [45853]

Fiona Mactaggart: The number of recorded incidents of self-harm that occurred in each prison in each of the last five calendar years is shown in table A. The table includes all incidents of self-harm, however serious. Some individuals are responsible for multiple incidents.

The number of recorded resuscitations following self-harm incidents that occurred in each prison in each of the last five calendar years is shown in the table B.

As prisoners often arrive in prison during the second half of the day, their first day in prison (Day 1) is typically less than 16 hours; some of the day is spent in the custody of PECS (Prisoner Escort and Custody Services).

The number of apparent self-inflicted deaths that occurred on Day 1 in each of the last five calendar years, and where the deaths occurred, is shown in table C. The number of apparent self-inflicted deaths that occurred on a prisoner's first complete day in prison (Day 2), and the prisons in which the deaths occurred, is shown in the table D. (Please note that these figures do not include those in the 'Day 1' chart.) The number of apparent self-inflicted deaths that occurred during a prisoner's first week in prison (Days 1-7), and where the deaths occurred, is shown in the table E.

The numbers and percentages of male prisoner self-inflicted deaths for each of the last five calendar years, broken down by days following reception, are shown in tables F.

The numbers and percentages of female prisoner self-inflicted deaths for each of the last five calendar years, broken down by days following reception, are shown in tables G.

The Government recognise that prisoners are particularly at risk of self-harm in their early period in custody, coping with issues of fear of imprisonment, detoxification and/or the impact of arrest on their family. Prisoners in early custody are therefore subject to a number of policies and practices designed to enhance their safety. These include health screening upon arrival, the use of peer supporters ('Insiders') to offer information and support to new prisoners, and First Night and Induction procedures.

Table A

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Acklington	13	14	15	28	47	77
Albany	5	7	20	69	94	36
Altcourse	110	143	93	168	166	112
Ashfield	130	185	213	286	239	168
Ashwell	—	—	1	2	7	9
Askham Grange	—	—	1	1	—	2
Aylesbury	116	12	36	22	81	112
Bedford	46	69	96	120	123	109
Belmarsh	63	109	73	74	123	87
Birmingham	41	118	150	117	97	205
Blakenhurst	97	200	237	463	322	151
Blantyre House	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blundeston	11	17	13	18	19	11
Brinsford	47	25	122	70	23	67
Bristol	134	208	155	95	156	186
Brixton	83	74	128	119	69	86
Brockhill	118	138	377	674	475	274
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	274	829
Buckley Hall	8	22	215	765	1,082	596
Bullingdon	67	34	28	48	37	34
Bullwood Hall	49	9	17	659	1,065	1,577
Camp Hill	20	11	93	76	26	31
Canterbury	27	27	29	3	12	11
Cardiff	16	37	41	56	99	68
Castington	91	98	82	92	89	92
Channings Wood	9	7	23	11	12	25
Chelmsford	19	12	13	43	70	98
Coldingley	—	2	—	—	5	—
Cookham Wood	9	29	110	158	163	196
Dartmoor	24	37	51	35	30	41
Deerbolt	11	2	11	68	59	98
Doncaster	161	125	265	318	370	334
Dorchester	2	9	6	39	62	33

Table A

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Dovegate	—	19	105	153	93	162
Dover	1	2	17	43	40	34
Downview	—	1	57	184	71	349
Drake Hall	4	—	30	18	23	42
Durham	268	431	364	538	417	364
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	34	213	341	789	1,163	2,553
Edmunds Hill	121	239	214	140	33	29
Elmley	27	27	19	23	83	137
Erlestoke	2	—	1	5	—	4
Everthorpe	3	5	4	4	9	16
Exeter	36	82	48	31	65	107
Featherstone	9	11	10	32	18	12
Feltham	11	51	48	104	161	144
Ford	3	—	7	6	8	1
Forest Bank	108	141	248	214	257	199
Foston Hall	4	3	138	185	614	761
Frankland	37	27	29	32	105	180
Full Sutton	21	38	24	50	55	142
Garth	33	6	4	14	55	50
Gartree	1	2	7	16	11	11
Glen Parva	72	74	71	197	217	228
Gloucester	24	30	43	100	87	115
Grendon	1	8	8	13	2	2
Guys Marsh	5	5	5	34	17	13
Haslar	4	5	5	5	6	2
Hatfield	2	—	1	—	—	—
Haverigg	—	—	3	9	3	11
Hewell Grange	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Down	77	90	79	112	193	114
Highpoint	121	239	214	140	33	29
Hindley	6	9	31	76	46	155
Hollesley Bay	3	10	4	5	—	—
Holloway	245	604	907	958	1,184	1,383
Holme House	30	92	94	61	96	65
Hull	109	144	144	152	178	203
Huntercombe	6	5	6	56	73	68
Kingston	2	1	1	2	11	15
Kirkham	—	2	—	2	1	3
Kirklevington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancaster	—	1	1	1	2	4
Lancaster Farms	22	18	20	23	15	79
Latchmere House	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds	37	57	78	315	388	222
Leicester	121	285	208	127	141	137
Lewes	29	75	153	128	181	126
Leyhill	1	—	2	—	1	2
Lincoln	62	195	171	120	162	140
Lindholme	7	3	6	9	13	16
Littlehey	41	58	33	48	139	127
Liverpool	40	78	309	374	339	276
Long Lartin	1	9	30	15	12	15
Low Newton	22	108	284	387	798	1,102
Lowdham Grange	9	8	3	3	16	19
Maidstone	13	20	11	9	13	24
Manchester	60	52	193	324	255	238
Moorland	90	106	103	188	100	149
Morton Hall	—	10	28	63	50	48
Mount	16	7	12	13	26	29
New Hall	124	129	357	1,689	1,125	1,021
North Sea Camp	—	—	1	1	—	1

Table A

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Northallerton	32	53	19	28	56	16
Norwich	109	161	199	214	290	343
Nottingham	65	58	121	175	135	99
Onley	1	76	141	195	86	86
Oxford	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parc	107	135	204	326	250	343
Parkhurst	20	79	125	182	140	83
Pentonville	212	159	153	186	104	232
Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	933
Portland	32	22	57	58	117	101
Preston	115	92	88	146	100	123
Ranby	9	6	9	11	7	8
Reading	6	21	15	21	39	59
Risley	8	5	23	34	31	46
Rochester	33	77	1	9	58	18
Rye Hill	—	28	33	46	147	189
Send	8	17	33	78	78	95
Shepton Mallet	10	4	3	1	6	2
Shrewsbury	39	46	35	38	67	65
Stafford	19	14	13	40	75	79
Standford Hill	—	—	—	1	—	1
Stocken	12	8	32	32	18	37
Stoke Heath	20	28	10	168	250	189
Styal	125	189	137	376	1,061	1,379
Sudbury	—	1	—	1	—	1
Swaleside	70	48	32	29	34	12
Swansea	17	20	32	62	33	62
Swinfen Hall	14	17	38	69	107	92
Thorn Cross	—	—	—	1	3	—
Usk\Prescoed	—	1	2	1	1	1
Verne	—	1	4	9	3	8
Wakefield	45	32	26	50	91	148
Wandsworth	123	94	81	54	194	54
Wayland	9	7	9	25	29	44
Wealstun	1	—	4	15	10	35
Weare	6	8	11	18	28	10
Wellingborough	10	5	7	21	23	10
Werrington	2	2	1	2	13	28
Wetherby	8	20	11	19	60	67
Whatton	—	—	—	1	8	3
Whitemoor	38	18	46	84	100	155
Winchester	16	34	177	299	260	151
Wolds	53	82	50	10	6	6
Woodhill	3	18	2	18	63	120
Wormwood Scrubs	40	112	112	190	127	108
Wymott	1	—	—	4	11	80

Table B

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Acklington	1	—	1	—	—	—
Albany	1	—	—	—	—	—
Altcourse	2	—	—	1	—	—
Ashfield	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ashwell	—	—	1	—	—	—
Aylesbury	3	1	—	—	—	—
Bedford	3	—	—	—	—	2
Belmarsh	1	2	—	—	—	2
Birmingham	—	4	3	1	1	—
Blakenhurst	1	1	4	7	5	3
Brinsford	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bristol	1	5	—	3	2	1

Table B

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Brixton	—	2	2	1	2	—
Brockhill	5	12	22	44	9	2
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	2	4
Buckley Hall	—	—	3	4	3	1
Bullingdon	—	—	1	4	—	1
Bullwood Hall	2	1	1	4	18	10
Camp Hill	—	—	1	—	—	—
Canterbury	—	1	2	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	3	—	—	—	—
Castington	3	1	3	2	1	—
Channings Wood	—	2	2	—	—	1
Chelmsford	2	2	2	1	2	1
Cookham Wood	—	—	1	1	2	—
Dartmoor	3	—	2	—	1	1
Doncaster	1	2	5	—	1	—
Dorchester	—	—	2	1	—	—
Dovegate	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dover	—	2	1	1	—	—
Downview	—	—	3	—	2	—
Durham	4	4	3	4	5	—
East Sutton Park	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	6	7	3	41	10	14
Edmunds Hill	3	2	3	1	1	—
Elmley	—	2	2	1	3	1
Exeter	—	1	1	—	—	1
Featherstone	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	1	—	1	—	1	1
Ford	—	—	—	—	—	1
Forest Bank	—	1	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	—	—	—	1	3	1
Frankland	1	1	—	1	5	2
Full Sutton	1	2	—	—	—	—
Garth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gartree	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glen Parva	2	2	4	1	1	—
Gloucester	3	—	1	2	—	—
Guys Marsh	2	—	—	—	—	—
Haverigg	—	—	1	—	—	—
High Down	1	3	1	2	2	1
Highpoint	3	2	3	1	1	—
Hindley	—	—	4	—	—	—
Hollesley Bay	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holloway	5	5	9	7	10	7
Holme House	3	3	1	—	—	—
Hull	6	—	5	4	2	1
Huntercombe	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kirkham	—	1	—	—	—	—
Lancaster Farms	—	1	—	1	—	1
Leeds	1	3	3	9	—	1
Leicester	2	5	—	1	1	—
Lewes	—	12	1	1	1	—
Leyhill	—	—	1	—	—	—
Lincoln	4	1	3	1	2	3
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	1	—
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	2	7	5	1	3	3
Long Lartin	—	—	—	—	—	2
Low Newton	1	6	5	1	7	9
Lowdham Grange	1	—	—	—	—	—
Maidstone	—	—	—	1	1	—
Manchester	2	4	2	2	1	1

Table B

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Moorland	—	1	1	2	—	—
Morton Hall	—	—	1	—	—	—
New Hall	2	3	1	3	6	—
Northallerton	1	1	—	—	—	—
Norwich	1	3	2	3	1	2
Nottingham	7	3	3	2	—	2
Onley	—	—	1	—	—	—
Parc	2	1	1	2	1	—
Parkhurst	1	—	4	2	—	—
Pentonville	2	3	—	2	—	2
Peterborough	—	—	—	—	—	13
Portland	1	—	—	—	—	1
Preston	7	1	2	3	4	4
Ranby	—	—	—	1	—	—
Reading	—	—	—	—	1	—
Risley	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rochester	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hill	—	—	—	—	2	1
Shrewsbury	3	—	—	—	—	—
Stafford	—	—	1	1	—	2
Stoke Heath	3	—	—	—	2	—
Styal	—	7	2	16	12	9
Swaleside	2	1	—	1	—	—
Swansea	2	—	3	1	1	2
Swinfen Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wakefield	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wandsworth	3	1	3	1	2	2
Wealstun	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wellingborough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Werrington	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wetherby	—	1	1	2	—	—
Whitemoor	2	1	—	1	—	1
Winchester	1	—	—	2	1	1
Wolds	—	—	—	—	—	—
Woodhill	2	—	1	1	—	—
Wormwood Scrubs	1	2	3	4	3	2
Wymott	—	—	—	—	—	2

Table C

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Exeter	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hull	—	—	—	—	1	—
Leicester	1	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	1	—
PECS	—	1	—	1	—	—
Reading	—	1	—	—	—	—
Wolds	1	—	—	—	—	—

Table D

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Bedford	—	—	1	—	—	—
Birmingham	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bristol	—	—	—	—	1	—
Brixton	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bullingdon	—	—	1	—	—	—
Canterbury	—	—	1	—	—	—
Durham	1	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucester	—	—	—	—	—	1
Holme House	—	—	1	—	—	—
Leeds	2	—	—	—	—	—

Table D

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Lewes	1	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	—	2
New Hall	—	—	1	—	—	—
Norwich	1	—	—	—	—	1
Nottingham	—	1	—	—	1	—
Pentonville	—	—	—	—	1	1
Preston	1	—	—	—	1	—
Shrewsbury	1	—	—	1	1	—
Wandsworth	1	—	—	—	—	—
Winchester	1	—	—	—	—	—
Woodhill	—	—	1	—	—	1

Table E

Prison	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Altcourse	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bedford	—	—	2	—	—	—
Belmarsh	—	—	—	1	—	—
Birmingham	—	1	—	1	—	—
Blakenhurst	1	—	1	1	2	—
Brinsford	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol	—	—	—	1	1	—
Brixton	—	1	1	—	—	1
Brockhill	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bullingdon	—	—	2	1	—	—
Canterbury	—	—	1	—	—	—
Castington	—	—	—	1	—	—
Doncaster	3	—	—	1	—	—
Dorchester	—	—	—	—	—	1
Durham	1	—	1	—	1	1
Eastwood Park	—	1	1	—	—	—
Elmley	—	—	—	1	—	—
Exeter	—	—	—	—	1	—
Gloucester	—	—	—	—	1	2
Holloway	—	—	1	—	—	—
Holme House	—	—	1	—	—	—
Hull	—	—	—	1	1	—
Leeds	2	—	1	2	1	—
Leicester	1	—	—	1	2	1
Lewes	1	2	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	1	—	1	—	1	2
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	1	—
Manchester	—	—	—	—	1	—
New Hall	—	—	2	—	—	—
Norwich	1	—	—	—	—	1
Nottingham	1	1	—	—	3	—
PECS	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pentonville	1	—	—	—	2	2
Preston	1	1	—	2	1	—
Reading	—	1	—	—	—	—
Shrewsbury	1	—	—	1	3	—
Styal	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wandsworth	1	—	—	1	—	—
Winchester	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wolds	1	—	—	—	—	—
Woodhill	—	—	3	1	—	1

Table F

Number

Period in custody	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Day of reception into custody (day 1)	2	1	0	1	3	0
First complete day in prison custody (day 2)	9	3	5	1	5	7

Table F

Period in custody	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*Number 2005*
First week in custody (day 1 to day 7)	19	7	14	18	21	13
First 14 days in custody (day 1 to day 14)	28	16	29	20	26	16
First 28 days in custody (day 1 to day 28)	33	23	37	27	33	27
First three months in custody (day 1 to day 91)	44	38	50	43	47	35
First six months in custody (day 1 to day 182)	54	46	60	54	53	47
First year in custody (day 1 to day 365)	61	52	61	59	66	57
Total self-inflicted deaths for year	73	67	86	80	82	74

Period in custody	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*Percentage 2005*
Day of reception into custody (day 1)	3	1	0	1	4	0
First complete day in prison custody (day 2)	12	4	6	1	6	9
First week in custody (day 1 to day 7)	26	10	16	23	26	18
First 14 days in custody (day 1 to day 14)	38	24	34	25	32	22
First 28 days in custody (day 1 to day 28)	45	34	43	34	40	36
First three months in custody (day 1 to day 91)	60	57	58	54	57	47
First six months in custody (day 1 today 182)	74	69	70	68	65	64
First year in custody (day 1 to day 365)	84	78	71	74	80	77

Table G

Period in custody	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*Number 2005*
Day of reception into custody (day 1)	0	1	0	0	0	0
First complete [illegible] in prison custody (day 2)	0	0	1	0	0	0
First week in cu[illegible]dy (day 1 to day 7)	1	2	5	0	1	0
First [illegible]4 days in custody (day 1 to day 14)	2	2	5	2	4	0
First 28 days in custody (day 1 to day 28)	2	3	7	4	5	0
First three months in custody (day 1 to day 91)	5	4	7	6	9	2
First six months in custody (day 1 to day 182)	7	4	7	7	9	2
First year in custody (day 1 to day 365)	8	5	7	9	11	2
Total self-inflicted deaths for year	8	6	9	14	13	4

Period in custody	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*Percentage 2005*
Day of reception into custody (day 1)	0	17	0	0	0	0
First complete day in prison custody (day 2)	0	0	11	0	0	0
First week in custody (day 1 to day 7)	13	33	56	0	8	0
First 14 days in custody (day 1 to day 14)	25	33	56	14	31	0
First 28 days in custody (day 1 to day 28)	25	50	78	29	38	0
First three months in custody (day 1 to day 91)	63	67	78	43	69	50
First six months in custody (day 1 to day 182)	88	67	78	50	69	50
First year in custody (day 1 to day 365)	100	83	78	64	85	50

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of self-harm incidents in each prison occurred amongst *(a)* those on remand, *(b)* convicted inmates and *(c)* immigration detainees in each of the last 10 years. [59316]

Fiona Mactaggart: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

Table 1: Percentage of recorded self harm incidents involving remand and convicted-unsentenced prisoners in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	*Status*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Altcourse	Convicted	—	—	27	17	17	7	17	11
	Remand	—	—	29	51	25	36	27	17
Ashfield	Convicted	—	—	—	50	12	15	7	4
	Remand	—	—	—	0	36	32	10	29

Table 1: Percentage of recorded self harm incidents involving remand and convicted-unsentenced prisoners in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	Status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Bedford	Convicted	22	18	25	31	41	21	20	18
	Remand	56	9	25	37	22	33	28	28
Belmarsh	Convicted	23	11	11	8	16	8	12	9
	Remand	38	47	43	33	33	48	39	28
Birmingham	Convicted	0	26	24	18	12	22	15	9
	Remand	50	32	37	14	29	27	30	29
Blakenhurst	Convicted	5	10	16	28	19	19	19	10
	Remand	54	33	14	17	45	28	19	21
Brinsford	Convicted	22	26	14	19	28	40	20	14
	Remand	22	47	39	40	38	20	39	34
Bristol	Convicted	0	17	15	11	21	25	37	21
	Remand	33	47	51	33	25	25	27	46
Brixton	Convicted	22	17	18	15	14	26	27	10
	Remand	39	30	30	27	27	16	20	11
Brockhill	Convicted	—	6	29	19	27	18	20	38
	Remand	—	75	42	38	28	22	30	27
Bronzefield	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bullingdon	Convicted	0	15	4	14	25	6	14	4
	Remand	43	23	28	38	18	21	21	7
Camp Hill	Convicted	0	13	17	0	0	0	0	0
	Remand	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canterbury	Convicted	22	29	15	23	4	15	4	0
	Remand	44	29	54	41	63	19	26	0
Cardiff	Convicted	0	25	23	20	25	24	23	23
	Remand	67	25	32	33	56	32	18	21
Castington	Convicted	—	0	0	3	13	9	14	9
	Remand	—	0	0	20	20	37	24	26
Chelmsford	Convicted	14	6	38	33	13	18	17	20
	Remand	43	53	38	33	56	27	33	27
Cookham Wood	Remand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dartmoor	Remand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	Convicted	20	33	9	10	20	12	9	18
	Remand	73	33	33	39	33	33	25	28
Dorchester	Convicted	20	50	23	35	50	33	29	19
	Remand	80	50	46	18	50	11	14	19
Dovegate	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0
Dover	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	0	9	26
Downview	Remand	0	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Durham	Convicted	5	0	9	17	6	7	10	9
	Remand	52	43	46	24	24	12	16	15
Eastwood Park	Convicted	0	0	20	25	9	14	12	25
	Remand	25	67	0	0	12	19	6	24
Edmunds Hill	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
Elmley	Convicted	20	0	6	19	14	4	16	9
	Remand	0	60	56	33	28	29	16	35
Exeter	Convicted	0	11	37	17	14	22	23	16
	Remand	75	56	30	49	50	35	42	39
Featherstone	Remand	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feltham	Convicted	12	0	27	21	27	21	31	16
	Remand	29	0	34	32	18	34	25	28
Forest Bank	Convicted	—	—	—	—	19	10	17	14
	Remand	—	—	—	—	25	22	17	16
Foston Hall	Convicted	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Remand	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Percentage of recorded self harm incidents involving remand and convicted-unsentenced prisoners in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	Status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Frankland	Remand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glen Parva	Convicted	0	11	22	22	15	15	6	23
	Remand	100	53	33	35	38	7	21	27
Gloucester	Convicted	20	—	25	14	21	33	21	18
	Remand	20	—	25	71	46	40	26	21
Haslar	Remand	—	100	100	100	75	100	40	80
High Down	Convicted	5	6	4	13	11	7	23	6
	Remand	50	0	21	34	15	21	35	15
Highpoint	Convicted	0	0	0	0	12	12	15	19
	Remand	0	0	0	0	16	20	18	14
Hindley	Convicted	25	14	0	0	20	0	3	3
	Remand	63	32	55	80	20	11	10	5
Holloway	Convicted	7	11	17	14	19	14	25	19
	Remand	57	36	37	27	26	22	24	32
Holme House	Convicted	11	11	9	33	13	0	0	27
	Remand	33	35	41	37	33	3	0	14
Hull	Convicted	7	0	15	10	10	13	17	11
	Remand	53	50	8	55	36	21	34	29
Lancaster Farms	Convicted	0	20	13	27	14	6	15	22
	Remand	0	0	42	36	27	44	30	52
Leeds	Convicted	18	27	9	29	14	12	5	10
	Remand	36	64	48	45	41	31	23	22
Leicester	Convicted	0	3	16	17	19	15	21	17
	Remand	50	42	59	51	33	33	23	24
Lewes	Convicted	33	0	17	29	11	17	21	18
	Remand	67	38	50	24	39	16	23	33
Lincoln	Convicted	0	33	8	15	20	27	19	26
	Remand	56	56	62	38	28	22	15	12
Lindholme	Remand	0	0	0	0	33	33	33	44
Liverpool	Convicted	7	0	23	5	8	18	9	6
	Remand	60	58	38	48	26	44	25	16
Long Lartin	Remand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Low Newton	Convicted	—	15	33	31	35	18	25	5
	Remand	—	46	33	38	40	9	14	7
Manchester	Convicted	25	18	22	20	12	7	13	12
	Remand	50	45	36	26	25	28	25	15
New Hall	Convicted	0	0	9	27	7	14	18	30
	Remand	100	50	24	26	21	12	14	18
Northallerton	Convicted	0	0	29	22	16	21	5	0
	Remand	100	100	42	52	56	40	16	0
Norwich	Convicted	50	5	10	12	18	9	13	9
	Remand	50	44	19	32	14	24	35	14
Nottingham	Convicted	0	13	28	29	14	17	18	21
	Remand	0	7	28	36	34	22	28	18
Onley	Convicted	0	—	—	—	0	4	17	2
	Remand	0	—	—	—	0	16	9	17
Parc	Convicted	—	25	14	10	9	7	10	12
	Remand	—	50	26	18	10	16	9	13
Parkhurst	Convicted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Remand	0	0	0	0	5	4	6	3
Pentonville	Convicted	12	16	8	32	25	26	20	21
	Remand	58	50	43	35	30	35	28	29
Peterborough	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preston	Convicted	20	17	21	29	17	13	6	5
	Remand	60	47	47	20	33	21	13	10

Table 1: Percentage of recorded self harm incidents involving remand and convicted-unsentenced prisoners in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	Status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Reading	Convicted	0	32	19	53	29	14	7	14
	Remand	33	38	56	20	0	14	20	19
Risley	Convicted	17	0	6	6	0	0	0	0
	Remand	29	29	11	25	0	0	0	0
Rochester	Convicted	25	7	30	10	0	15	0	0
	Remand	25	14	68	73	73	65	0	0
Shrewsbury	Convicted	0	—	26	29	18	26	19	24
	Remand	0	—	26	46	26	26	50	38
Stoke Heath	Convicted	0	0	0	0	6	7	0	3
	Remand	0	0	0	0	28	21	0	5
Styal	Convicted	0	0	0	17	9	16	20	40
	Remand	0	0	0	17	42	25	21	11
Swansea	Convicted	71	18	17	10	6	15	16	12
	Remand	14	45	56	62	59	25	25	11
Wakefield	Remand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	Convicted	4	6	15	13	26	19	21	11
	Remand	35	40	30	23	25	23	20	37
Warren Hill	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Wetherby	Convicted	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Remand	—	—	0	0	0	50	0	0
Winchester	Convicted	0	0	33	11	56	15	7	13
	Remand	73	29	17	56	25	29	19	13
Wolds	Convicted	17	5	23	17	21	24	10	0
	Remand	50	55	43	40	21	18	38	0
Woodhill	Convicted	0	0	25	13	33	11	0	21
	Remand	100	75	25	25	33	32	50	7
Wormwood Scrubs	Convicted	4	9	10	16	11	11	11	6
	Remand	52	53	26	18	32	30	24	6

The following table details the actual numbers of self harm incidents.

Table 2: Number of recorded self harm incidents involving remand and convicted-unsentenced prisoners in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	Status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Altcourse	Convicted	—	—	38	13	19	10	16	18	19	16
	Remand	—	—	42	40	27	51	25	28	38	35
Ashfield	Convicted	—	—	—	1	15	28	15	11	2	10
	Remand	—	—	—	—	47	58	20	78	22	47
Bedford	Convicted	2	4	8	11	19	15	19	22	29	10
	Remand	5	2	8	13	10	23	27	34	32	34
Belmarsh	Convicted	3	2	8	7	9	9	9	7	11	11
	Remand	5	9	33	28	19	53	29	21	44	29
Birmingham	Convicted	—	5	10	5	5	26	22	10	10	30
	Remand	1	6	15	4	12	32	46	34	21	51
Blakenhurst	Convicted	2	5	9	27	12	38	45	46	50	14
	Remand	22	17	8	17	28	56	45	95	60	39
Brinsford	Convicted	2	5	4	8	13	10	24	10	5	14
	Remand	2	9	11	17	18	5	48	24	6	11
Bristol	Convicted	—	6	6	8	29	52	57	20	18	34
	Remand	3	17	20	25	34	53	42	44	60	57
Brixton	Convicted	23	14	13	11	12	19	34	12	6	13
	Remand	41	24	22	20	23	12	26	13	15	24
Brockhill	Convicted	—	1	7	17	32	25	75	259	120	69

Table 2: Number of recorded self harm incidents involving remand and convicted-unsentenced prisoners in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	Status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Remand	—	12	10	35	33	30	112	183	183	92
Bronzefield	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	113
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	94	380
Bullingdon	Convicted	—	2	1	5	17	2	4	2	3	4
	Remand	3	3	7	14	12	7	6	3	8	4
Camp Hill	Convicted	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Remand	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canterbury	Convicted	2	2	2	5	1	4	1	—	—	—
	Remand	4	2	7	9	17	5	7	—	—	—
Cardiff	Convicted	—	1	12	12	4	9	9	13	32	7
	Remand	4	1	17	20	9	12	7	12	19	24
Castington	Convicted	—	—	—	2	11	8	12	8	15	20
	Remand	—	—	—	12	17	34	20	24	19	28
Chelmsford	Convicted	1	1	10	4	2	2	2	8	10	13
	Remand	3	9	10	4	9	3	4	11	15	32
Cookham Wood	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dartmoor	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Doncaster	Convicted	3	1	34	25	33	15	24	58	48	76
	Remand	11	1	131	97	53	41	66	89	120	89
Dorchester	Convicted	1	1	3	6	1	3	2	7	6	3
	Remand	4	1	6	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Dovegate	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dover	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	39	39	35
Downview	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
Durham	Convicted	1	—	3	10	17	32	38	47	25	33
	Remand	11	6	16	14	65	53	59	82	55	123
Eastwood Park	Convicted	—	—	1	3	3	30	40	201	296	684
	Remand	1	2	—	—	4	41	22	186	303	866
Edmunds Hill	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	42	—
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	58	—
Elmley	Convicted	2	—	1	4	4	1	3	2	9	13
	Remand	—	6	10	7	8	8	3	8	32	61
Exeter	Convicted	—	1	10	8	5	18	11	5	11	21
	Remand	9	5	8	23	18	29	20	12	19	31
Featherstone	Remand	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	Convicted	7	—	15	7	3	11	15	16	32	27
	Remand	17	—	19	11	2	18	12	28	64	63
Forest Bank	Convicted	—	—	—	—	21	14	41	30	40	16
	Remand	—	—	—	—	27	31	41	35	46	64
Foston Hall	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	167
Frankland	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Glen Parva	Convicted	—	4	12	13	11	11	4	46	49	40
	Remand	1	19	18	21	28	5	15	54	55	34
Gloucester	Convicted	1	—	1	1	5	10	9	18	31	26
	Remand	1	—	1	5	11	12	11	21	24	24
Haslar	Remand	—	2	5	2	3	5	2	4	3	2
High Down	Convicted	1	1	1	8	8	6	17	7	12	13
	Remand	10	—	5	21	11	19	26	17	49	46
Highpoint	Convicted	—	—	—	—	15	28	31	27	—	—
	Remand	—	—	—	—	19	48	38	20	—	—
Hindley	Convicted	2	3	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	4
	Remand	5	7	6	4	1	1	3	4	4	12
Holloway	Convicted	1	9	17	17	46	83	229	181	198	100
	Remand	8	29	37	32	64	130	217	305	220	467
Holme House	Convicted	2	4	2	10	4	—	—	16	8	8

Table 2: Number of recorded self harm incidents involving remand and convicted-unsentenced prisoners in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	Status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Hull	Remand	6	13	9	11	10	3	—	8	14	20
	Convicted	1	—	2	2	11	19	24	17	19	11
Lancaster Farms	Remand	8	4	1	11	39	30	49	44	29	28
	Convicted	—	1	4	6	3	1	3	5	2	10
Leeds	Remand	—	—	13	8	6	8	6	12	1	12
	Convicted	2	3	4	9	5	7	4	31	42	36
Leicester	Remand	4	7	21	14	15	18	18	71	81	45
	Convicted	—	1	5	10	23	43	44	22	32	29
Lewes	Remand	4	13	19	30	39	93	48	31	50	45
	Convicted	1	—	1	6	3	13	32	23	24	17
Lincoln	Remand	2	3	3	5	11	12	36	42	32	37
	Convicted	—	3	1	4	12	53	33	32	28	14
Lindholme	Remand	5	5	8	10	17	42	26	15	31	26
	Remand	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	4	3	—
Liverpool	Convicted	1	—	3	1	3	14	28	22	26	18
	Remand	9	7	5	10	10	34	78	61	54	32
Long Lartin	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Low Newton	Convicted	—	2	6	4	7	20	71	20	52	67
	Remand	—	6	6	5	8	10	41	29	46	50
Manchester	Convicted	8	6	10	11	7	18	26	40	22	35
	Remand	16	15	16	14	15	70	49	49	33	41
New Hall	Convicted	—	—	3	33	8	46	65	510	250	101
	Remand	1	1	8	32	26	39	51	301	235	166
Northallerton	Convicted	—	—	7	5	5	11	1	—	—	—
	Remand	1	3	10	12	18	21	3	—	—	—
Norwich	Convicted	3	3	7	7	20	14	27	19	23	17
	Remand	3	24	14	19	15	38	71	29	34	22
Nottingham	Convicted	—	2	9	17	9	10	22	37	32	15
	Remand	—	1	9	21	22	13	34	31	30	10
Onley	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	3	24	4	—	—
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	34	1	—
Parc	Convicted	—	1	16	19	10	10	20	39	34	42
	Remand	—	2	29	34	11	22	18	43	32	35
Parkhurst	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
	Remand	—	—	—	—	1	3	8	6	15	17
Pentonville	Convicted	3	6	6	30	53	41	30	39	21	44
	Remand	15	19	32	33	62	55	43	54	25	79
Peterborough	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	237
Preston	Convicted	1	9	19	16	20	12	5	7	9	19
	Remand	3	25	43	11	39	19	10	14	5	35
Reading	Convicted	—	12	7	8	2	3	1	3	3	11
	Remand	2	14	20	3	—	3	3	4	7	14
Risley	Convicted	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Remand	7	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochester	Convicted	1	1	11	3	—	12	—	—	—	—
	Remand	1	2	25	22	24	51	—	—	—	—
Shrewsbury	Convicted	—	—	8	10	6	10	6	9	7	15
	Remand	—	—	8	16	9	10	16	14	21	11
Stoke Heath	Convicted	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	5	9	13
	Remand	—	—	—	—	5	6	—	8	24	31
Styal	Convicted	—	—	2	1	6	28	24	149	117	210
	Remand	—	—	—	1	27	44	25	42	127	272
Swansea	Convicted	5	2	3	2	1	3	5	7	4	12
	Remand	1	5	10	13	10	5	8	10	13	17
Wakefield	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Table 2: Number of recorded self harm incidents involving remand and convicted-unsentenced prisoners in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	Status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Wandsworth	Convicted	1	2	10	13	31	18	17	6	19	12
	Remand	8	14	20	22	30	22	16	20	70	14
Warren Hill	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	7
Wetherby	Convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
	Remand	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	15
Winchester	Convicted	—	—	2	1	9	5	13	38	28	36
	Remand	11	4	1	5	4	10	33	39	41	50
Wolds	Convicted	1	2	14	8	11	20	5	—	—	—
	Remand	3	24	26	19	11	15	19	—	—	—
Woodhill	Convicted	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	6	4	17
	Remand	4	3	1	4	1	6	1	2	8	43
Wormwood Scrubs	Convicted	1	4	8	10	4	12	12	11	15	9
	Remand	12	24	21	12	12	34	26	12	54	21

Table 3: Number of self harm incidents involving prisoners with immigration detainee status in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Altcourse	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—
Ashfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bedford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Belmarsh	—	—	1	2	—	4	6	4	1	6
Birmingham	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	3	—	4
Blakenhurst	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1
Brinsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—
Bristol	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Brixton	3	12	—	7	—	2	3	3	—	—
Brockhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bullingdon	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Castington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Chelmsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Dorchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dover	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	41	39	35
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Elmley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Exeter	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Feltham	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	1
Forest Bank	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	—
Glen Parva	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	3	—
Gloucester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Haslar	—	2	5	2	4	5	2	4	3	2
High Down	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	4	22
Holloway	—	2	—	—	2	1	7	5	1	1
Hull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Lancaster Farms	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
Leeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Leicester	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3
Lincoln	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	4	3	—
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	—	7	21	8	3	—
Long Lartin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Low Newton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Manchester	—	2	—	—	2	1	1	1	2	—
Mount, The	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Norwich	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	3	—

Table 3: Number of self harm incidents involving prisoners with immigration detainee status in prison custody from 1996 to 2005, by prison

Prison	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Nottingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Onley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pentonville	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	2
Reading	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rochester	1	2	9	17	19	37	—	—	1	—
Stafford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Styal	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Wandsworth	—	—	—	1	2	5	—	2	9	—
Winchester	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	5	4	6
Wormwood Scrubs	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	4	8	—

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many inmates escaped from each prison in each of the last eight years; how many were recaptured within *(a)* one hour, *(b)* 12 hours, *(c)* 24 hours, *(d)* seven days, *(e)* 28 days, *(f)* six calendar months, *(g)* one year and *(h)* more than one year, broken down by category of prison from which they escaped; and how many in each category have not been recaptured; [77442]

(2) how many inmates have escaped from each category of prison in each of the last eight years; and how many in each category who escaped were *(a)* British citizens and *(b)* foreign nationals who had been recommended to the Home Secretary for deportation by the sentencing court on completion of their sentence. [77443]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A total of 114 prisoners have escaped from prisons in the last eight years, there have been no category A escapes and, as at 13 July 2006, 13 escapees remain unlawfully at large. Centrally available records indicate that none of the escapees were foreign nationals who had been recommended for deportation on completion of their sentence. One was an illegal immigrant. Time to recapture is not routinely recorded centrally and could be obtained only by examination of individual records.

Total escapes from all prisons in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2005-06 and numbers remaining unlawfully at large

Financial years	Recaptured	Unlawfully at large	Total escapes	Number of British citizens
1998-99	25	3	28	28
1999-2000	29	1	30	28
2000-01	11	0	11	10
2001-02	12	3	15	15
2002-03	4	1	5	2
2003-04	6	4	10	8
2004-05	11	1	12	12
2005-06	2	1	3	3
Total	100	14	114	106

Escapes from category B prisons in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2005-06 and numbers remaining unlawfully at large

Financial years	Recaptured	Unlawfully at large	Total escapes	Number of British citizens
1998-99	0	0	0	0
1999-2000	0	0	0	0
2000-01	2	0	2	2
2001-02	3	2	5	5
2002-03	0	0	0	0
2003-04	0	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	0	0
2005-06	0	0	0	0
Total	5	2	7	7

Escapes from category C prisons in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2005-06 and numbers remaining unlawfully at large

Financial years	Recaptured	Unlawfully at large	Total escapes	Number of British citizens
1998-99	13	2	15	14
1999-2000	11	1	12	11
2000-01	4	0	4	4
2001-02	7	0	7	7
2002-03	3	0	3	3
2003-04	3	2	5	4
2004-05	10	0	10	10

Escapes from category C prisons in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2005-06 and numbers remaining unlawfully at large

Financial years	Recaptured	Unlawfully at large	Total escapes	Number of British citizens
2005-06	0	1	1	1
Total	51	6	57	54

Escapes of unclassified prisoners (remands, women and young offenders) in England and Wales 1998-99 to 2005-06 and numbers remaining unlawfully at large

Financial years	Recaptured	Unlawfully at large	Total escapes	Number of British citizens
1998-99	12	1	13	12
1999-2000	18	0	18	17
2000-01	5	0	5	4
2001-02	2	1	3	3
2002-03	1	1	2	0
2003-04	3	2	5	5
2004-05	1	1	2	2
2005-06	2	0	2	2
Total	44	6	50	45

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the capital value of each public sector prison. [88943]

John Reid: The capital values of public sector prisons are provided in the following table. The values are as at 31 March 2006 (subject to audit) and are valued in accordance with the Home Office accounting policy on the basis of depreciated replacement cost. Property on short-term lease is not capitalised and is not included. Staff residential accommodation is not included.

Establishment/Unit	Total (£)
Acklington	43,048,350
Albany	29,353,411
Ashwell	20,558,353
Askham Grange	9,387,837
Aylesbury	56,763,582
Bedford	24,026,648
Belmarsh	156,787,544
Birmingham	74,966,426
Blakenhurst	89,552,346
Blantyre House	7,205,074
Blundestone	14,906,904
Brinsford	39,657,548
Bristol	20,241,621
Brixton	23,838,640
Brockhill	5,079,394
Buckley Hall	46,876,541
Bullingdon	74,172,827
Bullwood Hall	11,042,629
Camp Hill	22,653,830
Canterbury	11,618,111
Cardiff	43,126,816
Castington	29,078,506
Channings Wood	29,529,660
Chelmsford	42,390,047
Coldingly	28,728,768
Cookham Wood	15,459,422
Dartmoor	187,421
Deerbolt	34,252,459
Dorchester	7,010,850
Dover	22,380,911
Downview	36,862,224
Drake Hall	16,238,917
Durham	46,312,357
East Sutton Park	7,188,431
Eastwood Park	12,328,359
Elmley	82,031,785
Erlestoke	15,033,667
Everthorpe	38,385,846
Exeter	17,058,157
Featherstone	24,554,370
Feltham	98,410,928
Ford	34,252,105
Foston Hall	13,208,840
Frankland	85,633,766
Full Sutton	62,779,104
Garth	54,363,673
Gartree	35,462,658
Glen Parva	48,595,223
Gloucester	11,239,939
Grendon	41,225,688
Guys Marsh	41,026,166
Haslar	9,772,428
Haverigg	25,522,175
Hewel Grange	9,901,555
High Down	89,519,023
Edmunds Hill	3,597,812
Highpoint	54,000,972
Hindley	40,974,029
Hollesley Bay	31,621,724
Holloway	61,573,322
Holme House	80,429,976
Hull	55,425,714
Huntercombe	24,009,272
Kingston	18,593,008
Kirkham	31,243,968
Kirklevington Grange	13,028,811
Lancaster Farms	80,056,276
Latchmere House	15,830,974

Establishment/Unit	Total (£)
Leeds	49,057,334
Leicester	9,427,993
Lewes	25,416,348
Leyhill	30,923,949
Lincoln	31,868,342
Lindholme	77,200,040
Littlehey	47,256,496
Liverpool	54,818,604
Long Lartin	48,554,728
Low Newton	16,227,953
Maidstone	37,031,057
Manchester	66,074,885
Moorland	105,848,827
Morton Hall	21,424,780
Mount (The)	64,024,958
New Hall	36,247,843
North Sea Camp	7,228,729
Northallerton	8,146,420
Norwich	38,134,418
Nottingham	37,643,246
Onley	35,252,886
Parkhurst	36,385,058
Pentonville	53,179,642
Portland	21,851,273
Preston	32,020,981
Ranby	73,310,568
Reading	12,519,482
Risley	72,846,002
Rochester	22,912,381
Send	17,851,527
Shepton Mallet	14,548,867
Shrewsbury	9,311,040
Stafford	19,237,916
Standford Hill	30,886,076
Stocken	47,186,692
Stokeheath	29,383,001
Styal	23,343,050
Sudbury	23,249,163
Swaleside	65,622,449
Swansea	12,172,633
Swinfen Hall	29,449,520
Thorn Cross	29,696,490
Usk	15,665,510
Verne (The)	19,402,134
Wakefield	59,573,146
Wandsworth	57,601,077
Warren Hill	1,581,023
Wayland	48,436,149
Wealstun	82,877,960
Weare (The)	2,198,739
Wellingborough	32,199,212
Werrington	10,638,763
Wetherby	29,242,337
Whatton	32,716,270
Whitemoor	81,856,754
Winchester	31,303,011
Woodhill	129,708,329
Wormwood Scrubs	102,453,081
Wymott	53,865,550
Total	4,817,268,413

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many absconders there were from Sudbury Open Prison in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what they were convicted of; what the length of their sentence was; how long they had actually served in Sudbury Open Prison prior to absconding; and if he will make a statement. [91026]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 September 2006]:* The total number of absconds from Sudbury open prison for each of the last five financial years is given in the following table. Details about the sentence being served and the length of time left to serve could be obtained only by examination of individual prisoner records at a disproportionate cost

Number of absconds from Sudbury open prison for each of the last five financial years

Financial Year	Total
2001-02	81
2002-03	68
2003-04	75
2004-05	77
2005-06	76
Overall Total	377

Probation Service

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the planned changes to the structure and role of the Probation Service in West Lancashire. [83489]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In October 2005 we published a consultation document, "Restructuring Probation to Reduce Re-offending". 47 responses were received from interests in Lancashire, including the Lancashire Probation Board. All commented on the proposals in general rather than on issues specific to West Lancashire.

Public Order

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in the Wiltshire Police Authority area; how many have been breached; how many people received a custodial sentence for a breach; and how many people have been taken to court for a breach; [54567]

(2) how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have *(a)* resulted in and *(b)* not resulted in court action in Swindon since they were introduced. [54568]

Ms Blears: The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued, as reported to the Home Office, is currently available up to 30 June 2005. In the Wiltshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) Area which is co-terminous with the police force area there have been 26 ASBOs issued. Of these four show prohibitions imposed within the Swindon borough council area.

ASBO breach data held centrally only cover breach proceedings where there has been a conviction and are currently available from one June 2000 to 31 December 2003 for ASBOs issued since 1 June 2000.

During this period, within the Wiltshire criminal justice system area, notification has been received of three persons having breached their ASBO on one or more occasions. Two received a custodial sentence for the breach. Breach data are available at criminal justice system area level only and are therefore not available for Swindon.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* acceptable behaviour contracts, *(b)* parenting contracts, *(c)* parenting orders, *(d)* full injunctions, *(e)* evictions, *(f)* dispersal orders and *(g)* closure orders have been issued in each (i) constituency and (ii) local authority in England since 2001. [58022]

Ms Blears: The data are not available in the form requested. However, for the last two years the Home Office Antisocial Behaviour Unit has carried out a survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in England and Community Safety Partnerships in Wales asking about their actions taken to tackle antisocial behaviour. From those who responded to the surveys the results are as follows:

This is for the period 20 January 2004 to 30 September 2004. The crack house closure power was introduced in the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 and came into force on 20 January 2004.

In relation to dispersal orders from a Home Office data collection exercise in July 2005, we estimate that between January 2004 and June 2005:

809 areas were designated; and

Police officers and community support officers dispersed 14,375 people from the 293 areas where data was available.

Re-offending Action Plan

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which regional organisations will be involved in the delivery of individual pathways in Wales under the re-offending action plan; [58507]

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what organisations will be involved in the implementation of the NOMS plan for Wales; and what funds have been allocated to them for the implementation. [58506]

Fiona Mactaggart: A Pathfinder Project was commissioned by the Home Office with the agreement of the Welsh Assembly Government to examine ways of delivering a reducing re-offending strategy within the specific Welsh context. The outcome has led to the joint launch of Joining Together in Wales: an Adult and Young People's Strategy to Reduce Re-offending on 1 February by the Welsh Assembly Government and Home Office Ministers. The strategy identifies the issues that need to be addressed and forms the basis of a consultation to develop a reducing re-offending action plan for Wales.

Following the outcome of the consultation, there will be a joint action plan to reflect the roles and responsibilities of the Welsh Assembly Government, the National Offender Management Service and other key stakeholders in Wales.

Seat Belts

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicle occupants have been fined for non-wearing of seat belts in each of the last 10 years. [91172]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* Available information on court imposed fines taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, from 1995 to 2004 (latest available), is given in the following table. As the majority of seat belt offences are dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty notice these are also included.

2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Driving or riding in a motor vehicle while not wearing a seat belt[1] England and Wales, 1995-2004

	Total number of court imposed fines[2]	Total number of fixed penalties	Total dealt with
1995	5,192	126,251	131,443
1996	5,309	154,345	159,654
1997	5,027	175,334	180,361
1998	5,207	193,879	199,086
1999	4,144	180,698	184,842
2000	3,227	155,301	158,528
2001	2,792	144,391	147,183
2002	2,406	126,419	128,825
2003	2,651	145,589	148,240
2004	2,960	201,914	204,874

[1] Offences under sections 14(3), 15(2) and 15(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

[2] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Skilled Migrant Workers

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce a transitional period for skilled and highly skilled migrant workers affected by the February implementation of the change in the minimum qualifying period for settlement. [88867]

Mr. Byrne: The Government looked closely at the merits of introducing a transitional period for those affected by the increase in the minimum qualifying period for settlement. In deciding not to introduce a transitional period, consideration was given to the following factors: this change does not prevent anyone from doing anything that they are currently doing; it does not limit anyone's time with any employer or reduce their stay in the United Kingdom—if they meet the conditions necessary to be in the UK under the Work Permit or Highly Skilled Migrants Programmes they will be granted an extra year's leave before settlement. If they do not meet these conditions they would in any case not have qualified for settlement at four years. To introduce a transitional period for those

who arrived when the qualifying period was four years would mean that a desirable policy would not take effect until 2011.

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Indian and *(b)* Chinese skilled and highly skilled migrant workers affected by the change in the minimum qualifying period for settlement. [88868]

Mr. Byrne: The change in the minimum qualifying period for settlement affects all those coming to the UK for employment including work permit holders and those entering under the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme. Our discussion of the change has, therefore, reflected this and has been principally with organisations that represent employees irrespective of their nationality.

Small Change Big Difference Campaign

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department and its agencies have taken following the launch of the Government's Small Change Big Difference Campaign. [72013]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office with its Executive Agencies has already put in place a range of measures to promote staff well-being. These include initiatives on healthy diet and nutrition, physical exercise, mental health and well-being.

Snares

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what action he is taking to discourage the use of snares for catching birds and small mammals. [91173]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 18 September 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

The use of any snare to catch birds is prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The Government are committed to working to make more humane the legal use of snares to catch certain mammals. On 18 October 2005 Defra published an independent working group's report on snares together with DEFRA's "Snares Action Plan" and "Code of Good Practice on the use of Snares in Fox and Rabbit Control in England". These are available on the Defra website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/WILDLIFE-COUNTRYSIDE/vertebrates/snares/.

Statutory Instruments

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the statutory instruments introduced by his Department since 6 May 2005. [46198]

John Reid: Please find the statutory instruments introduced by the Home Office since 6 May 2005 up to and including 27 January 2006 listed as follows. Full texts can be found on the OPSI website at www.opsi.gov.uk

The Displaced Persons (Temporary Protection) Regulations 2005 (No. 1379)

The Police Pensions (Part-time Service) Regulations 2005 (No. 1439)

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Commencement No. 1, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2005 (No. 1521 (C.66))

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Designated Area) Order 2005 (No. 1537)

The Road Traffic Act 1988 (Retention and Disposal of Seized Motor Vehicles) Regulations 2005 (No. 1606)

The Drugs Act 2005 (Commencement No. 1) Order 2005 (No. 1650 (C. 68))

The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 1652)

The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2005 (No. 1653)

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (Commencement No. 1) Order 2005 (No. 1675 (C. 69))

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2005 (No. 1705 (C. 71))

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Responsible Authorities) Order 2005 (No. 1789)

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. 10 and Saving Provisions) Order 2005 (No. 1817 (C. 76))

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2005 (No. 1821 (C. 77))

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2005 (No. 2026 (C. 86))

The Extradition Act 2003 (Amendment to Designations) ((No.2) Order 2005 (No. 2036)

The Remand in Custody (Effect of Concurrent and Consecutive Sentences of Imprisonment) Rules 2005 (No. 2054)

The Private Security Industry (Licences) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2005 (No. 2118)

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. eight and Transitional and Saving Provisions)

Order 2005 (Supplementary Provisions) Order 2005 (No. 2122)

The Police (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (No. 2834)

The Drugs Act 2005 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2005 (No. 2223 (C. 93))

The Part-time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 2240)

The Working Time Regulations 1998 (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 2241)

The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Designated Activities) (No. 3) Regulations 2005 (No. 2251)

The Immigration (Leave to Remain) (Prescribed Forms and Procedures) (No. 2) Regulations 2005 (No. 2358)

The Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (No. 2400)

The Immigration (Eligibility for Assistance) (Scotland and Northern Ireland) (Revocation) Regulations 2005 (No. 2412)

The Police (Retention and Disposal of Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (No. 2702)

The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Commencement No. 10) Order 2005 (No. 2782 (C. 114))

The British Nationality (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (No. 2785)

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Mandatory Life Sentences: Appeals in Transitional Cases) Order 2005 (No. 2798)

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (Commencement No. 4) Order 2005 (No. 2848 (C. 119))

The Misuse of Drugs and the Misuse of Drugs (Supply to Addicts) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (No. 2864)

The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 2892)

The Immigration (procedure for Formation of Civil Partnerships) Regulations 2005 (No. 2917)

The Drugs Act 2005 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2005 (No. 3053 (C. 128))

The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 (Commencement No. 15) Order 2005 (No. 3054 (C. 129))

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. 11) Order 2005 (No. 3055 (C. 130))

The National Police Records (Recordable Offences) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (No. 3106)

The Immigration (Provision of Physical Data) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (No. 3127)

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2005 (No. 3136 (C. 135))

The Forensic Science Service Trading Fund (Revocation) Order 2005 (No. 3138)

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 3178)[1]

The Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 (Enforcement of Overseas Forfeiture Orders) Order 2005 (No. 3180)[1]

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (External Requests and Orders) Order 2005 (No. 3181)[1]

The Sports Grounds and Sporting Events (Designation) Order 2005 (No. 3204)

The Asylum (Designated States) (No. 2) Order 2005 (No. 3306)

(L) The Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation (Transfer of Property, Rights and Liabilities) Order 2005 (No. 3308)

The Immigration (Designation of Travel Bans) (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 3310)

The Retention of Communications Data (Further Extension of Initial Period) Order 2005 (No. 3335)

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Responsible Authorities) (No. 2) Order 2005 (No. 3343)

The Firearms (Amendment) Rules 2005 (No. 3344)

The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2005 (No. 3372)

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Powers of Arrest) (Consequential Amendments) Order 2005 (No. 3389)

The Victims of Violent Intentional Crime (Arrangements for Compensation) (European Communities) Regulations 2005 (No. 3396)

The Prison (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules 2005 (No. 3437)

The Young Offender Institution (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules 2005 (No. 3438)

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Commencement No. four and Transitory Provision) Order 2005 (No. 3495 (C. 146))

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Amendment) Order 2005 (No. 3496)

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) Order 2005 (No. 3503)

DRAFT Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and Money Laundering Regulations 2003 (Amendment) Order 2005[2]

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (References to Financial Investigators) (Amendment) Order 2006 (No. 57)

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Delegation under section 43) Order 2006 (No. 100)

The Police Act 1996 (Local Policing Summaries) Order 2006 (No. 122)

DRAFT Community Order (Review by Specified Courts in Liverpool and Salford) Order 2006

(L) DRAFT Charities (Cheadle Royal Hospital, Manchester) Order 2006

[1] Orders in Council.

[2] Order in Council laid as a 2005 Order, to be made as a 2006 Order.

Local instruments.

Stolen Property (Recovery Costs)

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to police forces of removing the charge to victims of car theft for the return of their vehicle. [57979]

Hazel Blears: No such estimate has been made. We believe it would be in the order of several million pounds.

Terrorism Act

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000; how many were *(a)* held for the maximum 14 days, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted; and in how many cases trials are pending. [79054]

Mr. McNulty: Statistics compiled from police records show that between 11 September 2001 and 31 March 2006 997 people were arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT). Of these people, 154 were charged with offences under TACT and 79 of these were also charged with offences under other legislation. A further 175 individuals were charged under different legislation. A total of 25 people were convicted under TACT during this period.

The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 14 days with effect from 20 January 2004. Our records show that from 20 January 2004 to 31 March 2006, which are the most recent statistics available, 14 people have been held for 13-14 days.

The Home Office does not publish statistics on the number of cases awaiting trial.

Vandalism

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the acts of vandalism which have been perpetrated *(a)* inside and *(b)* on the outside of his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [49503]

John Reid: The Department does not hold central records of the acts of vandalism perpetrated against its buildings and to retrieve this information would be at disproportionate cost. Many of the Departments buildings are covered by CCTV and other measures are used to reduce vandalism and the effects of vandalism upon the estate.

Work Permits

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued to individuals working in *(a)* health care and *(b)* social care in 2005. [88960]

Mr. Byrne: In 2005, 40,296 work permits were approved for posts in the Health and Medical sector for overseas nationals both in the UK and overseas. All successful applicants have to apply separately for a visa or leave to remain. The Health and Medical sector includes both health care and social care occupations. Work Permits (UK) does not record separate information on Health and Care. These figures include all work permits approved for the Health and Medical sector, and therefore include both medical and non-medical posts. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Young Offenders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have left a young offenders institution without *(a)* employment and *(b)* accommodation in each of the past eight years. [42165]

Fiona Mactaggart: The information is as follows:

(a) It is a disproportionate cost to separate Employment from Education and Training outcomes for prisoners released prior to April 2005.

Education Training and Employment (ETE) outcomes also include those who attended Freshstart appointments at Jobcentre Plus.

Freshstart is the initiative whereby prisoners who do not have a job or training place to go to on release are linked into employment, training and benefits advice and support immediately after release.

Information on the number of those leaving young offender institutions without ETE outcomes has been collected since 2002 and is given in the following table:

Table (a)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Discharges	12,206	11,974	12,611
Number discharged with no recorded education, training or employment place	9,631	7,710	6,853
Percentage discharged with no recorded education, training or employment place	79	64	54

(b) Information on the numbers leaving young offender institutions with no accommodation is available from 2003 onwards, and is given in the following table:

Table (b)

	2003-04	*2004-05*
Discharges	11,974	12,611
Number discharged with no recorded accommodation	2,664	1,673
Percentage discharged with no recorded accommodation	22	13